

# Tackling domestic violence and abuse

## Camden Safety Net

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**If you are experiencing domestic abuse, or know someone who is,  
call our confidential advice service, Camden Safety Net.**

**020 7974 2526**

**camden.gov.uk/know**

**<https://youtu.be/PvAJK2JTxC>**

# Aims and Objectives

- To have a greater understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse
- To have a greater awareness of the signs and symptoms
- To know where to access help and support for victims, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse

# The prevalence of domestic violence and abuse

- Three women a week killed
- 1 in 3 women affected, 1 in 7 men.
- In 2018, 173 people were killed in domestic violence-related homicides, this is at its highest level in five years.
- Domestic violence crimes have the highest rate of repeat victimisation.
- 1 in 5 children affected by domestic abuse
- LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse are almost twice as likely to have attempted suicide and self-harmed.
- In Camden 408 cases were at MARAC where there is a child in the household 2018/19.
- Camden safety net receive 3000 referrals per year.
- During lockdown 38% of services surveyed had seen an increase in demand, a rise of 22% from August of 2020.

# Statutory Definition of DVA (Domestic Abuse act 2021)

'Abusive behaviour' is defined in the act as any of the following: physical or sexual abuse violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse psychological, emotional or other abuse by someone 'personally connected' where both parties are aged 16 or over.

## **Controlling behaviour**

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

## **Coercive behaviour**

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

# Domestic Abuse Act 2021

In January 2019, the government introduced the Domestic Abuse Bill 2017-19 following a consultation on transforming the response to domestic abuse.

In March 2020 it was reintroduced as the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21

It received royal assent on 29 April 2021.

The act contains:

- \* A statutory definition of domestic abuse
- \* Establishes the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- \* Prohibits offenders from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts
- \* Creates a domestic abuse protection notice (DAPN) and domestic abuse protection order (DAPO)

# Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- \* Provides a statutory basis for the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's law) guidance
- \* Creates a new domestic abuse offence in Northern Ireland to criminalise controlling or coercive behaviour
- \* Creates a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts
- \* Enables domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a licence condition following release from custody
- \* Places a duty on local authorities to give support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and safe accommodation
- \* Requires local authorities to grant new secure tenancies to social tenants leaving existing secure tenancies for reasons connected with domestic abuse
- \* Extends the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences

# Physical violence and sexual abuse



- Is your partner or family member violent or aggressive towards you?
- Does your partner force you into sexual activity?

If someone is hurting you, or forcing you into unwanted sexual activity, you can talk to us confidentially.

## Ways we can help

We can find ways to keep you safe by improving the security of your home, or finding alternative safe housing options. It's your decision about what action you take.

Your safety is our priority.

**Call our confidential advice service,  
Camden Safety Net on 020 7974 2526.**

**KNOW**  
it's not too late.



# Emotional and psychological abuse



- Is someone making you feel scared or worthless?
- Does this leave you questioning your own judgement?

Controlling someone through fear, threats and name calling can be as damaging as physical or sexual abuse. The two often go hand in hand.

## Ways we can help

We can listen to your experiences confidentially. We can also help you rebuild your confidence and self-esteem.

**Call our confidential advice service,  
Camden Safety Net on 020 7974 2526.**

**KNOW**  
it's not too late.

# Social and isolation



- Are you being kept away from family or friends?
- Are you told who you can speak to and when?

Isolation is a key tactic used by abusers to keep victims from getting help. It can leave you feeling alone and trapped.

## Ways we can help

We can help you to reconnect with your family and friends. We can also put you in touch with community groups and help you to rebuild your support networks.

**Call our confidential advice service,  
Camden Safety Net on 020 7974 2526.**

**KNOW**  
it's not too late.

# Financial abuse



- Is a partner or family member stopping you having access to your money?
- Is your partner or family member taking your money, or controlling what you can spend it on?

## Ways we can help

We can help you take practical steps to manage your finances, give you more control or stop someone from taking advantage of you.

**Call our confidential advice service,  
Camden Safety Net on 020 7974 2526.**

**KNOW**  
it's not too late.

# True or False?

# Women/girls are at greater risk of DV

## TRUE

Whilst it is important to recognise that it also affects men/boys, there is a significant gender bias to domestic violence.

Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence and where they do suffer a higher number of incidents.

Women are also more likely to suffer the most serious forms of violence and to be at greater risk from domestic homicide.

# Alcohol and drug use is a major cause of domestic violence

## **FALSE**

Although alcohol and drugs are often associated with DV, they do not cause violence and should not be used as an excuse for violence.

Many abusive partners do not drink.

Those who do are not 'out of control' as they rarely beat random people on the street, their school/work colleagues or friends.

DV and substance misuse must be understood and treated as independent problems.

# Women of Asian or Afro-Caribbean descent are more likely to experience domestic violence

## FALSE

Domestic Violence affects women across race, class, age, country of birth, education etc.

