

SAFEGUARDING HANDBOOK 6

Ensuring a Safe Church for All - Responding to
Domestic Abuse

A resource to support and encourage Church communities to create safe pathways to support services for those affected by domestic abuse.

Version: October 2018



Domestic Abuse Flowchart

Church of Scotland volunteers, paid staff, Ministers, Elders, Pastoral Care Visitors, office holders and CrossReach workers: **what you need to know and do when a survivor/victim discloses domestic abuse.**

Person discloses domestic abuse

RECOGNISING DOMESTIC ABUSE

RESPECT, LISTEN, INFORM AND EMPOWER

- **Acknowledge** the person's account
- **Listen** attentively and give gentle encouragement to speak
- **Assure** the person that it is not their fault
- Reassure that **confidentiality** will be kept. But explain that there is a limit to confidentiality and hence 'control' – these are the circumstances in which information may be shared with the police with the person's knowledge but not necessarily their consent (see the box on the right)
- **Assure** the person of your concern and interest
- Be honest and upfront about your ability to help
- If there are **children** involved the situation becomes a child protection concern: see Safeguarding Handbook 1
- Be guided by what the person wants and not what you think they need
- Let them know that the Church of Scotland has domestic abuse guidance that you need to follow
- Sharing information with the Safeguarding Coordinator and then the Safeguarding Service, is about equipping the person with **support** and **information** so that they are in control and can make their own decisions
- For specialist local help see the resources pages *Safeguarding Handbook 6, Responding to Domestic Abuse*

If serious abuse has happened, and/or **the person feels in immediate danger**, a serious crime occurred or the person is in immediate physical danger, advise them that for their own safety you must contact the police for advice.

REPORTING AND REFERRAL

Immediately tell your Safeguarding Coordinator or line manager...

...who will contact the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service for verbal and written advice including local help and whether a referral should be made to the police or social work department, or a child wellbeing concern should be made to the Named Person etc.

Immediately contact Police Scotland, social work or ambulance service

RECORDING

Note **what** has happened, **when** (time and date), **where**, and **who** else was involved. Accurately record their person's or witnesses' own words. Keep the information secure.

Contents

Flowchart	Opposite
Foreword	2
Our Message for Victims and Survivors	3
1. Domestic Abuse Policy	4
2. Introduction to the guidelines	4
2.1 Background.....	4
2.2 Aims of these guidelines	5
2.3 Our Theological Approach	5-6
3. Domestic Abuse: the facts	6
3.1 What is Domestic Abuse.....	6
3.2 Facts/Statistics	6
3.3 Misconceptions about Domestic Abuse.....	6-8
3.4 Domestic Abuse and the Law.....	8-9
3.5 Domestic Abuse and Public Protection.....	9
4. The Church's Response	10
4.1: How should the local Church respond?.....	10-12
4.2: How Should CrossReach respond?	12
4.3 Domestic Abuse: A Charter for your Church	12-13
4.4 Do's & Don'ts for Congregations	13
4.5 Disclosure Chart	14
5. Resources & Awareness Raising.....	15
5.1 Training.....	15
5.2 Directory of help – Organisations for Domestic Abuse.....	15-16
5.3 Local and National Support Services	16-23
6. Glossary	23-24

* Safeguarding Handbooks 1-6, CrossReach Child Protection Handbook and CrossReach Adult Protection Handbook are available to view on the Church of Scotland website:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/safeguarding_service/key_publications

Foreword

It gives me pleasure to commend the Domestic Abuse Policy and Handbook to you for use within your Church life and work. The Church of Scotland is committed to making the Church a safe place for everyone and prioritising those within our fellowship who are at risk of harm and abuse. Domestic abuse not only affects the person who is the subject of the abuse: the ripple effect takes in children, parents and the wider circle of family and friends. Someone who is being abused in a domestic setting may have experienced this for many years before a disclosure is made and it is very important that we, as a Church, respond appropriately. When someone who has promised to love and cherish another for life uses abusive words and behaviour and diminishes them for periods of time, the promises and covenants underpinning the relationship are broken, often irretrievably. The Church must therefore ensure that anyone who discloses this type of abuse is supported sensitively and not further diminished by the organisation responsible for their spiritual growth and pastoral care.

We are called to walk with people as they make difficult decisions for their lives, in a non-judgmental manner, and within the love of Christ. We must support people within the principles and framework of Safeguarding and ensure that the Safeguarding Service provides advice and support to those at a local level who are navigating this challenging territory.

Rev Dr Karen Campbell
Convener, Safeguarding Committee

*“When your self-esteem is rock bottom, and your pain is raw, it is very difficult to knock on the door if you have no idea who, or what will be on the other side. You need constant, ongoing acceptance and support... it has to be said, loud and clear, **WE’RE HERE, WE CARE, THIS IS A SAFE PLACE, ABUSE IS NOT GOD’S WILL FOR YOU, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**”*

Anna - survivor of domestic abuse

Our message for Victims & Survivors

Part 1: DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

The Church of Scotland Domestic Abuse Policy Statement

The Church of Scotland recognises that domestic abuse is part of the safeguarding and public protection agendas. It is also a component of the wider societal issue of Gender Based Violence.

Domestic abuse happens in all parts of society, including in faith communities. Domestic abuse is an issue for the Church of Scotland too.

We aim to:

- Raise awareness in local Congregations, Presbyteries, Councils of the Church and CrossReach Services about domestic abuse.
- Encourage Church communities to create safe pathways to support services for those affected by domestic abuse.
- Increase awareness of and access to support services for those affected by domestic abuse and where appropriate, for perpetrators.
- Facilitate suitable training from appropriate agencies for key staff and relevant Church leaders and to encourage Church members to undertake basic training.
- Encourage collaborative working with other denominations and agencies.

Safeguarding Handbook 6, sets out the procedure for how the Church plans to implement this policy in practice.

PART 2: INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDELINES

2.1 Background

Domestic violence and abuse are issues that affect many people and occur both in Church communities and in the wider community. The Church of Scotland needs to address the challenges it faces in identifying, acknowledging and responding appropriately to Domestic Abuse. This is the final piece in the church's Safeguarding Service Public Protection Jigsaw. A joined-up **Church-wide response is required** so that **domestic abuse** becomes part of the keeping people safe from harm agenda and is seen as part of our fundamental work. This fits in with the national Public Protection Model, **see section 3.5**.

The vast majority of domestic abuse is perpetrated by men against women. However, domestic abuse can be inflicted by women on men and also in same sex relationships. Female terms for victims and male terms for abusers in this resource are used as this is the most common presentation of domestic abuse, although the needs of male victims should be treated with equal concern.

These guidelines have been developed as a resource to support Church of Scotland Congregations, Presbyteries and Councils, including CrossReach, recognise and respond to domestic abuse. By using pastoral and practical strategies we hope to enable you to create local pathways to assist people who are in an abusive relationship.

