

# Domestic Abuse

## Domestic abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse, based on the previous cross-government definition, ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

If you are concerned about the effects of domestic abuse on yourself, your children or on another's children, you must seek help by speaking to anyone at school or by contacting these support agencies.

## Domestic Abuse: general sources of support

If you're an adult experiencing domestic abuse, there are organisations that can help.

- [Relate](#)  
[0300 003 0396](tel:03000030396)  
You can talk to Relate about your relationship, including issues around domestic abuse.
- [National Domestic Violence Helpline](#)  
[0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)  
A 24 hour free helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge.
- [Men's Advice Line](#)  
[0808 801 0327](tel:08088010327)  
Advice and support for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

# Domestic Abuse: specialist sources of support

Organisation	Contact
<a href="#">Galop's National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline</a> - support and advice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans+ people who have experienced abuse	0800 999 5428 <a href="mailto:help@galop.org.uk">help@galop.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Hourglass</a> - support and information for older people and those concerned about an older person experiencing abuse or exploitation	0808 808 8141 <a href="#">Live chat</a>
<a href="#">IKWRO Women's Rights Organisation</a> - support for Middle Eastern, North African and Afghan survivors	020 7920 6460 Out-of-hours emergencies Kurdish/Arabic/English: 07846 275246 Farsi/Dari/English: 07846 310157
<a href="#">Jewish Women's Aid</a>	0808 801 0500
<a href="#">Latin American Women's Rights Service</a> - support for Latin American women	0808 145 4909 Monday to Friday 11am to 1pm <a href="mailto:info@lawrs.org.uk">info@lawrs.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Muslim Women's Network</a>	0800 999 5786 0303 999 5786 <a href="mailto:info@mwnhelpline.co.uk">info@mwnhelpline.co.uk</a>
<a href="#">SignHealth</a> - support for deaf people and those with hearing loss in British Sign Language (BSL)	020 3947 2601 Text: 07970 350366 <a href="mailto:da@signhealth.org.uk">da@signhealth.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Stay Safe East</a> - support for disabled survivors of domestic abuse	020 8519 7241 Text: 07587 134 122 <a href="mailto:enquiries@staysafe-east.org.uk">enquiries@staysafe-east.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Southall Black Sisters</a> - support for gender-related abuse against Asian and African-Caribbean survivors	020 8571 9595 <a href="#">Web form</a>
<a href="#">Victim Support community-based domestic abuse services</a>	<a href="#">Web form</a> <a href="#">Live chat</a> <a href="#">My Support Space</a>