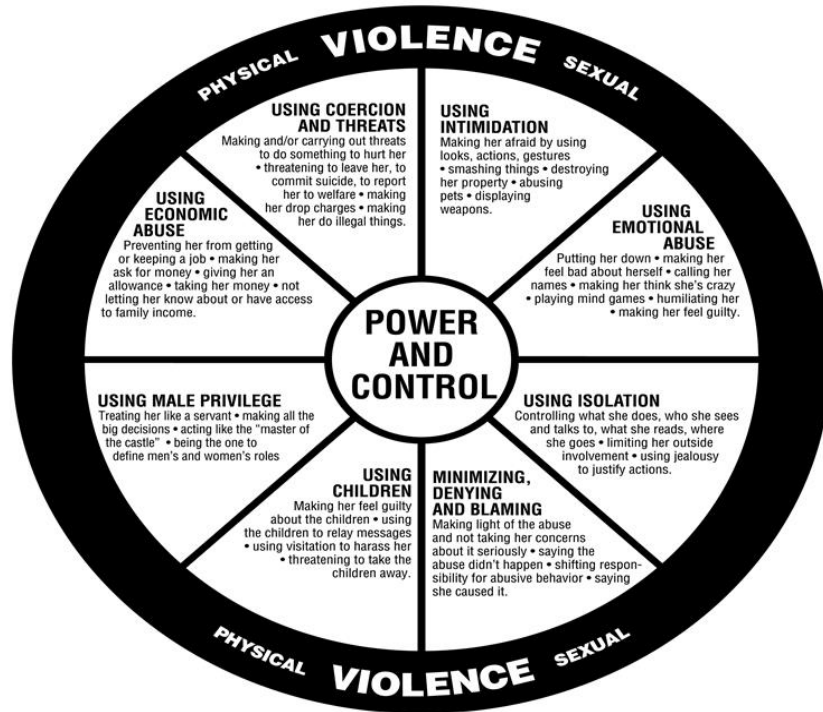
Important not to make assumptions and to remember that violence and abuse are always illegal and unacceptable, regardless of background or culture.

Though Black and Minority Ethnic women are just as likely as others to be victims, there are differences in how they respond to violence and how they are treated by services.



# Dynamics of domestic violence and abuse

## Power and Control Wheel



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT  
202 East Superior Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
218-722-2781  
www.duluth-model.org

## How the Wheel is used

- Takes the blame off the victim and places the accountability for abuse on the offender
- Victims can point to each of the tactics on the wheel and clearly explain how these behaviours were used against them.
- They are able to see that they are not alone in their experience and more fully understand how their abuser could exert such control over them



**“Why don’t they just  
leave?”**

# Why do people stay?

- No where to go
- Fear of losing children
- Keep children with both parents
- Fear
- Status
- Peer pressure
- Access to Money
- Community
- Unaware of options
- Isolation
- Perception of Safety
- Fear and experience of racism
- Pets

# #WhyIStayed/Left

I tried to leave the house once after an abusive episode, and he blocked me. He slept in front of the door that entire night. [#WhyIStayed](#)

[#whyistayed](#) bc he made me believe I was nothing without him. [#whyileft](#) bc he made my children believe they were nothing too

When your fear to leave is greater than your fear to stay. You keep what happens behind your closed doors a secret out of shame [#WhyIStayed](#)

[#WhyIStayed](#) I believed no punches/slaps meant no "real" abuse. He convinced me no one could love me. I knew if I left he'd try to kill me.

I will be considered damaged goods by my own community.

I risk being ostracised for the rest of my life. I'll be the one that everyone talks about at the mosque, gurdwara or wherever.

I'll be branded as having 'Western' ideas and being selfish.

They'll say "who'll want her now?" [#WhyIStayed](#)

Because I thought no other man could love me with all of my insecurities.

[#WhyIStayed](#)

I didn't have any bruises. Not all abuse shows that easily [#WhyIStayed](#) I couldn't remember who I was without him [#WhyLeft](#)

[#WhyIStayed](#)

Because he said he loved me and I had never been loved by a man [#WhyLeft](#) he repeatedly slammed the door on me while he held me

# Indicators

In your role, what indicators might be presenting that suggest that a client is/has experienced domestic violence?

# Indicators of domestic violence and abuse

- Unexplained injuries
- Stress
- Absent from work
- Personality changes
- Low self-esteem
- Lack of opportunity to communicate independently

# Indicators of domestic violence and abuse cont.

- Self-blame
- Lack of money
- Stops socialising
- Partner displays irrational behaviour
- Unwanted pregnancy/termination
- Substance abuse
- Damage to property

# What is a DASH RIC Assessment?

RIC stands for Risk Identification Checklist

DASH stands for Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Honour Based Violence

It is a more detailed risk assessment that should always be undertaken as best practice

# Why use a RIC?

- The primary purpose of the RIC is to identify the level of risk to the adult victim
- It is for those experiencing current abuse not for use with perpetrators  
Click to add text
- It is a way for professionals to develop a common understanding of risk
- It captures actuarial risk – but also has space for professional judgement



# Visible risk factors

CAADA – Adult Model of Risk Assessment



# When concerns are raised about DVA

- Never ask about domestic abuse when anybody else is present
- Never accept culture as an excuse for domestic abuse.
- Never advise a victim to leave their partner/abuser.
- Never use family or friends to translate – always use an interpreter
- Never assume that somebody else will ask about it.

# When concerns are raised about DVA

- Focus on safety – do they need immediate support?
- Provide a private place to talk
- Offer option of another person to speak to – referral to specialist, police, safeguarding
- Support and reassure her/him – they are not alone, there is help available
- Be non-judgemental

# Camden Safety Net

- Act as a single point of contact for domestic and sexual violence services in Camden
- Provide non-judgemental, independent and confidential one-to-one support women and men aged 16+
- Specialist hospital based workers in UCLH and Royal Free Hospital, MASH, SMU, Housing and Mental health services.
- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Support through the criminal justice process from initial reporting to court
- Support to access legal advice and assistance
- Advocacy and support accessing other agencies (e.g. Children's Services, housing, sexual health services, counselling)
- Accessing education, training and employment
- Emotional support and personal development

Call **0207 974 2526** or email [CamdenSafetyNet@camden.gov.uk](mailto:CamdenSafetyNet@camden.gov.uk) to make a referral.