Throughout these guidelines the use of the term 'Church' is an inclusive term for all Church of Scotland Congregations, Presbyteries, Departments and Councils including **CrossReach (The Church of Scotland Social Care Council)**. Because CrossReach is both an employer and a service provider there are occasions in these guidelines where they are mentioned specifically. CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and was previously known as the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. Under their new name, CrossReach continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support which started back in 1869.

CrossReach Value Statements

- To accept and respect everyone for their own individual worth
- To consult with and involve individuals and/or their representatives in issues that affect them
- To ensure that the reasons for our actions are transparent and that we act with integrity

- To treat everyone with fairness and consistency and be accountable for our actions
- To seek to serve and support everyone in a spirit of grace, humility and compassion

“In Christ's name we seek to retain and regain the highest quality of life which each individual is capable of experiencing at any given time.”

2.2 Aims of these guidelines

Expertise in the field of supporting those affected by domestic abuse can be found in many children's, women's and men's support agencies and in CrossReach Services. Staff working in CrossReach Services may have encountered domestic abuse as part of their ongoing work and it is recognised that some will have received specific training already. This handbook has been designed to also support them to respond through the Safeguarding Service and access further resources as appropriate.

Churches often DO NOT have that expertise. Without proper training and experience in this field, we can do more harm than good. This handbook has been specifically developed to include information on how to support survivors that will empower them to seek professional care from the relevant agencies. We have included useful contacts at the end of this resource, but the list is by no means exhaustive. Readers assume responsibility for how this information is used on a personal basis and should seek advice from Safeguarding if they are unsure.

2.3 Our Theological Approach

The Church could be a huge well of welcome and help, but we're trapped in our traditional modes of behaviour and a theology to justify it. That's not the Christianity I believe in. I think the issue should be given a higher profile, in the context of affirming dignity – not being pitied and patronised, but valued and cared about and respected as women. We could be a real sanctuary of courage and love.' Samantha (domestic abuse survivor)

Churches have a responsibility and a unique opportunity to contribute to a wider community response in countering domestic abuse. Christians have been challenged by survivors and activists to be faithful to the life-giving message of equality, liberation, justice, compassion and love which is at the heart of the Gospel. The wellspring of our faith is the affirmation that each person is created as equal and precious in the image of a loving God. Any violation of body, dignity and autonomy is a denial of that image. So we are called to be partners in challenging domestic abuse and supporting gender justice. The human and material resources of the Church are available in every community and corner of Scotland, no matter how isolated. Many initiatives and resources have been developed to inform and support appropriate Christian responses to the reality of domestic abuse in our churches, and in wider society.

Domestic abuse, like all forms of gender based violence, is not simply a 'women's issue': it must be a concern for all who believe that each human being is created in the image of a loving God, and who long for wholeness and justice – in relationships and communities. Most men in the church abhor, and neither condone nor practice domestic abuse. They have a particular calling to challenge any notion that it is either acceptable or particularly 'masculine' to dominate women and children. The Church has been deeply involved in shaping and sustaining the values, attitudes to sex and relationships, and customs of society in this country. And the Christian church, present in the midst of every community has both a responsibility and an opportunity to understand, resist and seek to prevent this evil which distorts individual and corporate life.

The Church can certainly play a vital part in providing pathways and referrals to the specialist services and agencies. But it may have a particularly helpful role in offering friendship, understanding and steady support for the long haul. Leaving and recovering from domestic abuse is usually a long, slow and complicated process, and non-judgemental companionship on that journey is important. Long after the immediate crisis is past, Christian survivors may need and want to talk about some very deep questions – Where was God in that situation? Why did we suffer? What can I do with my feelings of anger, betrayal, distress? Does being a Christian mean I have to sacrifice my own hopes and rights for the sake of my husband? They may be helped by having folk alongside them in the confusion and silence; or sometimes (if they ask for it) to pray with and for them.

I long for the church to be a supportive community. A place of celebration, hospitable, open and friendly. A community of courage, willing to challenge the causes of violence. Not a place to hide or cover up suffering in our midst, but accepting of vulnerability, pain and the messy realities of human life. A sacred space where it's safe to be just who we are, and loved by God. (Rosie, domestic abuse survivor)

PART 3: DOMESTIC ABUSE: THE FACTS

3.1 What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse can take many different forms, including physical and sexual violence, emotional, spiritual and psychological abuse, financial abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour including isolation. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of age, class, sexual orientation, ability, race or religion.

In Scotland, legally, domestic abuse is restricted to abuse between partners or ex partners although we sometimes find abusive patterns of behaviour in other adult family relationships. Abusive behaviour directed towards children is considered separately under child protection provisions although children growing up in abusive households are affected by seeing, hearing and experiencing domestic abuse.

We define domestic abuse as a persistent pattern of fear based coercive and abusive behaviour which is intended to exercise power and control over one partner in a relationship and which causes physical, sexual or emotional harm.

We agree with the Scottish and UK governments, the United Nations and the World Health Organisation that domestic abuse is a form of gender based violence as in the majority of cases, it is experienced by women and children and is perpetrated by men. In 2015/16 in Scotland, 79% of all reported domestic abuse incidents were inflicted on women by men. However, while recognising that the majority of people experiencing domestic abuse are women, we know that many men also experience domestic abuse.

We know that domestic abuse also affects other members of the family, particularly children, – even if the abuse is not directly aimed at them.

What we also know is that women and men experience abuse differently. Research shows that heterosexual men are less likely to experience repeated victimisation, less likely to be seriously injured and less likely to feel fear or feel trapped in their relationship than women. This does not mean that we as a Church we are ignoring the experiences of men. We want to create a gender just Church where healthy positive relationships are enjoyed by everyone and where no one should experience domestic abuse.

3.2 The Size of the Problem

- In 2015/16, there were 58,104 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, 79% had a female victim and a male perpetrator
- 100,000 of children in Scotland are currently living with domestic abuse
- 2 men per week in the U.K kill their female current or former partner
- Most of these women are killed as they try to leave or after they have left an abusive partner
- It is estimated that domestic abuse costs the Scottish public purse £2.3billion

3.3 Misconceptions about Domestic Abuse

Most of us have some attitudes, beliefs or ideas about domestic abuse which are incorrect and are based on a misconception about what domestic abuse is and who it affects. The aim of the list below is to challenge those misconceptions.

1. It happens to 'those women'

It can be thought that domestic abuse happens to a certain 'type' of women, this type may be based on: a socio economic status; a level of inner strength or confidence; religious or cultural background etc. This is not the case. Domestic abuse can affect any woman regardless of her race, colour, religion, socio economic status, sexual orientation or level of confidence and inner strength. The only common denominator within a domestic abuse situation is an abusive man.

2. It happens because of...

Domestic abuse can sometimes be thought to be caused by many things. These could include alcohol or drug misuse; unemployment; mental or physical health problems; stress; a lack of submission by a person; unemployment or historically having lived through abuse as a child. This is incorrect. Domestic abuse happens because an abusive person chooses to behave in a way that will enable them to have power and control over another person. All other reasons that are given to cause domestic abuse are excuses and are used to justify abusive behaviour.

