

FINGAL

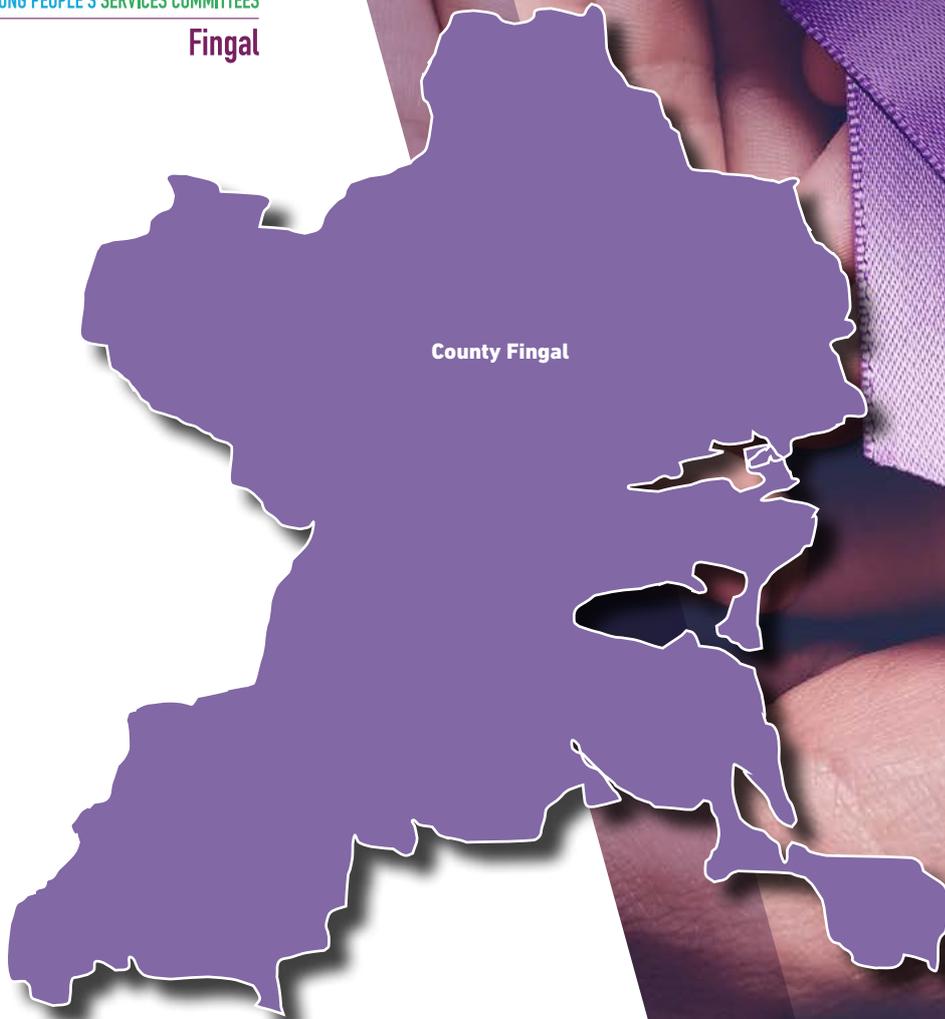
# DOMESTIC ABUSE RESOURCE PACK

DOMESTIC ABUSE IS  
EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Fingal



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

**TÚSLA**  
An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Domestic Abuse Resource Pack is the product of multiple interagency partners working together to highlight awareness of domestic violence.

In the first instance, Fingal CYPSC wishes to thank and acknowledge the Roscommon CYPSC and services whose original work on the **County Roscommon Domestic Abuse Resource Pack** provides the template for this document.

Thank you also to the interagency stakeholders of Fingal CYPSC Safe and Protected from Harm Subgroup who sponsored the adaptation of this resource. Funding from Better Outcomes Brighter Futures Programme has been provided through the DCEDIY. FCYPSC wishes to acknowledge the hard work and input of the following organisations in County Fingal:

- Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse Support for Women and Children
- Daughters of Charity, Dublin Safer Families
- Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
- Family Resource Centres in County Fingal
- North County Dublin Domestic Abuse Service
- Pavee Point
- Sonas Domestic Abuse Charity
- Tusla Child and Family Support Networks
- Tusla Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence Programme
- Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
- Women's Aid

We wish to thank the following for reviewing and submitting feedback on this resource pack:

- Sonya Logan, Sonas Domestic Abuse Charity
- Todd Prevost, Sonas Domestic Abuse Charity
- Cristina Santamaria, Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse Support for Women and Children.
- Maurice Murphy, Service Support Manager, Tusla North Dublin.

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# 1.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FINGAL DOMESTIC ABUSE RESOURCE PACK

Domestic Abuse is an issue affecting thousands of people each year in Ireland. While undefined in Irish legislation, Domestic Abuse is understood to refer to:

*a pattern of physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse of one person against another who is a family member or is or has been an intimate partner, regardless of gender or sexuality<sup>1</sup>.*

The full extent of domestic abuse is largely unknown, due to under reporting. However, national available statistics demonstrate that the problem is serious, pervasive and complex. Between March and August of 2020 alone, 3,450 women and 589 children contacted a domestic violence service for the first time<sup>2</sup>. The on-going impact of Covid-19, locally and nationally, has indicated a further need to ensure that services and supports are available to respond to this hidden epidemic.

Professionals and practitioners across sectors play a pivotal role in recognising and responding to domestic abuse. Victims are more likely to report abuse to a frontline or healthcare practitioner than to a domestic abuse service, because victims may not recognise that they are in an abusive relationship.<sup>3</sup>

Within this context, Fingal CYPSC interagency partners have collaborated to adapt this resource pack - to highlight awareness of domestic abuse; to support frontline services to recognise, respond and refer; and to ensure that a clear pathway for support is identified where necessary.

Fingal is home to multiple levels of supports through statutory, community and voluntary services that offer advice, information, intervention and safe spaces to women and men, children, perpetrators and victims. This document is designed to act as a resource for professionals and those impacted by DSGBV in order to support those in our area who are experiencing domestic abuse in any of its forms.

<sup>1</sup>An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy. Pg 3

<sup>2</sup>Safe Ireland (2020). Tracking the Shadow Pandemic. A report on women and children seeking support from domestic violence services during the first 6 months of Covid-19.

<sup>3</sup>Safe Ireland (2020). Information for Professionals. <https://www.safeireland.ie/get-help/safety-information/information-for-professionals/>

# 2.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS



**1 IN 4  
WOMEN**

In Ireland, 1 in 4 women have experienced abusive behaviour of a physical, sexual or emotional nature from a partner



**1 IN 16  
MEN**

In Ireland, 1 in 16 men have experienced abusive behaviour of a physical, sexual or emotional nature from a partner



**53,627**

### HELPLINE CALLS

The number of helpline calls were answered by Domestic Violence support services in 2018



**10,782**

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

The number of individual women who received support from a domestic violence service in Ireland in 2018



**2,572**

### CHILDREN

The number of individual children received direct support from a domestic violence service in Ireland in 2018

#### Sources:

Watson, D. and Parsons, S. (2005) Domestic abuse of women and men in Ireland: Report on the national study of domestic abuse.

<http://www.cosc.ie/en/COSC/Abuse%20Report%20NCC.pdf/Files/Abuse%20Report%20NCC.pdf>

Safe Ireland - <https://www.safeireland.ie/policy-publications/>

# 3.

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

There are various terms that are used to describe abuse perpetrated by one person onto another (or others). **Domestic Abuse is an overarching and encompassing term** to describe a pattern of *physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse of one person against another who is a family member or is or has been an intimate partner, regardless of gender or sexuality*<sup>4</sup>.

