

Hopeweavers Statement on domestic abuse & violence



Introduction

Domestic violence and abuse can take many forms. For some people it means living with constant threats or being belittled, constantly criticised or humiliated. For others it can involve physical and sexual abuse and being financially abused. Controlling behaviour by the abuser seeks to make the victim subordinate, depriving them of the means of independence. Domestic abuse and violence includes so-called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

Victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group although women and girls are disproportionately victimised. Domestic violence and abuse in any form will always be emotionally devastating for children.

How might Hopeweavers encounter people affected by domestic abuse?

In providing sanctuary space we welcome everyone, of any faith or none, regardless of their background and personal characteristics (e.g. age, disability, gender, racial heritage, sexual orientation or identity). A person attending a sanctuary space event may disclose that they are suffering or have suffered domestic abuse. A disclosure could also be made by a Member or Enquirer of the Community in another type of Hopeweavers meeting (e.g. Members' group).

Principles

Domestic violence and abuse is **never** acceptable. We are opposed to all forms of domestic abuse. Our stated values are: Christian love and acceptance of others, hospitality, simplicity, compassion, listening, sharing, sanctuary, creativity and encouragement. We aspire in our activities to value, listen to and respect both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When a concern is raised

Every person will have their own unique story and circumstances, however if there is immediate danger, the police should be called on 999, otherwise, it is our intention that we should:

- Listen respectfully to the person, responding appropriately to their wishes and situation, recognising that we are not a specialist in this area, but can signpost to others who are.
- Treat the matter in confidence, seeking the person's permission to involve other people as appropriate, however there are some circumstances when others must be informed, i.e. when there are concerns involving children or vulnerable adults being at risk of abuse, or if the person is at risk of serious injury or death. Contact details are at the end of this statement.
- Encourage the person to seek help from a specialist organisation, their own GP, or another trusted source with expertise in this area.

Steps we will take to support those affected by domestic abuse

1. Leaders of Sanctuary Space events, Enquirer Guides, Members' group leaders and Hilfield House Hosts are all required to undertake Basic and Foundational Safeguarding training provided by the Church of England. This covers basic information as to how to recognise various types of abuse and to respond appropriately.
2. Guardians and the Designated Safeguarding Person are all required to complete the higher level leadership training in addition to the above.
3. Leaders of Sanctuary Space events are supported by a Trustee or Guardian who will ensure Leaders are aware of this statement and the support available within and external to

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Hopeweavers for those affected by domestic abuse and are confident to respond appropriately.

4. Similarly, leaders/co-ordinators of Hopeweavers Members' groups are supported by a Trustee or Guardian who will ensure they are informed and supported as in 3 above.
5. This statement will be brought to the attention of all Members of the Hopeweavers Community and from time to time re-communicated using different methods and in different forums.

HOPEWEAVERS & WINCHESTER DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DETAILS

The Community's Designated Safeguarding Person can be contacted at:

safeguarding@hopeweavers.org.uk

Winchester Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: 01962 737317

Winchester Diocese out of hours service: 0300 555 1373

NATIONAL SERVICES

IF A VICTIM IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL 999 AND ASK FOR THE POLICE

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

This 24 hour helpline is run by Refuge and a live online chat is also available.

Women's Aid - email helpline@womensaid.org.uk or live chat facility at [womensaid.org.uk](https://www.womensaid.org.uk)

Women's Aid is the national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children. They provide local support services, training for organisations and information if you are worried about someone else.

Rape Crisis 0808 500 2222 –24 hour helpline or online chat at 247sexualabusesupport.org.uk

They have a network of independent Rape Crisis centres that provide specialist support and services for victims and survivors of sexual violence.

Rights of Women

Provides advice to women on family, criminal and immigration law issues. Different phone lines for family, criminal and immigration law issues are listed here.

Jewish Women's Aid 0808 801 0500 Jewish Women's Aid supports Jewish women and children affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Southall Black Sisters 020 8571 0800 Advice and information on domestic abuse, racial harassment, welfare and immigration, primarily for Asian, African and African-Caribbean women.

MWN UK - Muslim Women Network Helpline: 0800 999 5786, email info@mwnhelpline.co.uk. A specialist faith and culturally sensitive helpline that is

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confidential and non-judgmental, which offers information, support, guidance and referrals for those who are suffering from or at risk of abuse or facing problems on a range of issues.

Asian Women's Resource Centre 020 8961 6549 The Asian Women's Resource Centre provides a domestic violence and advocacy service. They provide support to women in need in the following languages: Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Hinko, Konkani, Marathi, Pashto, Patwari, Punjabi, Urdu, Farsi, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Kurdish, Turkish and Azerbaijani. They also offer support services around housing, welfare benefits, debt (signposting) and employment, as well as running immigration surgeries for those in need of specialist immigration advice.

IKWRO: Women's rights organisation 020 7920 6460 Specialist advice and help to Middle Eastern and Afghan women and girls who are at risk of 'honour' based violence, forced marriage, child marriage, female genital mutilation and domestic violence.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice on forced marriages: 020 7008 0151 or email fmu@fcdo.gov.uk

Galop 0800 999 5428 or email help@galop.org.uk
Galop, the LGBT+ anti-violence charity, provides hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual violence support services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans+ victims/survivors by phone, email, text.

Respect phonenumber 0808 802 4040 or email respectphonenumber.org.uk
An anonymous and confidential helpline for men and women who are harming their partners and families. Concerned friends or family members and front-line workers assisting abusers can also call for information and support.

Safe Lives 0117 403 3220
A charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse. Safelives.org.uk

ManKind Initiative 01823 334 244 or 0800 800 1170
A national charity that provides help and support for male survivors of domestic abuse and domestic violence.

Respect Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327; a webchat is available at certain times (mensadvice.org.uk). The Men's Advice Line is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them.

Samaritans 116 123

LOCAL SERVICES

Local Authorities and local police will have details of how to access local help e.g. refuges, housing. National organisations will be able to signpost to local services.