3. A woman can cause a man to become abusive

Often a man will tell his partner that she "made" him do it and many victims have been asked, "What did you do to let things get this bad?" A woman is never responsible if a man chooses to behave in an abusive and controlling way.

4. Victims of domestic abuse understand what is happening to them

When someone is living with an abusive partner, they will often not understand what is happening, and may not even realise what they are experiencing is abuse. Everything is a big confusing mess.

5. "Why doesn't she just leave?"

This is a question asked many times about those in abusive relationships. If it was that easy, of course a woman would leave. An abusive man will ensure his victim thinks she cannot cope alone, will undermine and put her down until she believes she can't cope alone. It can appear financially impossible to leave the situation, and alternatives are difficult for the woman and her children. Why should they be the ones to leave their home, school and all that is familiar? She may be constantly weighing up the challenges, benefits and risks of leaving. **Statistically the time a woman is at most risk of being murdered is when she is trying to leave an abusive relationship, therefore leaving without any support is a very dangerous thing to do.** Maybe we should be focusing on what an abusive man should or should not be doing. Let's start asking, "Why doesn't he just stop his unacceptable behaviour?"

6. Leaving is the obvious choice

As with the previous question, there is a misconception that when a woman is in an abusive relationship, she has a straightforward choice to leave. This is often not the case. As has already been mentioned, leaving will potentially put her in immense danger. A perpetrator, whose whole pattern of abuse is rooted in creating fear in order to achieve compliance, may threaten to harm the woman, her children or himself should she make any attempts to leave. Also when in an abusive relationship, a woman may believe that leaving is outside of the realms of possibility, this means that for her leaving is NOT a choice.

7. Abusive men are not bad fathers

It has often been stated that if a man is abusive to his partner that does not necessarily make him a bad father. This is incorrect. By being abusive to the mother of the children, he is being a bad father. Children, as much as the adult victims are experiencing coercive control – being manipulated, confused and harmed by it. Abusers frequently undermine mother-child relationships as part of their strategy to gain domination in the household, and children suffer far-reaching negative impacts. Seeing or hearing a parent being abused is a form of child abuse.

8. Domestic abuse is about anger

Domestic abuse is a choice to behave in a controlling way; it is not about being angry. The abusive tactics employed are used regardless of whether the perpetrator feels anger or not. Careful targeting, forethought and intent lie behind the ongoing course of conduct.

9. If someone discloses abuse they are probably being "over dramatic"

The statement is both completely untrue and very dangerous. In fact any evidence of abuse is likely to be the tip of the iceberg. Most women living in threatening and controlling situations are reluctant to admit what is happening to them for many reasons. These include the shame of being abused; the fear of what their abusive partner will do if they tell anyone; their partner will have minimised and justified his behaviour to her, which will often cause her to believe it wasn't 'that' bad and he was justified in being

abusive. Those experiencing domestic abuse may worry, with good reason, that people won't believe them – especially if their partner is seen as 'a charming man' or 'a pillar of the community'.

10. False Repentance

Although it is possible for perpetrators to change and be transformed through God's power, very often a perpetrator will appear repentant or appear to become a Christian in order to gain space for his abuse to continue. If he appears to come to faith in Christ and/or appears repentant or remorseful; this cannot be taken at face value. To ascertain whether repentance or conversion is genuine it should be measured over a long period of time, consulting regularly with the victim, as she is most able to see if change has taken place, and her safety and wellbeing is the paramount concern.

3.4 Domestic abuse and the Law

Societal attitudes towards domestic abuse have changed markedly in the past few decades, with abuse in the home no longer being considered as 'private matters' between spouses or partners.

Both the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Police Scotland have specialist Prosecutors and Police Task Forces working in this area throughout the country. In addition there have been trials of 'Domestic Abuse' courts where all involved are specially trained to deal exclusively with domestic abuse cases. The introduction of the 'Caledonian Project' which is managed by Criminal Justice Social Worker Professionals, challenge abusers to change their habits, attitudes and behaviours.

These are examples of multi-agency professionals working together with offenders to reduce risk and instances of domestic violence.

Some of those violent offenders who have convictions for serious crimes of violence, (including some for domestic violence) are managed formally under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) which exist throughout Scotland.

The 25th November 2014 saw the launch of the **Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse**, also known as 'Clare's Law' firstly in Ayrshire and Aberdeen, but now rolled out across the whole nation. This scheme allows people to seek information as to whether their partner has a history of offending relating to domestic abuse, with the Police deciding on whether to disclose information made on a case by case basis.

In 2014 the Scottish Parliament passed the **Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014**, which gives survivors or victims of domestic abuse access to special measures, such as screens and video links, when giving evidence.

In 2003, the then Scottish Executive's Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse defined it as:

"...Domestic abuse (as gender-based abuse), can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour); sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse); withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family or friends)."

Amongst other things, the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 creates a statutory offence of domestic abuse against a partner or ex-partner. This is significant because it means that, for the first time, domestic abuse against a partner or ex-partner will be a specific criminal offence.

Assault (Common Law)

Offence: To direct an attack intended to take effect physically on the person of another, whether or not actual injury is inflicted.

In order to prosecute such an offence it must be proved that there was criminal intent by a perpetrator; an accidental injury does not amount to assault. It is not however necessary that the attack should take effect. It is an assault, for example, if someone was to throw an object at you with intent to injure, but the object failed to hit you. Likewise if someone set their dog on you then this too would constitute an assault.

Where injury sustained is serious, or, for example where the victim is a pregnant woman or an older person, then this means that the offence is aggravated.

Offences such as **common law assault, sexual assault** and **rape** apply regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, and whether or not the conduct occurs in a domestic setting. Figures compiled by COPFS in 2014 showed that 12,680 charges of common assault, 554 charges of serious assault and attempted murder, 430 charges of rape and attempted rape and 164 charges of sexual assault which were reported to them by Police Scotland related to domestic abuse.

Depending on the facts and circumstances of the particular case, non-violent abusive behaviour can be prosecuted using the offence of 'threatening or abusive behaviour' at section 38 of the **Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010**. This makes it a criminal offence to behave in a threatening or abusive manner which would be likely to cause a reasonable person to feel fear or alarm, where the perpetrator either intends to cause such fear or alarm or is reckless as to whether their behaviour would cause fear or alarm. The offence of '**stalking**' at section 39 of the 2010 Act may also be used to prosecute non-violent abusive behaviour. The offence provides that a person (A) stalks another person (B) where A engages in a course of conduct (involving conduct on at least two separate occasions) which causes B to feel fear or alarm, where A either acts with the intention of causing B to feel fear or alarm or where A knew or ought to have known that engaging in the course of conduct would be likely to cause B to feel fear or alarm. Conduct is defined in section 39 as encompassing a wide spectrum of activities.

Further legislation around domestic abuse provides the opportunity for a court, or an individual to apply to court, to obtain an Interdict with a power of arrest for domestic abuse or for a course of conduct which a court recognises as being domestic abuse.

The introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 should change the landscape of how prosecutions in relation to Domestic Abuse moving forward allowing agencies to look at a pattern of abuse as opposed to 'one off incidents'.