Domestic violence and domestic abuse are terms that are used interchangeably. More commonly referenced, **Domestic Violence** refers to the *use of physical or emotional force or threat of physical force, including sexual violence, in close adult relationships*<sup>5</sup> As defined by the HSE and Tusla Child and Family Agency it can also involve *emotional abuse* such as the destruction of property, isolation from friends, family and other potential sources of support, threats to others including children; stalking, and control over access to money, personal items, food, transportation, the telephone, internet and social media.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, "**Sexual Violence** is any sexual act that is forced against someone's will", such as rape, or sexual assault<sup>7</sup>. **Gender Based Violence** against Women is a further term used to describe "other violent behaviours perpetrated against women, because of the role expectations for women within the given society or culture". These may include Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriages, honour-based violence, or forced abortion.<sup>8</sup>

Enacted in 2019, the *Domestic Violence Act 2018* has provided for a new criminal offence of coercive control. **Coercive Control** is:

*a persistent pattern of controlling, coercive and threatening behaviour including all or some forms of domestic abuse (emotional, physical, financial, sexual including threats) by a boyfriend/girlfriend, partner, husband/wife or ex-partner.*

This can result in fear of violence, or serious alarm or distress that has a substantial adverse impact on the victim's usual day-to-day activities<sup>9</sup>.

These definitions, and the legal framework surrounding domestic abuse and violence highlights the complexity of the issue, and the broad scope and nature of an issue affecting many in society today.

<sup>4</sup>An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy. pg 3

<sup>5</sup>Office of the Tanaiste (1997). Report of the Task Force on Violence against Women. pg 10

<sup>6</sup>HSE (2010) Policy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

<sup>7</sup>National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence. <http://www.cosc.ie/en/COSC/Pages/WP09000010>

<sup>8</sup>Tusla Child and Family Agency. Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence. <https://www.tusla.ie/services/domestic-sexual-gender-based-violence/dsgbv/what-is-gender-based-violence/>

<sup>9</sup>Irish Statute Book (2019). Domestic Violence Act 2018. Sec 39.



## A HIDDEN HARM AND A CYCLE OF ABUSE

Domestic abuse or domestic violence can happen to anyone. It permeates across socio-economic status, age, sexuality, ethnicity, religion and gender. While women tend to experience higher rates of domestic violence than men, men are more likely to under-report. This under-reporting of domestic violence by both men and women compounds the experience to undermine self-confidence, self-worth and independence. It also has an impact to our lack of statistics on the number of children impacted by domestic violence.

The impact of domestic abuse is felt by individuals and families with sometimes severe consequences for their emotional, financial, physical, and social wellbeing. Children living in abusive environments are impacted both directly and indirectly with an increased risk of emotional trauma and behavioural problems later in life<sup>10</sup>. The link between domestic violence and child physical abuse, estimated at between 30% to 66%<sup>11</sup> is a further reason to ensure that children are recognised as victims in their own right.

The nature of domestic abuse dictates a cycle through which a victim may be subject to a range of abusive behaviours so the perpetrator can gain and ensure power and control over the other person. Domestic Abuse tends to follow three phases:



Once abuse has begun, it not only continues, but over time tends to increase in both frequency and severity. As the abuse continues, the three-phase cycle begins to deteriorate. The tension-building phase becomes shorter and more intense, the incidents of abuse becomes more frequent and severe, and the reconciliation periods become shorter and less intense. This results in a victim becoming more vulnerable over time<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>10</sup>Tusta Child and Family Agency (2017). Child Protection and Welfare Handbook 2.pg 23

<sup>11</sup>Ibid

<sup>12</sup>An Garda Síochána (2017). Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy (Sec 3.14)

# 4.

## TYPES OF DOMESTIC ABUSE<sup>13</sup>

**Coercive Control** can span across a number of these types of abuse. Safe Ireland states that this form of domestic abuse is designed to “**achieve obedience and create fear**” and can include “**coercion, threats, stalking, intimidation, isolation, degradation, isolation and control**”. The abuser may restrict the person’s movement, control what they eat, who they see, isolate them from friends and family, and ultimately restricts independence and freedom. (*Safe Ireland, A Quick Guide to the Criminal Offence of Coercive Control*)



### PHYSICAL

Any intentional and unwanted contact or something close to a persons body

- Biting
- Punching or slapping
- Choking
- Pulling hair
- Pushing
- Burning
- Using weapons (knives, etc)
- Using items as weapons (phone, cups, etc)
- Rape or sexual assault



### SEXUAL

Any form of sexual coercion (physical or emotional) or sexual degradation against an individual in the family or domestic unit

- Sexual assault - forcing unwanted/ unsafe/degrading sexual activity
- Sexual harassment - Grooming/ forced sterilisation/forced pregnancy
- Sexual exploitation - Forcing victim to partake in pornographic film-making/forcing victim to watch pornography
- Rape/no consent
- Rejecting sex and intimacy



### FINANCIAL

Where abuser uses money as a means of controlling their partner

- Withholding money/social welfare/ credit card
- Stealing from or defrauding a partner of money or assets
- Preventing partner from working/ choosing an occupation
- Limiting access to transport
- Social media monitoring
- Locking doors
- Social isolation



### EMOTIONAL

Emotional/Psychological is a form of control to intimidate, threaten or humiliate

- Threatening/intimidation
- Destruction of personal property
- Shouting/screaming/name calling
- Stalking/harassment
- Monitoring
- Embarassing/mockng in public
- Criticizing/diminishing goals
- Excessive possessiveness
- Gaslighting
- Threatening suicide/self-harm to victim
- Using children - undermining parenting/threats to children/ harming the children
- Blaming the victim for how the abuser feels



### DIGITAL

Use of technology to bully, pursue, cyber-stalk or intimidate a partner

- Sharing/threatening to share intimate/private pictures online
- Harassment by sending insulting/ threatening text messages
- Making fake social media profiles
- Monitoring online activity
- Checking internet search history
- Using technology to track whereabouts
- Demanding passwords



### SOCIAL

Systematic isolation of a victim

- Systematic isolation from family and friends
- Forbidding or physically preventing the victim from going out and meeting people
- Constant criticising of victim’s family and friends
- Victims never being left on their own by perpetrator
- Refusal to allow victims to work

<sup>13</sup>Definitions of abuse sourced from [www.stillthere.ie](http://www.stillthere.ie) and [www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)

# 5.

## DOMESTIC ABUSE TERMS AND PHRASES<sup>14</sup>

### PHYSICAL

- Bite marks
- Bruising
- Scars
- "Walking on egg shells"
- Pulling hair
- Choking
- Burn marks

### COERCIVE CONTROL

- Love-bombing
- Monitoring of time
- Taking phone away
- Destruction of possessions
- Restricting daily activities

### DIGITAL

- Harrassed online
- Checking search history
- Demanding passwords
- Sharing intimate pictures
- Sending threatening texts/emails/pictures

### SEXUAL

- Rape & sexual assault
- Forcing unwanted sex
- Image based sexual abuse
- No consent given
- Feeling rejected
- Sexual degradation
- Unwanted sexual touching

### FINANCIAL & SOCIAL

- Withholding finances
- Being forced to take a loan out
- Being stopped from getting a car and/or job
- Limiting transport
- Isolation from friends and/or family
- 

### EMOTIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL

- Threatened
- Fearful
- Humiliated
- Criticized
- Embarrassed
- Possessive
- Being blamed
- Gaslighting



<sup>14</sup>Roscommon Domestic Abuse Resource Pack (2020) pg 8

# 6.

## IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE<sup>15</sup>



### WOMEN

- Panic attacks
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Anxiety
- Suicidal ideation/attempted suicide
- Exhaustion
- Low self-esteem/self-doubt
- Social isolation
- Loss of employment/homelessness/poverty
- Reproductive health issues - i.e. Unwanted pregnancy/miscarriage/contraceptive issues
- Substance abuse
- Physical injury
- Effect on mother/child bond



### MEN

- Panic attacks
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Anxiety
- Suicidal ideation/attempted suicide
- Exhaustion
- Low self-esteem/self-doubt
- Social isolation
- Loss of employment/homelessness/poverty
- Substance abuse
- Physical injury



### CHILDREN

- Bed wetting/nightmares/flashbacks
- Stress-related illness (skin conditions etc)
- Eating difficulties
- Attachment issues
- School refusal
- Low self-esteem
- Anxiety
- Isolation amongst peers
- Self-harm
- Suicide
- Anger issues



### FAMILY/RELATIONSHIPS

- Resentment
- Homelessness
- Isolation
- Intergenerational cycle
- Mental health issues
- Scapegoating
- Perpetrator may have negative impact on relationship with victim & children
- Perpetrator may have negative impact on professionals/community
- Helplessness
- Fear

<sup>15</sup>Roscommon Domestic Abuse Resource Pack (2020). Pg 9

# 7.

## RECOGNISING ABUSE IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Everyone has arguments, and everyone disagrees with their partners, family members and others close to them, from time to time. Where this begins to form a consistent pattern and someone feels afraid of a partner or someone close to them, then this may be a sign of domestic abuse. Recognising the warning signs can help:

### WARNING SIGNS THAT INDICATE A POTENTIAL ABUSIVE SITUATION

- A person who has a sense of entitlement that their needs are more important than everyone else's
- A person who needs to have power and control in the relationship
- A person who blames their partner for any issues that occur in the relationship
- A person who doesn't take any responsibility
- A person who cannot be challenged
- A person who is disrespectful in general
- A person who lacks empathy
- A person who is unavailable when their partner needs support

### AM I IN A TOXIC RELATIONSHIP?<sup>16</sup>

- They constantly put you down and make you feel bad about yourself
- You are arguing one day, and things are great the next
- They often make you feel guilty
- They are jealous of your other friends
- You feel like it's your responsibility to fix things
- You change yourself to please them
- You worry about setting them off and feel like you have to watch what you say
- You feel anxious or unwell when you know you're going to see them
- They text and call you constantly
- You have lost confidence in yourself
- They break your trust

### WHAT CAN I DO?

- Remember you are not to blame.
- Contact a support service.
- Reach out to a trusted friend, relative or neighbour. They can help support you in a time of need.
- Make a safety plan - to keep you and others safe in an emergency.
- Talk to your GP
- Report the abuse to a Garda Station.
- Obtain a Domestic Violence Court Order

### DIAL 999/112 IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER.

More information available at [www.whatwouldyoudo.ie](http://www.whatwouldyoudo.ie) including information on safety planning and key services and supports.

<sup>16</sup>Spunout (Updated 2018). <https://spunout.ie/sex-relationships/relationships/toxic-relationships>

<sup>17</sup>Spunout (Updated 2018). <https://spunout.ie/life/abuse/am-i-an-abusive-person>



**If a person is concerned about their own behaviour being abusive, here are some guidelines to think this through:**

## **AM I AN ABUSIVE PERSON?<sup>17</sup>**

### **Behaviours**

- Have I scared someone with my behaviour?
- Have I taken advantage of or exploited the trust of another person?
- Have I repeatedly bullied or belittled someone either in private or in front of others?
- Have I attempted to control the behaviours or social interactions of another person?
- Have I repeatedly monitored the behaviour or whereabouts of another person?
- Have I repeatedly broken promises to change my behaviour?

### **Thoughts**

- Do I think that I cannot control my own behaviour?
- Do I deny or minimize the seriousness of my behaviour?
- Do I think that an individual disrespects me when they don't act the way that I want them to?
- Do I think other people or substances (drugs, alcohol, medication etc.) are to blame for my own behaviour?
- Do I think that hurting myself or others is the best/only course of action?
- Do I think that having personally experienced violence or abuse that I can do the same to others or that this excuses my behaviour?
- Do I have very strict views on how people should act or behave?

### **Feelings**

- Do I feel more relaxed or get a 'high' after I have been angry, abusive or violent?
- Do I feel unable to cope with unpleasant thoughts or feelings?
- Do I feel more in control after I have put someone down or physically hurt them?
- Do I feel disrespected when someone does not do what I ask?
- Do I feel excessively jealous when someone is speaking to or spending time with others?

## **WHAT CAN I DO?**

If you are worried about your behaviour, thoughts or feelings, seek help.

- The first step is admitting to yourself that you have been abusive towards your partner, family or friends.
- Changing your behaviour will be a challenging process. Seek help from a counsellor to work through your feelings and learn how to change your behaviour. You cannot go through it alone.
- Know that it is never acceptable to be abusive towards another person. You must make the choice to end your behaviour.
- Remember that no one else is ever to blame for your own abusive behaviour.
- Understand the different types of abuse, such as physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

**Please see Section 11 and 12 for list of support services and contacts. If in immediate danger, please dial 999/112 for help.**

# 8.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REFERRAL /CONCERN?

### AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA:

If you are experiencing domestic abuse you may feel isolated and alone. You may not know who to trust or who you can confide in. It can be daunting contacting the Gardaí but if you are in danger we want you to call 999. When you call 999, a Garda in uniform will arrive at your location in a marked patrol car. They will ensure that you are not in immediate danger.

When you are safe, you will have the time to discuss with the Garda exactly why you called. If you are not in immediate danger and you require advice and assistance, you can visit your local Garda Station. There you will be met by a uniformed Garda. You can ask to speak with the Garda in private. They may sit down with you and ask you a number of questions. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. An Garda Síochána just need to find out as much information as possible to ensure that you are safe and that you stay safe.

When Gardaí attend an incident of reported domestic abuse they will introduce themselves and speak to those involved separately and ascertain what occurred. They will get details of those involved and the relationship between them.

Where there is a domestic abuse order in place and that order has been breached, the Gardaí will arrest the perpetrator. Where there is no domestic abuse order in place and the Gardaí have grounds to suspect that an offence has been committed and they have a power of arrest, they will utilise that power of arrest.

Gardaí will investigate all offences that have occurred and will take a statement of complaint from the injured party. They may seize any item that is considered evidence for their investigation. Gardaí will supply details of relevant support services and will follow up with the victim after the initial call.

### TUSLA SOCIAL WORKER:

Sometimes, when there are children and young people living in a home and there are concerns that Domestic Violence might be occurring, a referral is sent to the Tusla Duty Social Worker. The role of the Duty Social Worker is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child and young person living in the home. A lot of parents have a fear that if social workers become involved, the only result is that their children will be taken into care. This only happens in severe situations when it is absolutely necessary to ensure the physical and emotional safety of children. If children are received into care, reunification takes place when it is safe to do so. Social workers will work together with a family to come up with the best plan or plans to keep the child and young person safe. This will often involve family members or friends who can be contacted either by a parent or the children (if they are old enough) to talk about any worries they might have, and making arrangements for a place of safety if an incident happens. This will also involve working with the perpetrator to help them to identify what triggers the behaviour and what they can do to prevent them from engaging in abusive behaviours. Social workers also provide families with support in accessing necessary services, including counselling, domestic violence support services and legal services.

