



Making the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill work for the Violence Against Women and Girls sector

**women's aid**  
until women & children are safe

# What's in the Bill: what we know so far

- A new statutory definition of domestic abuse.
- A consolidated protection order.
- Aggravated offence and harsher sentences where children have been involved in domestic abuse.
- Extra territorial jurisdiction – Istanbul Convention
- Wider package of non legislative reform

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“The Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver a step change in the identification of and response to domestic abuse. It needs to drive a cultural shift to make domestic abuse *everyone's business.*”

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# Priorities for the Bill: from members

- Scrutiny and measurement of National Statement of Expectations
- Equal access to support for women with NRPF
- Better provision of sanctuary schemes
- Fast tracking child survivors to mental health support
- Safe and consistent approach to supervised contact
- Improved links between civil and family courts
- Training
- **Sustainable funding for refuges**

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“Government needs to ensure that women experiencing violence can receive a full range of help whether or not they ends up going through the criminal justice system.”

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# Opportunities and Challenges

- A VAWG Commissioner
- Non-legislative package
- Making domestic abuse 'everyone's business'
- Improving protection for children
- Collaboration within the sector
- Raise profile of VAWG organisations
- A narrow focus on criminal justice measures
- Gendered perspective
- A Commissioner with limited powers and resources
- An under-resourced and under-funded sector
- Increase in women coming forward and referrals

# Contact details

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