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2011

This amends earlier legislation by making provision in relation to harassment amounting to domestic abuse; to make breach of an interdict relating to domestic abuse with a power of arrest attached an offence; and for connected purposes.

Looking forward, both Prosecutors and Police have identified that there is an inherent weakness in Scots law in labelling, identifying and dealing with domestic abuse and coercive control. They seek to introduce legislation to deal with this anomaly - Scotland's legislative programme 2016-17

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

In early 2018, The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament. The historic vote took place at the beginning of February – a vote which only had one dissenting voice (later discovered to be a mistakenly pressed button due to missing reading glasses!) and became the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.

The Act received Royal Assent on 9 March and is expected to come into force later this year or in early 2019. The Act has been described as creating a "gold standard" of domestic abuse legislation and is supported by Police Scotland, the Crown Office and the Procurator Fiscal's Office. Amongst other things, in creating a statutory criminal offence of Domestic Abuse, it seeks to address a gap in previous legislation by recognising that domestic abuse may not only damage or violate a victim's physical integrity but may also undermine their autonomy, and freedom to live their life in the way they choose. Please see www.parliament.scot for more information on this legislation.

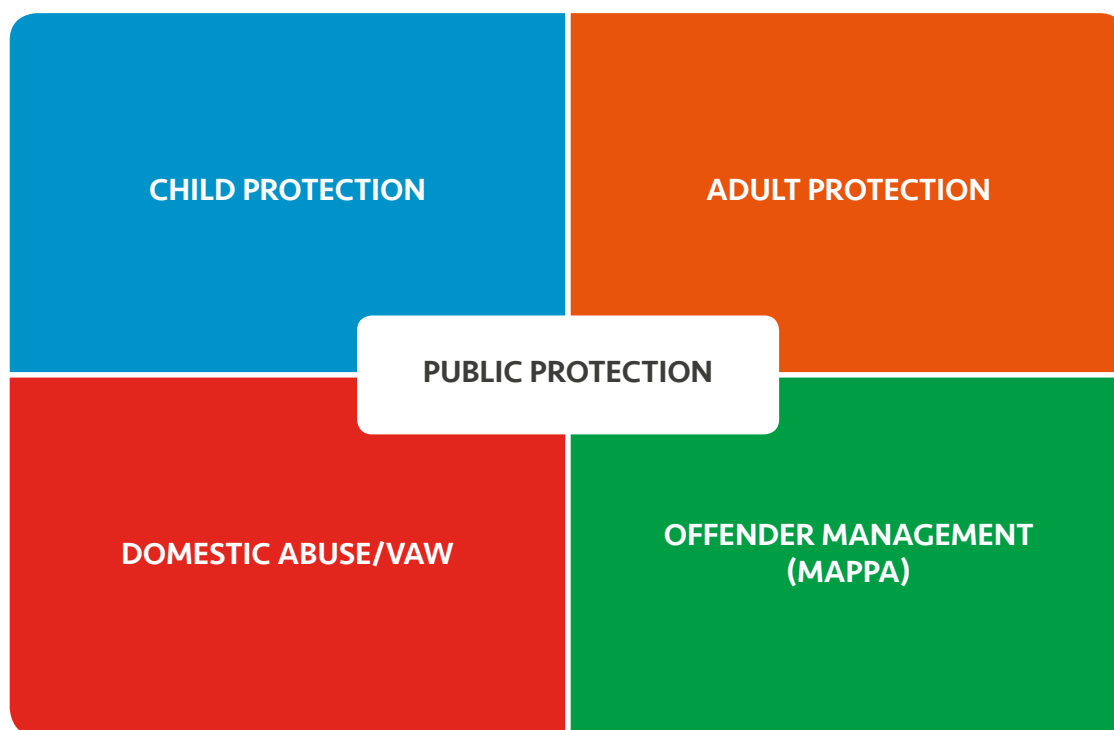
3.5 Domestic Abuse and Public Protection

Domestic abuse is an issue for the Church and not just for the Safeguarding Service. It is all about protecting people and ensuring a safe Church for all. Domestic abuse, child protection and adult protection: they are related issues best understood in the context of a **human rights framework** where abuse is a violation of a person's human rights and dignity. Our work needs to be about prevention; and making an appropriate response when domestic abuse is disclosed to ensure rights and protection. See Public Protection Model on page 10.

The Church of Scotland has already developed policies and guidelines in relation to Child Protection; See Safeguarding Handbook 1 and CrossReach Child Protection Handbook.

Policies and guidelines in relation to Adult Protection; See Safeguarding Handbook 1 and CrossReach Adult Protection Handbook.

And finally, Offenders Management; see Safeguarding Handbook 5 “Managing Those Who Pose a Risk”. Thus, this Safeguarding Handbook 6 “Responding to Domestic Abuse” completes the church’s Public Protection Model.



PART 4: THE CHURCH’S RESPONSE

4.1: How should the local Church respond to domestic abuse?

Congregations are made up of people from across the social spectrum. Research shows that there is no social profile for either victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse. It is therefore statistically probable that domestic abuse is happening in every congregation, parish and community in Scotland. Recognising the signs of domestic abuse is therefore crucial if Churches wish to provide appropriate support.

Responding appropriately

This involves providing resources for individuals and Church communities so that they can respond appropriately and helpfully to allegations of domestic abuse, recognising that abused women and men find it difficult to tell their story and may approach a friend in the congregation rather than a minister or pastoral worker.

Research tells us that women may approach a number of individuals before finding belief, affirmation and reassurance. It is likely that a distressed woman will sound out a friend or relative before approaching anyone in authority. Male victims of abuse also find it very difficult to confide in anyone.

Professional expertise is required for more specialist work but it is essential that tackling domestic abuse is not sidelined. It is the responsibility of the whole church community to take this seriously. Training in how to respond is also essential – if someone is not believed, or is not listened to appropriately, or if good information and support is not given, their progress can be put back for years and they may never disclose again.

Perpetrators. It is important to be able to hold perpetrators to account but also to be able to respond to perpetrators seeking help.

The role of the Church

In these circumstances, **the role of Churches is to walk alongside the victim/survivor on the journey.** This should always be done in partnership with specialist help from other agencies. Churches can offer real friendship and solidarity at times of isolation and low self-esteem, offering encouragement and hope so that the individual can start to feel safe.

The culture of the local Church is important. Church life, which has an openness, where processes are transparent and people feel they can be honest with each other, and where confidentiality is respected, will help to enable an abused person or an abuser to talk about what is happening.

Safety first

This is where the basic principles for pastoral workers and listeners are helpful:-

- Unconditional and non-judgementalism in what is being said has to be the starting point when someone makes a disclosure of domestic abuse, as with child abuse.
- What kind of support is the person looking for or needing? This will depend on many factors, not least the emotional state of the victim and the nearness of the perpetrator. Trust and confidentiality are vital for the safety and well-being of the victim and those who are supporting them. Once a support relationship has been established between victim and listener other agencies can be contacted for more specific advice and help. It is important to realise that from the moment of disclosure the victim can usually only cope with taking one step at a time.