# 9.

## HOW CAN PROFESSIONALS HELP?<sup>18</sup>

All services and professionals/practitioners working with children and families need to be able to **RECOGNISE** the signs of Domestic Abuse; **RESPOND** accordingly, and **REFER** where necessary. Remember that trusted professionals in a person's life may be the first person they reach out to. It is essential that we are able to respond in the best way as well as knowing local resources for referral. Professionals need to make themselves aware of their agencies policies and procedures regarding Domestic Abuse and avail of training.



### RECOGNISE



### RESPOND



### REFER

Organisations can make their work environment a safe space for a victim of Domestic Abuse to talk about their experiences:

- Display posters, brochures and information on local, regional and national Domestic Abuse services
- Put information into toilets so that victims can discreetly pick it up
- Provide training to staff regarding Domestic Abuse service provision and training on how to respond to a disclosure of Domestic Abuse.

### RECOGNISE SIGNS AND SIGNALS

- Person might be afraid of their partner
- There may be talk about the persons temper, anger or possessiveness
- There may be bruising or injury with the excuse of an accident
- The victim may have history of alcohol use or substance misuse
- They may be accompanied by the partner
- Have erratic attendance at work, college appointments
- Seem controlled and stopped from seeing family and friends
- Keep in mind the impact on children who may also be living in the situation.



<sup>18</sup>[www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)



IF A PERSON IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER,  
PLEASE **CALL 999/112** WITHOUT DELAY

## RESPOND

Victims of Domestic Abuse may not disclose information about their experience unless directly asked. When a person discloses that he/she has experienced Domestic Abuse this indicates the trust and value placed in the professional/person for help and advice.



### REMEMBER:

- Confidence is key
- Listen and be supportive but not judgemental
- Assure the person that no-one deserves to be abused despite what the perpetrator says
- Remind the person that being violent is against the law
- Provide accurate local information on services available and how to access them
- Respect their decisions and let them know you are there to support them
- Document the conversation as part of your professional system
- The most dangerous time for a victim of Domestic Abuse is when he/she is just about to leave
- The victim is the best placed to assess their own risk
- Get consent from client to hold/pass on details

## REFER

### **Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse Support for Women and Children:**

**01 867 0701** (Emergency help number) Offers refuge, outreach services, 24 hour helpline, court preparation and accompaniment - [www.aoibhneas.ie](http://www.aoibhneas.ie)



### **North Dublin Domestic Abuse Support**

**087 062 4341** - outreach and accompaniment service

### **Sonas Domestic Violence Charity**

**01 866 2015** Offers refuge, Sonas Advice and Outreach, Visiting Support and Crisis Intervention, Supported Housing. **Emergency number: 1800 222 223. For advice Outreach, Court Accompaniment 087 952 5217.** [www.domesticabuse.ie](http://www.domesticabuse.ie)

### **Women's Aid**

**1800 341 900** National helpline, outreach and court accompaniment, Dolphin House Family Law Court Support and Referral Service

### **Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE)**

**086 4149591** Dublin, Meath, Tallaght and Swords

### **More regional and national services can be found on:**

**Safe Ireland** - [www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)

**Department of Justice** - [www.stillhere.ie](http://www.stillhere.ie)

**Tusla Child and Family Agency** - [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) or <https://www.tusla.ie/services/domestic-sexual-gender-based-violence/select-a-support-below/>

# 10.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### BRIGHT SKY APP



Bright Sky Ireland<sup>19</sup>, created in partnership with the UK-based domestic abuse charity Hestia, along with Women's Aid Ireland and An Garda Síochána, enables users to locate their nearest support centre by searching their area, Eircode or current location.

The app is also designed to be used by specialist and non-specialist practitioners and other employers, and for anyone looking for information about issues around domestic abuse such as online safety, stalking and harassment and sexual consent.

Bright Sky Ireland provides a questionnaire in order for users to assess the safety of their relationship, whilst also enabling them to search their area, Eircode or current location in order to locate their nearest support service.

The app's digital journal feature is designed to allow users to securely log incidents of domestic abuse using the text, audio, photo or video functions, without any of the content being saved on the device. This evidence can then be given to Gardaí and can be used to help secure prosecutions.

Other features of the app include information on different types of abuse, sexual violence, stalking and harassment, as well as insight on the types of support available, how to help a loved one if you think they might be in an abusive relationship and a section with guidance on things to consider if you are thinking about leaving an abusive relationship.

Bright Sky Ireland is available to download on the App Store for iOS and Google Play for Android.

### TOO INTO YOU



Too Into You<sup>20</sup> is a source of information for young women run by Women's Aid. The website allows users to take a relationship health check quiz to discover the signs of dating abuse, gives the reader a guide to safety orders in dating relationships and check out tips for keeping yourself and your friends safe. The website also features real-life stories, on how to protect yourself online and legal advice. They have an online chat service that is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7pm – 10pm. Or you can call their 24hr Freephone Helpline 1800341900.

<sup>19</sup><https://www.hestia.org/news/bright-sky-ireland-launched-to-support-people-affected-by-domestic-abuse>

<sup>20</sup><https://www.toointoyou.ie/>

# 11.

## LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Below is a listing of local Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) Services and Supports that are available within Fingal, as well as national supports. For further information, [www.stillhere.ie](http://www.stillhere.ie) and [www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie) can provide useful resources and contacts.

A comprehensive list of supports for children, young people and families can be found on our website at [www.dublincypscdirectory.ie](http://www.dublincypscdirectory.ie). For a listing of mental health and counselling services, please visit [www.yourmentalhealth.ie](http://www.yourmentalhealth.ie).

### DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES

#### AOIBHNEAS DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

<b>Telephone:</b>	Admin line - 01 867 0805 Emergency help number - 01 867 0701 For Community, Outreach & Court Accompaniment - 01 912 1670
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.aoibhneas.ie">www.aoibhneas.ie</a>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:helpline@aoibhneas.org">helpline@aoibhneas.org</a> <a href="mailto:outreach@aoibhneas.org">outreach@aoibhneas.org</a> <a href="mailto:admin@aoibhneas.org">admin@aoibhneas.org</a>

Aoibhneas has provision of 10 self-contained units for 10 families. The refuge offers facilities such as a communal kitchen, dining area, sitting room, laundry facilities, courtyard and outdoor children's play area. Women and children can access refuge accommodation on a 24 hour, 365 days per year basis. They have implemented a number of changes to ensure that we are Covid-19 compliant.

Their outreach service offers a community-based support that enables women experiencing domestic abuse to access the necessary supports required to remain safely in their own home. The outreach service also offers a continued service to women post-refuge who return home or relocate elsewhere. Aoibhneas outreach service spans across all of North Dublin; from inner city to north county Dublin. This service offers:

- Practical and emotional support to women who have or are experiencing physical, emotional, sexual and/or financial abuse.
- Advice and assistance on legal, housing, social welfare, rights and entitlements, budgeting.
- Freedom programme.
- Aftercare programme.
- Alternative therapies.
- Play-therapy.