Essential for maintaining the safety of the person alleging abuse and the family are:

1. Confidentiality – clearly acknowledging the limits and boundaries of confidentiality (see Disclosure Flow Chart and Glossary of Terms).
2. One Church or one pastoral carer should not try to support both partners. Separate support for each would be best. Trying to support both partners makes the Church unsafe for the victim and may be seen to condone the behaviour of the abuser. **It should never be the victim who has to leave the Church unless this is the only safe option.**
- 3 Referring to and/or working with other agencies – it is essential that the Church members, ministers or pastoral workers do not take on a role outside their competence.
- 4 In the case of allegations against ministers, or staff members, the Church's complaints procedure should be followed.

Emergency plan

Where appropriate, talk through an emergency plan to ensure that if the person experiencing abuse decides to return home, she can escape safely at any time. More information is available from www.womensaid.org.uk

The key points for emergency planning are:

1. Get the telephone numbers of your nearest Women's Aid group, the Police, Samaritans, Social Services your GP and any personal numbers you need.
2. Plan an emergency escape and get your neighbours' support if possible
3. Keep money safe for taxis, bus fares and telephone calls.
4. Make sure you have your own key to the house.
5. Have clothes ready for you and your children in case of need.
6. Try to have your mobile phone, Child Benefit Account Card/Child Benefit Award Letter, bank cards, marriage and birth certificates, passport and driving licence with you when you leave.

Again the approach is to support the persons own decision, making and planning, and not to be leading.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality needs to be emphasised. It is vital that those offering support keep confidences over addresses, information about children and schools etc, and about where and when it is safe to contact the person who is being abused. It is important not to undertake to pass on letters from the perpetrator - the victim knows where the perpetrator lives and can contact them if they wish.

Children

Children are also at risk in situations of abuse. They know much more than parents suspect. Approximately 90% are in the same room or next room when particular incidents of abuse are happening. Children who see a parent being abused may be physically injured trying to intervene, and in any event are experiencing emotional and psychological harm. There is also increasing evidence of crossover between domestic abuse and other forms of direct child abuse. This highlights the importance of a Safeguarding policy, and of always knowing and respecting the limits on confidentiality when a child is at risk. See Safeguarding Handbook 1 for more information.

Offering support and referring on

It may be appropriate to refer to another agency for support. Permission from the person must be sought before doing this unless there are any child protection issues. Ask if the person would like another opportunity to talk with you or clarify what is hoped for from the church and what it is realistic to offer. If the person does not wish you to refer to another agency, you should provide key contact details, so that they can make contact in their own time if they so wish. **If there are any child protection issues, you should follow your child protection protocols. Similarly, if the individual is an adult at risk (not all victims of domestic abuse will meet the threshold to be determined an adult at risk as per the Adult Support and Protection Act 2007) you should follow your adult protection protocols.**

Risks

Leaders and workers must be aware that the greatest risk for the victims of domestic abuse is at separation or immediately after separation. They should also be aware of the risk to themselves and other pastoral care providers.

NB it is NOT the role of the Church or its minister or members to intervene, mediate or offer counselling to partners where there is abuse.

4.2: How should CrossReach respond?

CrossReach as a registered provider of care services has policies and protocols in place to manage disclosure of situations where an individual is at risk or made vulnerable through different life circumstances. These protocols are designed to protect and support both people who use services and the staff who work with them.

It is recognised however that in situations of domestic abuse a more specific targeted response may be necessary which takes into account the need of the victim and any other family member. CrossReach should consider developing a bespoke protocol covering each of the areas referenced above: safety, emergency planning, confidentiality, children and referring on, and ensure that where further training needs are identified appropriate training resources are developed.

It is equally important that managers are able to appropriately identify and support staff who may find themselves a victim of domestic abuse. CrossReach should consider adopting a domestic violence policy for staff based on the guidelines set out by RESPECT 'Domestic Violence Resource Manual for Employers' (see Section 5 Resources) and incorporating the principles of recognise, respond refer and record to add to the suite of staff support policies already in place.

4.3: Domestic Abuse: A Charter for the Church

This Church:

1. Holds that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian faith and a Christian way of living.
2. Accepts that domestic abuse is a serious problem, which occurs in church families and intimate relationships as well as in wider society.
3. Undertakes to listen to, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse.
4. Will always place the safety of those affected by domestic abuse as the highest priority.
5. Recognises the importance of naming and resisting domestic abuse, and supports the right of survivors

- to find language, worship and action which affirms their equality, wellbeing and struggle for justice
6. Will work with domestic abuse support agencies, will learn from them and support them in appropriate ways, and will publicise their work.
 7. Believes in a God of love, justice, mercy and forgiveness.
 8. Will play its part in teaching that domestic abuse is a sin, and will seek to model God's true community of women, men and children in church and society, in its life, worship and leadership.
 9. Will seek to appoint advisors to encourage the use of good practice guidelines and to keep the Church informed about the implementation and development of these guidelines.

4.4 Do's and Don'ts for Churches and those with Pastoral Responsibility

DO'S FOR CHURCHES

- Display posters, leaflets and information about services such as Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and independent domestic violence advocates (IDVA) in church premises, and invite speakers from local groups to raise awareness or suggest practical action
- Acknowledge domestic abuse and other forms of gender based violence in the context of regular worship – in prayers of confession and intercession, in preaching, in the use of new hymns or liturgies, in symbol and action for healing and justice
- Be sensitive and careful in use of language and image in worship. Consider the impact or effect (both helpful and hurtful) many religious words, hymns or symbols might have on those affected by abuse.
- Encourage individuals or designated groups within the congregation to be specially informed and aware of the issues, so they can be a trustworthy point of contact and referral. They might also take the lead in any church participation in local initiatives (e.g. multi-agency partnership on domestic abuse)
- Display the Church of Scotland Domestic Abuse Policy and charter outlining the Church's position on domestic and sexual abuse, and how it will work towards protection, provision and prevention in the local community. Use this as an awareness-raising exercise, perhaps to be shared with ecumenical partners. Churches Together in Cumbria have done this: <http://www.churchestogethercumbria.co.uk/domestic-violence.html> Such initiatives not only raise the level of awareness and concern among Church members, but contribute to the perception that this congregation/church will be a safe place where victims and survivors might share their stories and their pain, and find solidarity in their search for justice.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR THOSE WITH PASTORAL OR LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

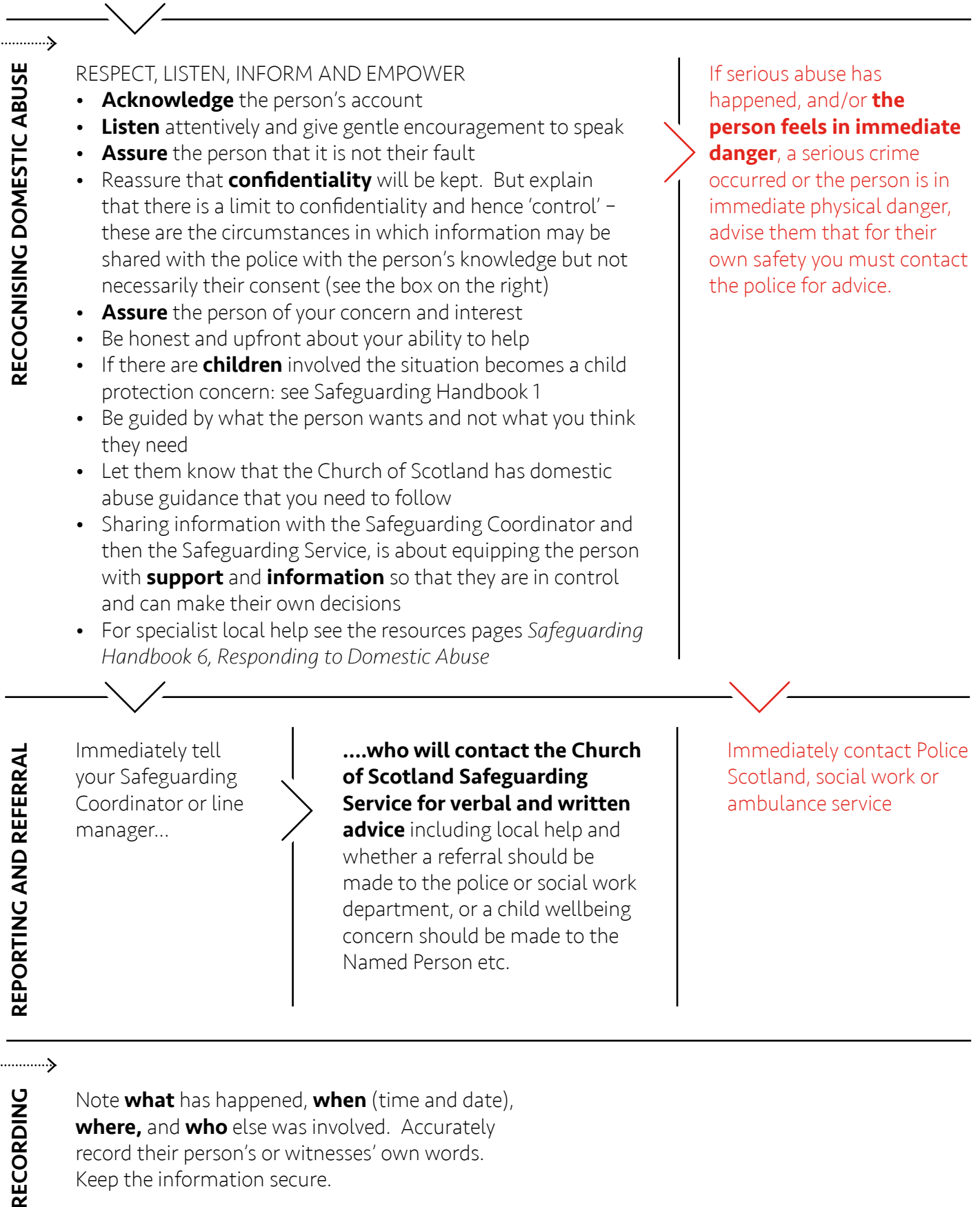
Evidence indicates that women experiencing abuse may appreciate being invited to disclose, if it feels safe and the listener is non-judgemental. They may turn to someone they trust, whether or not that person has an official role.

- DO try to find a quiet and private space to talk
- DO take time to listen and accept – don't push or force disclosure, acknowledge the strength and courage they have shown
- DO make it clear that their safety is the first priority, and perhaps help them to make a safety plan (whether they choose to stay or leave). Women's Aid, Refuge and other expert services will give guidance and information to help clarify options
- DO ask how they think you or the Church could help.
- DO ask about children, if there are any, and do everything possible to ensure that children are kept informed and involved, where appropriate
- DO take a note of what you are told, the date, the context, and other factual information, as a record
- DON'T judge or dismiss what you are told
- DON'T make decisions or assumptions on their behalf
- DON'T ever tell a woman she just needs to pray harder, or forgive, or reconcile, and
- DON'T offer to mediate or to confront the abusing partner; or put the woman, children or yourself in danger

4.5 Domestic Abuse Procedure

Church of Scotland volunteers, paid staff, Ministers, Elders, Pastoral Care Visitors, office holders and CrossReach workers: **what you need to know and do when a survivor/victim discloses domestic abuse**

Person discloses domestic abuse



PART 5: RESOURCES AND AWARENESS RAISING

5.1 Training

Training and awareness-raising will need to include those preparing for ministry, and awareness-raising through existing training courses in local congregations. Basic awareness of the extent and effects of domestic abuse on individuals, families and society should be an essential part of core training for all level of ministry. Congregational training will aim to signpost individuals to this handbook in order to reflect on domestic abuse and how best they might support someone within their church community.

This handbook also aims to emphasise the importance of collaborative working with other agencies. This can include both the sharing of good practice from other denominations, and benefitting from specialist expertise. Agencies such as Women's Aid may offer training modules at different levels and are usually very willing to work with churches to provide training or information. Collaborative working has a strategic place in enabling the church to play a positive role as part of coordinated community responses to domestic abuse.

5.2 Directory of Help-Organisations for Domestic Abuse

This is a brief guide for survivors, and those supporting them, to some of the key organisations that provide support.

This directory is not a complete listing of all help available – a web search will identify more organisations in the UK and abroad.

Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 027 1234 (24 hours, free)

Fearless Scotland – 0131 624 7266 – works with survivors of domestic abuse over 16 years old of all races, religions, beliefs, abilities, gender identities, sexes or sexual orientations.

The NHS also has good advice with many links being provided to other sites.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/abuse/Pages/domestic-violence-help.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/abuse/Pages/violence-and-sexual-assault.aspx>

The NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) offer advice and support on all aspect of child abuse. They are responsible for operating **ChildLine** and also offer a dedicated telephone contact for adults with concerns. This particular link focuses on domestic abuse with a link to child's story, early warning signs to look out for, keeping children safe for Domestic Abuse and research on the harm such abuse can cause to children.

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/domestic-abuse/>

The **Police Scotland** Web site gives detailed guidance on domestic abuse which includes how to make a police report which can be done remotely. There are also links to other related web sites including Rape Crisis and guidance about on line safety in Domestic Abuse situations.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/advice-for-victims-of-crime/domestic-abuse/>

This is the link to the **Community Disclosure Scheme** where you or some who needs to know about an individual who may have a history of domestic abuse can seek information about the person under certain circumstances.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/disclosure-scheme-for-domestic-abuse-scotland>

Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline: 08088 01 03 02 (daily 6pm – 12 midnight, free) – provides crisis support for anyone in Scotland affected by sexual violence at any time in their lives.

The Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline is a registered charity which is a free phone service staffed 27/7 for anyone who needs advice or support who is affected by Domestic Abuse or Forced Marriage. There are also useful links to other web sites.