Aoibhneas operates a 24 hour confidential helpline service to women and external agencies, families/friends ring on behalf of women who looking for information and advice about their situation/experiences of domestic abuse. The 24 hour helpline service offers:

- Practical and emotional support to women who have or are experiencing physical, emotional, sexual and/or financial abuse.
- Advice and assistance on legal, housing, social welfare, rights and entitlements, budgeting.
- Information, advocacy and referral to appropriate services.
- Referral to refuge.

#### Court Accompaniment and preparation service

The legal system and court process can be a daunting prospect for anyone. Knowing your rights and entitlements, as well as understanding how the system works and what you can expect when you go before the courts goes a long way to supporting women in obtaining relevant legal orders to increase their safety. The provision of the Court Accompaniment and Preparation Service offers support in the following areas:

- Advice on legal orders, court process, court application process.
- Court Preparation- assistance formulating, preparing and delivering case.
- Assistance in legal aid application and gathering necessary and applicable documents.
- Information and Referral to Outreach and Refuge
- Linkage/ Advocacy with Gardaí, Solicitors, Barristers, social workers and legal personnel.
- Post Court Support/Debrief.

## NORTH COUNTY DUBLIN – DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

**Telephone:** 087 062 4341 - Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

The Domestic Abuse service is primarily an outreach service which will provide information, support and advocacy service for women affected by domestic abuse in the North County Dublin Area. NCD Domestic Abuse Services includes:

- Outreach & Court Accompaniment Service.
- Advice Information & Advocacy service.
- This new service will provide a safe & secure environment to complete 1.1 support interventions.
- Support sessions are scheduled at the service in private meeting rooms.

This is a collaborative service delivered by Aoibhneas Domestic Support Abuse for Women and Children and Sonas Domestic Violence Charity to provide an efficient, streamlined domestic abuse outreach service.

## PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE - TRAVELLER DSGBV PROJECT

**Telephone:** 01 878 0255

**Website:** [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie)

**Email:** [bridgie.collins@pavee.ie](mailto:bridgie.collins@pavee.ie) and [laura.pohjolainen@pavee.ie](mailto:laura.pohjolainen@pavee.ie)

As part of this project, a dedicated Traveller Women's Awareness Worker (TAWW) works with local service providers and Traveller organisations and community. The TAWW is not a specialist domestic or sexual violence outreach worker but can support Traveller women by listening, believing and referring to specialist services.

## SONAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY

**Telephone:** Emergency help number - 01 866 2015

For Advice, Outreach, Court Accompaniment - 087 952 5217

**Website:** [www.domesticabuse.ie](http://www.domesticabuse.ie)

**Email:** [info@domesticabuse.ie](mailto:info@domesticabuse.ie)

**Sonás Refuge:** Sonás's Refuge in Dublin is 24/7 crisis refuge for women experiencing domestic abuse. The majority of women and children supported by Sonás refuge are from the greater Dublin region. They will, however, accept referrals outside of this area.

**Sonás Advice and Outreach:** A support service for women experiencing domestic abuse offering general advice and signposting to other services, as well as specific advice on risk and safety assessment/ planning, court accompaniment and legal issues. The service is also preventative by helping women increase their safety at home and is also a post-Refuge support. Primarily North and West Dublin on a 1 to 1 appointment basis but they will work to support you wherever your location or refer you to a similar service which may be closer to you.

**Visiting Support and Crisis Intervention:** The Visiting Support Service is an intensive form of outreach support delivered to a woman at an agreed location on a case management basis, i.e longer term, structured support.

**Supported Housing:** Sonás has a limited number of houses to offer to women and children experiencing domestic abuse in Dublin. The contact person for the referrals process is Celine Long contactable on 01 866 2012.

## WOMEN'S AID – DUBLIN BASED SERVICES

**Telephone:** 1800 341 900

**Website:** <https://www.womensaid.ie>

**Email:** [info@womensaid.ie](mailto:info@womensaid.ie)

### Women's Aid Outreach and Court Accompaniment Service

Women's Aid One to One Support Service provides in depth information and support to women experiencing domestic violence. The service operates Monday to Friday in five locations in the Greater Dublin Area including:

- Ballymun
- Dublin City Centre - North and South sides.
- Dun Laoghaire

They can arrange a safe location to meet. They cannot meet you in your home.

The Women's Aid Court Accompaniment Service provides support for women availing of legal options regarding abuse by a current or former husband or partner. You may avail of the service for any of the following legal reasons, which require a visit to court:

- Application for a protection, barring, safety, custody, access and/or maintenance order
- Family court hearing for barring, safety, custody, maintenance order, access
- Criminal court hearing for assault charges against a spouse/partner
- Family court hearing for judicial separation or divorce

Outreach and court accompaniment services can be accessed through the Freephone telephone number 1800 341 900.

### Dolphin House Family Law Court Support and Referral Service

The Dolphin House Family Law Court Support and Referral Service is a free and confidential drop in service for women who are experiencing abuse in a relationship. They can meet you in Dolphin House and provide support and information about your situation and explain how the courts work. This can include information on legal options, safety planning and, if you wish, they can also link you in with a service for on-going support. The service can be found on are on the 4th floor in Dolphin House and there is someone there 9.30am - 12.30pm daily. You can drop in or you can ask the Court Clerk or reception about the service. The Support and Referral Service can be accessed by telephone every afternoon, from 2.00 to 4.30, by calling 089 221 46.

## DUBLIN SAFER FAMILIES SERVICE, DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

**Telephone:** 01 862 7700

**Website:** [www.childandfamilyservice.ie](http://www.childandfamilyservice.ie)

**Email:** [Dsf.office@docharity.ie](mailto:Dsf.office@docharity.ie)

Dublin Safer Families Service is a Gender, Sexual, Domestic Abuse/ Violence and Coercive Control Service within the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service. They work with parents and children to increase family safety, and also prevent and stop violence. Initially they meet both parents separately and then possibly together once safety has been discussed. The service is based in Santry and work in partnership with the Child and Family Agency (Tusla). As a professional organisation they work under legislation which strives to protect the rights, safety and welfare of children. They are particularly attentive to the impact on children (up to the age of 18) who experience abuse and violence. Families are referred to Dublin Safer Families Service by the Social Work Department.

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

### DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

**Telephone:** 1800 77 8888

**Website:** <https://www.drcc.ie/>

**Email:** [info@rcc.ie](mailto:info@rcc.ie)

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is a national organisation offering a wide range of services to any person affected by rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment or childhood sexual abuse.

Their service is primarily for adults but a limited crisis counselling service is available to 16 to 18-year-olds with parental consent.

These services include:

- the National 24-hour Helpline
- webchat support
- one-to-one counselling
- court accompaniment
- outreach services
- specialised training
- youth programmes & outreach
- awareness raising & campaigning
- policy & advocacy work

Their aim is to offer help and support to anyone who has experienced sexual violence of any kind. This may have been recently, some years ago or in childhood.

They take calls from people of all ages, creeds, ethnic groups and orientations. Their counsellors will also speak with friends, relatives and concerned persons as well as take general queries.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre acknowledges that it takes courage to phone or to call into the Centre for the first time and they assure you that if you contact them you will be treated with dignity and respect.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT UNIT (SATU)

**Telephone:** 01 817 1736 or 01 817 1700 outside of office hours

**Website:** <https://rotunda.ie/satu/>  
<https://www2.hse.ie/services/sexual-assault-treatment-units/sexual-assault-treatment-units.html>

**Email:** [satu@rotunda.ie](mailto:satu@rotunda.ie)

SATU provides an easily accessible, holistic service for women and men who have experienced sexual crime. A SATU is a safe place to go if you have been raped or sexually assaulted.

At the Rotunda SATU you will meet a forensic clinical examiner and a support nurse. Their role is to provide you with medical and supportive care and offer collection of forensic evidence. Types of care offered at the SATU include:

- Forensic clinical examination with Garda involvement
- Forensic clinical examination with option to report to Gardai at later date
- Sexual health screening
- Administration of medications e.g vaccinations and emergency contraception
- Link to psychological support from Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and CARI

The SATU network throughout Ireland look after all genders and gender identities over the age of 14. They provide all treatment in a non-judgemental manner and work closely with support workers from both the RCC and CARI.

## CHILD PROTECTION & WELFARE CONCERNS – TUSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY

### TUSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY

**Telephone:** Dublin North (D5, 13 and 17) - 01 870 8000

**Website:** [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

Social workers provide frontline services to children and families. Duty Social Workers deal mainly with urgent difficulties with children and young people, and child protection matters. If you need to report a concern about a child or need to discuss a concern, Duty Social Workers can help. Information on how to make a report or referral please go to <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/concerns/>

Reporting a concern about a potential risk to children posed by a specific person, even if the children are unidentifiable, should be communicated to the Agency.

## SAFETY, PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT – AN GARDA

### AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA - DIAL 999/112 IF IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

**Website:** [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

**Blanchardstown Garda** 01 666 7000 (24 hours 7 days a week)

**Garristown Garda Station** 01 835 4112 (opening times not set)

**Balbriggan Garda Station** 01 666 45000 (24 hours 7 days a week)

**Skerries Garda Station** 01 849 1211 (opening times not set)

**Lusk Garda Station** 01 843 7772 (opening times not set)

**Malahide Garda Station** 01 666 4600 (7am-9pm, 7 days a week)

**Swords Garda Station** 01 666 4700 (24 hours 7 days a week)

**Howth Garda Station** 01 666 4900 (7am-9pm, 7 days a week)

**Dublin Airport Garda Station** 01 666 4950 (24 hours 7 days a week)

## CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### TUSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIP AND FAMILY SUPPORT

<b>South West Fingal Child &amp; Family Support Network Coordinator</b>	Liz Cronin Email: <a href="mailto:elizabeth.cronin6@tusla.ie">elizabeth.cronin6@tusla.ie</a> Tel: 087 467 8966
<b>North Fingal Child &amp; Family Support Network Coordinator</b>	Nora Flanagan Email: <a href="mailto:nora.flanagan@tusla.ie">nora.flanagan@tusla.ie</a> Tel: 087 715 3122
<b>Mid Fingal Child &amp; Family Support Network Coordinator</b>	Brian Doyle Email: <a href="mailto:brian.doyle1@tusla.ie">brian.doyle1@tusla.ie</a> Tel: 087 171 9761  Nora Flanagan Email: <a href="mailto:nora.flanagan@tusla.ie">nora.flanagan@tusla.ie</a> Tel: 087 715 3122
<b>Mulhuddart Child &amp; Family Support Network Coordinator</b>	Liz Cronin Email: <a href="mailto:elizabeth.cronin6@tusla.ie">elizabeth.cronin6@tusla.ie</a> Tel: 087 467 8966

The **Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Programme** is a comprehensive programme of early intervention and preventative work which has been undertaken by Tusla. The aim of the programme is to prevent risks to children and young people arising or escalating through early intervention work.

**Meitheal**, as part of the PPFS programme, is a Tusla-led Early Intervention Practice Model designed to ensure that the strengths and needs of children and their families are effectively identified, understood and responded to in a timely way so that children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and realise their rights. It is an early intervention, multi-agency (when necessary) response, tailored to the needs of the individual child or young person. Meitheal is voluntary and can only be undertaken when the parent/carer provides their written consent. Meitheal is used in partnership with parents to help them share their own knowledge, expertise and concerns about their child and to hear the views of practitioners working with them. The ultimate goal is to enable parents and practitioners to work together to achieve a better life for the child.

### TUSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

<b>Dublin North Family Support Services Manager</b>	Cathriona Sheehan Email: <a href="mailto:caitriona.sheehan@tusla.ie">caitriona.sheehan@tusla.ie</a> Tel: 01 870 8000
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**Family Support Services** are also included in the PPFS programme and are for families and individuals who need help. Family life is not always easy. Life events like birth, death, depression, redundancy, separation, illness, abuse or financial problems all put stress and strain on family life and relationships.

Family Support Services can help. Simply having someone to talk to about your problem can be the easiest way to begin to deal with your problem. There are many support groups for adults, teenagers, children and carers that give people the chance to tell their own stories and give support to each other. Specialist services provide support for domestic violence or child abuse. Family Support services are generally provided to families in their own homes and communities.

Your concerns are dealt with in confidence by trained personnel who will give the appropriate support, advice and help.

## TUSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES (FRC)

<b>South East Fingal</b>	Baldoyle Family Resource Centre - 01 832 6115
<b>West Fingal</b>	Mountview Family Resource Centre - 01 820 6271 Wellview Family Resource Centre - 01 826 2878
<b>North Fingal</b>	Aster Family Resource Centre - 01 223 3242

The aim of the FRC programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. FRCs provide a range of universal and targeted services and development opportunities that address the needs of families. This can include information, advice, education and training, child and family programmes, referrals, Meitheal, counselling and networking.

## LEGAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE

### DUBLIN DISTRICT FAMILY LAW OFFICE (DOLPHIN HOUSE)

<b>Telephone:</b>	01 888 6349 / 6344 / 6347
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.courts.ie/content/dublin-district-family-law-office">https://www.courts.ie/content/dublin-district-family-law-office</a>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:districtfamilylaw@courts.ie">districtfamilylaw@courts.ie</a>

#### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 9.30 - 12.30 and 14.00 - 16.30

This office deals with business for all the areas within the Dublin Metropolitan Court District .

The Dublin District Family Law Office is situated in [Dolphin House](#).

#### Business dealt with:

- Domestic violence
- Guardianship of children
- Maintenance of spouses and children
- Matters relating to passport applications
- Blood tests to determine parentage

#### Emergency domestic violence applications:

- Emergency domestic violence applications must be made in the Interview Room before 3.00 p.m. each day.
- If you need to bring an emergency application after hours, contact your local garda station. The garda station will contact the court clerk on call to arrange a court.
- Outside of opening times: emergency family law applications can be made to the District Court in Chancery Street, Dublin 7. That court is located on the red Luas line and is next to the Bridewell garda station.
- On Saturdays and public holidays, you may make an emergency application at the Criminal Courts Office, Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.

### SWORDS AND BALBRIGGAN DISTRICT COURT OFFICES

<b>Telephone:</b>	01 888 6625 / 6623 / 6621
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.courts.ie/content/swords-balbriggan-district-court-office">https://www.courts.ie/content/swords-balbriggan-district-court-office</a>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:swords@courts.ie">swords@courts.ie</a>

#### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 9.30-12.45 and 14.00-16:30

## CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTRES (CIC) FINGAL

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/">https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/</a>
<b>Balbriggan CIC</b>	1st Floor, Balbriggan Library, George's Square, Balbriggan Phone: 0761 07 7450
<b>Blanchardstown CIC</b>	Westend House, Westend Business Park, Snugborough Road Extension, Blanchardstown, D15 KPW7 Phone: 0761 07 5040
<b>Malahide CIC</b>	2nd Floor Malahide Library, Main Street, Malahide, K36 EW63 Phone: 0761 07 7480
<b>Skerries CIC</b>	13 New Street, Skerries, K34 T624 Phone: 0761 07 7500
<b>Swords</b>	Unit 26, The Plaza, Main Street, Swords, K67 WN23 Phone: 0761 07 7510

During COVID 19 no walk in service is provided. However those looking for information any of the above number and a member of the team will provide support. Alternatively, call the Citizens Information Phone Service on 0761 07 4000, Monday to Friday, 9am-8pm.