<http://www.sdah.scot/whoweare.php>

Scottish Women's Aid is the lead organisation in Scotland working towards the prevention of domestic abuse. It plays a vital role campaigning and lobbying for effective responses to domestic abuse. The web site

also provides advice and information together with details of events and news as well as a Helpline contact number.

Men's Advice Line- 0808 801 0327 (10am-1pm and 2-5pm Monday to Friday) – confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic abuse.

<http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/advice-information>

White Ribbon Campaign - 01422 886545 - White Ribbon Campaign UK is part of a global movement to put a stop to male violence against women and girls. It aims to educate and raise awareness of violence against women, and to engage men in these issues.

How to contact the Safeguarding Service

The service is available 9am–5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Please leave a telephone or email message out-with this time.

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service
The Church of Scotland
121 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4YN

Tel: 0131 240 2256

Email: Churchofscotland.org.uk

Website: safeguarding@churchofscotland.org.uk

5.3 Local and National Support Services

Angus and Dundee

Angus Women's Aid

Office: 01241 439437

Angus

Dundee Women's Aid

Office: 01382 220803; helpline: 01382 207099

Dundee - and referrals considered from all areas

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre [WRASAC]

Office: 01382 20556; helpline: 01382 201291

Dundee and Angus

Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis

Office: 01369 700 800; female helpline: 0800 121 4685; male helpline: 0800 032 0399

Argyll and Bute and Islands

Argyll and Bute Women's Aid

Office: 01369 706636; helpline: 0870 241 5848; Isle of Bute: 01700 50 3354; Helensburgh/Lomond: 01463677434

Argyll and Bute

CEDAR Project

01389 772216

West Dunbartonshire and Helensburgh

Ayrshire

North Ayrshire Women's Aid

Office: 01294 602424 helpline: 01294 602424
North Ayrshire

Rape Crisis and Resource Centre

Office: 01563 544686 Helpline: 01563 541769

South Ayrshire Women's Aid

Office: 01292 885667 helpline: 01292 266482
South Ayrshire

East Ayrshire Women's Aid

Office: 01563 536001
East Ayrshire

Edinburgh and Lothians

Edinburgh Women's Aid

Office: 0131 315 8111; helpline: 0131 315 8110
Edinburgh

Edinburgh Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre

Office: 0131 557 6737 helpline: 0131 556 9437
Edinburgh and the Lothians

Saheliya

Office: 0131 556 9302
Edinburgh and surrounding area

Shakti Women's Aid

Office: 0131 475 2399
Edinburgh, Lothians, Fife, Forth Valley and Tayside

West Lothian Council Domestic and Sexual Assault Team [DASAT]

01506 281 055
West Lothian

West Lothian Women's Aid

Office: 01506 461938; helpline: 01506 413721
West Lothian

East and Midlothian Women's Aid

Office: 0131 5615800
East and Midlothian

Fife

Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre

Office: 01592 642336
Fife

Fife Women's Aid

Office: 0808 802 5555
Fife

Cedar Fife

Office: 01592 583676

Fife

Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire and Perth

Stirling Women's Aid

Advice line: 01786 470897; Office: 01786 469518; Children and Young People's Workers: 01786 472674

Stirling Council area

Open Secret

Office: 01324 630100

Mainly Forth Valley but some services in other areas

Clackmannanshire Women's Aid

Helpline/office: 01259 721407

Clackmannanshire but will take UK wide referrals

Forth Valley Rape Crisis contact@forthvalleyrapecrisis.org.uk

Forth Valley

Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, Perth & Kinross (RASACP&K)

Office: 01738 626290 helpline: 01738 630965

Perth and Kinross

Falkirk & District Women's Aid

Office: 01324 635661

Falkirk and District

Perthshire Women's Aid

Office: 01738 635404

Perthshire

Greater Glasgow and Clyde**Glasgow East Women's Aid**

Office: 0141 781 0230; helpline: 0141 773 3533

Glasgow East and North East; women welcome from anywhere

Glasgow Rape Crisis Centre

Helpline: 08088 00 00 14; office: 0141 552 3201; text phone: 0141 552 4244; Fax: 0141 552 3204

Glasgow, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire, West

Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde**Glasgow Women's Aid**

Office 0141 553 4088; helpline 0141 553 2022

Glasgow

SAY Women

Office: 0141 552 5803

No geographical boundaries regarding referrals, accommodation based in Glasgow

Amina, the Muslim Women's Centre (MWRC)

Office: 0141 585 8026, Helpline: 0808 801 0301

Resource Centre: Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Helpline: Scotland wide

Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid

Office: 0141 353 0859

Predominately Glasgow, throughout Scotland and UK

Routes Out

Office: 0141 276 0737

Glasgow City

Family Support Project

Bridgeton 0141 276 4160; Drumchapel 0141 944 4025

Glasgow City

Sandyford GU Medical Clinic

0141 211 8130

Glasgow City

Sandyford Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

0141 211 8130 for all enquiries, information and appointments

Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Sandyford The Place

0141 211 8130

Glasgow City, including community surgeries in Pollok, Castlemilk and Drumchapel

Sexual Abuse / Assault Clinic : North Glasgow Primary Care Trust

0141 531 3232

North Glasgow, east Dunbartonshire

NHS Open Road

Office: 0141 420 7284

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde [Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire]

Drumchapel Women's Aid

0141 944 0201

Glasgow West, but referrals accepted from any area.

Dumbarton District Women's Aid

Office: 01389 751036

West Dumbarton, but referrals accepted from any area

CEDAR Project

01389 772216

West Dunbartonshire and Helensburgh

Inverclyde Women's Aid

Office: 01475 781689; helpline: 01475 888505

Inverclyde

Inverclyde Women's Aid Sexual Abuse Service

Office: 01475 781689; helpline: 01475 888110

Inverclyde

Renfrewshire Women and Children First

0300 300 0345

Renfrewshire [including Paisley, Renfrew, Johnstone, Linwood, Erskine]

Renfrewshire Women's Aid

0141 561 7030

Renfrewshire, but referrals accepted from any area.

Clydebank Women's Aid

Office: 0141 952 8118

Will accept referrals from any area

East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid

Confidential: 0141 775 0990; public: 0141 776 0864

East Dunbartonshire

Children 1st

0141 418 5690

Glasgow South, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire

Drumchapel Women's Aid

Office: 0141 9440201

East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid

Office: 0141 7760864

East Dunbartonshire

Grampian**Rape and Abuse Support**

Office: 01224 590932

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

Moray Women's Aid

Office: 01343 548565; helpline: 01343 548549

Moray

CHILDREN 1st

Office: 01343 564170

Moray

Grampian Women's Aid

Office: 01224 593381 Grampian

Highlands and Islands**RASASH - Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland**

Office - 01463 257657. Support Line - 03330 066 909

Highland Council Area including Skye

Ross-shire Women's Aid

Office: 01349 862689 helpline: 01349 863568

Ross-shire, Skye and Lochalsh

Lochaber Women's Aid

Office and helpline: 01397 705734

Lochaber

Inverness Women's Aid

Office: 01463 220 719

Inverness, rural Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey

Western Isles Rape Crisis Centre

Office: 01851 709967; fax: 01851 709968; helpline: 01851 709965

Western Isles

Western Isles Women's Aid

Office: 01851 704750

Western Isles

Caithness and Sutherland Women's Aid

Office: 0345 4080151

Lanarkshire**Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre**

Office: 01698 527006; helpline: 01698 527003; mini-com: 01698 527 004

Lanarkshire

NHS Lanarkshire EVA Services [Ending Violence and Abuse]