# 12.

## NATIONAL SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

Further information on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services can be sourced from [www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie) or [www.stillhere.ie](http://www.stillhere.ie).

### WOMEN'S AID

**Telephone:** 1800 341 900

**Website:** <https://www.womensaid.ie>

**Email:** [info@womensaid.ie](mailto:info@womensaid.ie)

The Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline offers confidential information, support and understanding to women in the Republic of Ireland, who are being abused by current or former boyfriends, partners or husbands.

The service also supports family members, friends, and professionals who have concerns about a person, they know or are working with, who might be experiencing domestic violence and abuse. The Helpline provides support to callers where English is not their first language, through our Language Line facility (operational daily, 8am-8pm) and for women who are deaf or hard of hearing through it's Text Service facility (operational daily, 8am-8pm).

The Helpline aims to empower women to identify what is happening for them within their relationship and support them to stay safe and support the safety of any children living within the relationship. The Helpline aims to at all times ensure that the responsibility for the abuse is placed firmly with the perpetrator of the abuse and not with the woman.

### SAFE IRELAND

**Telephone:** 090 6479078

**Website:** <https://www.safeireland.ie/>

**Email:** [info@safeireland.ie](mailto:info@safeireland.ie)

Safe Ireland has a clear ambition: to end domestic violence and make Ireland the safest country in the world for women and children.

Safe Ireland's approach is to:

- Change social behaviour and attitudes
- Establish a whole system response to domestic violence
- Cultivate leadership at all levels in Irish society
- Communicate our understanding of the problem and enhance all of our capacity to respond.

### AKIDWA

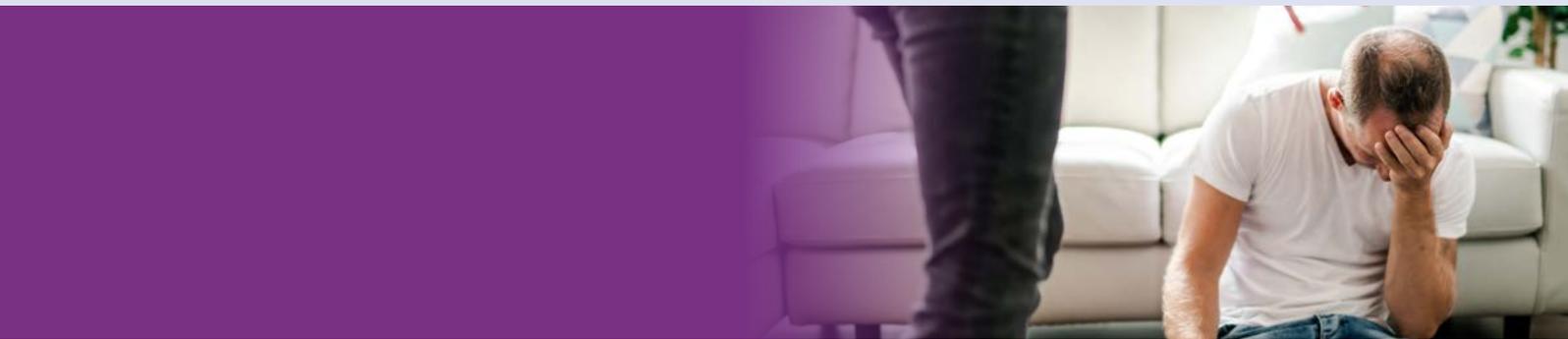
**Telephone:** 01 83 49851

**Website:** <https://akidwa.ie/>

**Email:** [info@akidwa.ie](mailto:info@akidwa.ie)

Akina Dada wa Africa, or AkiDwA for short, is a national network of migrant women living in Ireland. Akina Dada wa Africa means sisterhood in Swahili. AkiDwA works to promote equality and justice for migrant women living in Ireland by ensuring equal opportunities and access to resources. Our activities are focused on helping migrants to participate fully in all aspects of social, cultural, economic, civic and political life in Ireland.

AkiDwA's work focuses on female genital mutilation (FGM), domestic violence, forced marriages and trafficking. Their work has involved awareness raising, training and advocating for migrant women affected in particular by Female Genital Mutilation



## MEN'S AID

**Telephone:** 01 554 3811

**Website:** <https://www.mensaid.ie>

**Email:** [hello@mensaid.ie](mailto:hello@mensaid.ie)

Men's Aid Ireland formerly known as Amen, is the only dedicated national service supporting men and their families experiencing Domestic Violence in Ireland. Our professional and qualified support team have years of experience in supporting men and families experiencing domestic abuse.

Men's Aid provide the following services:

- National Confidential Helpline - 01 554 3811
- Legal clinic – Information about Safety Orders, Protection Orders, Barring Orders.
- One to one practical support – Explaining Court Paperwork, Safety Planning, Care plans
- Counselling – By Telephone
- Counselling – Face to Face
- Certified Training – All areas of domestic abuse including coercive control.

## MALE ADVICE LINE MEN'S DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

**Telephone:** 1800 816 588

**Email:** [men@mens-network.net](mailto:men@mens-network.net)

The Male Advice Line was developed by the Men's Development Network. Counsellors provide an outlet for men, who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse in their relationship, to speak confidentially with professionals who are trained to advise on domestic crime.

The Male Advice Line can be accessed on 1800 816 588 at the following times:

- Monday: 10am-6pm
- Tuesday: 12pm-8pm
- Wednesday: 10am-6pm
- Thursday: 12pm-8pm
- Friday: 2pm-6pm



## DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

**Telephone:** 1800 77 8888

**Website:** <https://www.drcc.ie/>

**Email:** [info@rcc.ie](mailto:info@rcc.ie)

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is a national organisation offering a wide range of services to any person affected by rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment or childhood sexual abuse.

Their service is primarily for adults but a limited crisis counselling service is available to 16 to 18-year-olds with parental consent.

These services include:

- the National 24-hour Helpline
- webchat support
- one-to-one counselling
- court accompaniment
- outreach services
- specialised training
- youth programmes & outreach
- awareness raising & campaigning
- policy & advocacy work

Their aim is to offer help and support to anyone who has experienced sexual violence of any kind. This may have been recently, some years ago or in childhood.

We take calls from people of all ages, creeds, ethnic groups and orientations. Our counsellors will also speak with friends, relatives and concerned persons as well as take general queries.

Here in the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre we acknowledge it takes courage to phone or to call into the Centre for the first time and we assure you that if you contact us you will be treated with dignity and respect.