01236 707767

North and South Lanarkshire

Women's Aid South Lanarkshire

Office: 01698 891545 helpline: 01698 891 498

Across South Lanarkshire

North Lanarkshire Women's Aid

Office: 01236 730992

North Lanarkshire

Monklands Women's Aid

Office: 01236 432061

Motherwell District Women's Aid

Office: 01698 321 000

Motherwell District

Northern Isles**Shetland Women's Aid**

Office: 01595 692 070

Shetland Isles

Orkney**Women's Aid**

Office: 01856 879549 helpline: 01856 877900

Orkney

Shetland Rape Crisis

Office: 01595 745078

Shetland Isles

Orkney Rape Crisis

Office: 01856 872298

Orkney

Scottish Borders

Border Women's Aid

Office: 01835 863514

Scottish Borders

CHILDREN 1st

Office: 01750 22892

Scottish Borders

Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre

Office: 01896 661070

Scottish Borders

Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service [DAAS]

01835 825024

Scottish Borders

South West Scotland**South West Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre**

Office: 01387 253113

Dumfries and Galloway

Wigtownshire Women's Aid

Office: 01776 703104 and 01671 402403; helpline: 01776 703104 [24 hrs]

Wigtownshire

Dumfriesshire & Stewartry WA

Office: 07710 152772

Scotland Wide**TARA**

Human Trafficking

0141 276 7724

Rape Crisis Scotland

Sexual Violence

Office: 0141 331 4180

Helpline 08088 010302

Scottish Women's Aid

Domestic Abuse

Office: 0131 2266606 Helpline: 0800 027 1234

Women's Support Project

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

0141 418 0748

Useful Organisations**FGM Aware**

Female Genital Mutilation

DARF

Female Genital Mutilation

Zero Tolerance

Violence Against Women

LGBT Youth Scotland

Homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and support

Support for men experiencing domestic abuse

Men's Advice Line - 0808 801 0327 (10am-1pm and 2-5pm Monday to Friday) - confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic abuse.

Fearless Scotland - 0131 624 7266 - works with survivors of domestic abuse over 16 years old of all races, religions, beliefs, abilities, gender identities, sexes or sexual orientations.

Rape Crisis Scotland - 08088 01 03 02 (daily 6pm – 12am) - provides crisis support for anyone in Scotland affected by sexual violence at any time in their lives.

6. Glossary

Adult Protection

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 gives local authorities lead responsibility for inquiring and investigating into the circumstances of adults at risk who are being harmed.

The support and protection of adults at risk is the responsibility of everyone, including members of the public, professionals, all statutory agencies, public bodies, voluntary and private providers. Effective communication and joint working is key to the prevention of harm.

See Safeguarding Handbook 1 and CrossReach Adult Protection Handbook

Caledonian System

The Caledonian System is an integrated approach to address men's domestic abuse and to improve the lives of women, children and men. It does this by working with men convicted of domestic abuse related offences on a programme to reduce their re-offending while offering integrated services to women and children.

The Caledonian model therefore takes the form of an intervention system comprising:

- The Men's Service - which provides a programme of work with men lasting at least two years, comprising preparation and motivation sessions; a group-work programme of twenty-five sessions and post group work.
- The Women's Service - which provides a safety planning, information, advice and emotional support to women partners and ex-partners.
- The Children's Service - which ensures that the needs of the children whose parents are involved with the Caledonian are met and their rights upheld

Child Protection

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 addresses the protection of children in this country. The Scottish Government issued the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014 so that all those concerned with the protection of children could work within a coordinated framework.

See Safeguarding Handbook 1 and CrossReach Child Protection Handbook

CrossReach

CrossReach is the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland. They provide services in the following fields across Scotland:

- Children and Family Services
- Counselling and Training
- Criminal Justice
- Homelessness
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Older People
- Substance Misuse

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can take many different forms, including physical and sexual violence, emotional and psychological abuse, spiritual abuse, financial abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour including isolation. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of age, class, sexual orientation, ability, race, gender or religion.

In Scotland, legally, domestic abuse is restricted to abuse between partners or ex partners although we

sometimes find abusive patterns of behaviour in other family relationships.

We define domestic abuse as a persistent pattern of coercive and abusive behaviour which is intended to exercise power and control over one partner in a relationship and which causes physical, sexual or emotional harm.

MAPPA – Offender management

Multi Agency Public protection Arrangements (MAPPA) is the framework which joins up the agencies who manage offenders. The fundamental purpose of MAPPA is public safety and the reduction in serious harm. Introduced in April 2007, MAPPA gives a consistent approach to the management of offenders across all local authority and police force areas, providing a framework for assessing and managing the risks posed by some of these offenders.

Rape Crisis

Rape Crisis Scotland is the national office for Rape Crisis Centres in Scotland. The Rape Crisis movement in Scotland is part of an international social and political movement that exists not only to provide support to survivors of sexual violence but also to challenge attitudes and structures within society that contribute to a culture which too often seems to condone or legitimise sexual violence against women. Across Scotland, Rape Crisis Centres provide free confidential support and information for women and girls who have experienced any form of sexual violence.

Respect

Respect is the UK membership organisation for work with domestic violence perpetrators, male victims and young people. They run a helpline for perpetrators of domestic abuse, a helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and a series of services for young people who use violence against partners or family members.

Survivor/Victim

The terms victim and survivor have been used interchangeably throughout this handbook. Victim is commonly used by police and in court contexts to describe those who have experienced a crime. Survivor has been used since the 1980s in an attempt to remove some of the stigma and legal connotations from the word victim. Survivor is often considered to be a more powerful and active word than the more passive victim as it allows for someone to move past traumatic events. There is no one word which describes how all people who have experienced gender based violence feel and each individual may prefer survivor or victim at different points in their journey.

Violence Against Women

Violence against women is defined by the Scottish government as:

a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

Women's Aid

Scottish Women's Aid was founded in 1976 in order to provide national representation for the growing network of Women's Aid groups throughout Scotland, the first of which were founded in Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1973. At the national level, their campaigning, lobbying and partnership work has been instrumental in bringing about changes to policy and legislation and the way in which violence against women is viewed and addressed in Scotland. Scottish Women's Aid represent the voices of women and children in Scotland suffering domestic abuse; highlight the seriousness of the issue, and work to bring about its end.

How to contact the Safeguarding Service

The service is available 9.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday. You can leave a telephone or email message outwith this time.

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service
The Church of Scotland
121 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4YN
Tel: 0131 240 2256
Email: safeguarding@churchofscotland.org.uk

 facebook.com/churchofscotland

 [@churchscotland](https://twitter.com/churchscotland)

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

www.churchofscotland.org.uk