## MOVE (MEN OVERCOMING VIOLENCE)

**Telephone:** 085 8748108

**Website:** <http://www.moveireland.ie/>

**Email:** [move@moveireland.ie](mailto:move@moveireland.ie)

Move – Men Overcoming Violence works in the area of domestic violence, with a primary aim of supporting the safety and wellbeing of women and their children who are experiencing, or have experienced violence/abuse in an intimate relationship. This is done through the CHOICES programme, which encourages men to:

- Learn about the effects and consequences of domestic violence on their partner and family
- Participate in group sessions with other individuals who have behaved in a similar way
- Talk openly about their behaviour and the people affected by it
- Identify the beliefs and attitudes which underpin violence and abuse
- Cope with their behaviour and feelings in difficult situations
- Learn how to react without being abusive
- Learn about respect and responsible parenting
- Learn to understand and recognise the need to change their behaviour

## TUSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY – CHILD PROTECTION AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

Tusla has a primary responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of children and as such must always be informed when a person has reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being abused or is at risk of being abused or neglected. Such child protection concerns need to be supported by evidence that indicates the possibility of abuse or neglect.

In the case of Domestic Abuse, initial referrals are generally made by the Gardaí (called to attend an incident, where there is a child/children present within the household) to the local Duty Social Work team. Where the Garda attending believes there is an immediate risk to the child they will issue a Section 12 which will in turn enable the duty social worker to access an out of hours bed. Specialist Domestic Abuse services also provide initial child protection/welfare referrals.

Where it is suspected that a child is at risk there must be a report made under Children First.

The term “Children First” was originally used in relation to Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, first published in 1999 and reviewed and updated on a number of occasions since then, most recently in 2019 including online safety.

Since the enactment of the Children First Act 2015, the term is now a generic term used to encompass the guidance, the legislation and the implementation of both. Children First relates to the recognition of child abuse and neglect, the reporting of same to Tusla - Child and Family Agency, and the best practice which organisations should adhere to to keep children safe while availing of their services. Non statutory obligations for all persons coming into contact with children are set out in the Children First Guidance, and the Children First Act 2015 sets out additional statutory obligations for defined categories of persons and for organisations providing relevant services to children.

Society has a duty of care towards children and everyone should be alert to the possibility that children with whom they are in contact may be being abused or be at risk of abuse<sup>21</sup>.

A joint working protocol for An Garda Síochána/Tusla Child & Family Agency was introduced into practice to ensure that:

- The safety and welfare of the child is promoted
- Everything possible is done to assist the criminal investigation
- Everything possible is done to assist the child protection and welfare assessment
- There is an effective flow of relevant information between both agencies
- Decisions and actions follow consultation with and between both agencies.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup>Children First, Tusla <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/children-first/>

<sup>22</sup>[https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/CF\\_Joint\\_Protocol.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/CF_Joint_Protocol.pdf)



## LEGAL PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND COERCIVE CONTROL

Below is information on the types of orders available to victims of Domestic Violence and Coercive Control under the Domestic Violence Act 2018<sup>23</sup>:

### A Safety Order

A safety order is an order of the court which prohibits the abusive person (the respondent) from committing further violence or threats of violence. They are not obliged to leave the home. If the abusive person is not living with the applicant, the safety order prohibits them from watching or being near their home and following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant or a dependent person (any child).

Safety and protection orders may be obtained by the following:

- the spouse of the respondent,
- the civil partner of the respondent,
- a person who is not the spouse or civil partner of the respondent and is not related to the respondent within a prohibited degree of relationship, but was in an intimate relationship with the respondent prior to the application for the safety order,
- a parent of the respondent and the respondent is of full age and is not, in relation to the parent, a dependent person,
- being of full age, resides with the respondent in a relationship the basis of which is not primarily contractual, or
- has a child with the respondent

A safety order does not exclude the offender from the home but offers the applicant (or a dependent) safety by prohibiting the respondent from:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting in fear the applicant/dependent person,
- if not residing with the applicant, prohibits watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant/dependent person.

A safety order may remain in place up to 5 years after its making and may be renewed

<sup>23</sup>The information on the orders was drawn from <https://www.garda.ie/en/Crime/Domestic-abuse/What-is-a-Safety-Order-.html> and <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/6/enacted/en/pdf>



### A Barring Order

A barring order requires the abusive person (the respondent) to leave the home and prohibits the abusive person from entering the home. The court may also, if it thinks fit, prohibit the person from further violence or threats of violence, watching or being near the applicant's home, or following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant or a dependent person (any child).

A barring order may be obtained by:

- the spouse of the respondent,
- the civil partner of the respondent,
- a person who is not the spouse or civil partner of the respondent and is not related to the respondent within a prohibited degree of relationship but lived with the respondent in an intimate relationship prior to the application for the barring order, or
- a parent of the respondent who is not a dependent

A barring order shall:

- direct the respondent, if residing at a place where the applicant/dependent person resides, to leave the place,
- if the respondent is or is not residing at a place where the applicant/dependent person resides, shall prohibit the respondent from entering the place until further order of the court or until such other time as the court shall specify.

A barring order may also prohibit the respondent from doing any one or more of the following as the Court thinks fit:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting in fear the applicant/dependent person,
- prohibits watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant/dependent person.

A barring order may remain in place for up to 3 years after its making and may be renewed on or before expiration date of the barring order, for a period of up to three years.



### Interim Barring order

Where the court, on application to it for a barring order or between the making of that application and its determination, is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing there is an immediate risk to the safety of the applicant or a dependent (and a protection order would not provide sufficient protection), the court shall grant an interim barring order. The Interim barring order requires the abusive person to leave the home and prohibits the person from entering the home for up to 8 days.

An interim barring order may also prohibit the respondent from doing any one or more of the following as the Court thinks fit:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting in fear the applicant/dependent person,
- watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant/dependent person

An interim barring order may be obtained by:

- the spouse of the respondent,
- the civil partner of the respondent,
- a person who is not the spouse or civil partner of the respondent and is not related to the respondent within a prohibited degree of relationship but lived with the respondent in an intimate relationship prior to the application for the barring order, or
- a parent of the respondent who is not a dependent person.

An interim barring order may be made *ex parte* (where the respondent is not in court). An *ex parte* interim barring order will not exceed eight days. An interim barring order will cease to have effect on the determination of the application for the barring order.



### Emergency Barring Order

An emergency barring order requires the abusive person to leave the home, and prohibits the person from entering the home. This is an immediate order where there is reasonable grounds to believe there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the applicant or a dependent person if an order is not made immediately.

An emergency barring order may be obtained by:

- a person who is not a spouse or civil partner or is not related to the respondent but did live in an intimate relationship with the respondent prior to the application.
- a parent of the respondent who is not a dependent.

An emergency barring order is only granted in circumstances where the applicant has no legal rights to the property or their rights are less than the respondent and there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the applicant or dependent person.

An emergency barring order can be granted ex-parte. Where granted, an emergency barring order shall operate in the same manner as a barring order but will only last for eight days. A subsequent emergency barring order cannot be sought within one month of the expiration of a previous emergency barring order.

An emergency barring order may, if the court thinks fit, prohibit the abusive person (respondent) from:

- using or threatening to use violence against the applicant/dependent person,
- molesting or putting the applicant/dependent person in fear,
- watching or besetting a place where the applicant/dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant /dependent person.

### Protection Order

Where there has been an application to the Court for a safety or a barring order or between the making of that application and its determination and there are reasonable grounds for believing that the safety or welfare of the applicant or dependent (any child) so requires, a protection order may be granted. The protection order will prohibit the respondent from:

- using or threatening the use of violence against, molesting or putting in fear, the applicant or a dependent person,
- if residing elsewhere, watching or besetting a place where the applicant or a dependent person resides,
- following or communicating (including electronically) with the applicant or a dependent person.

A protection order is temporary and expires on the determination by the court of the application for the barring or safety order. A protection order may be made ex parte.



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