



Swindon Women's Aid
working together to help change lives

What is Domestic Violence and Abuse?

Domestic violence and abuse involves the misuse of power and is based on controlling and coercive behaviours. This can result in physical, sexual, psychological, financial or emotional abuse. The abuse can come from a partner, ex-partner, carer or one or more family members in an existing or previous relationship. You don't have to have lived together to experience it. Domestic abuse occurs regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religious, cultural or political beliefs, ethnicity, disability, class or location.

There are many forms of abuse...

- Physical beatings/injuries
- Intimidation
- Enforced isolation from family/friends
- Degradation and humiliation
- Sexual abuse
- Forced marriage
- Being treated without respect
- Allowed no control over money

Swindon Women's Aid is a registered charity (number 268048)

Funded by:
Swindon Borough Council, Swindon Community Safety Partnership and public donations

For further information on all of our services visit our website at www.swindonwomensaid.org or contact us on:

Swindon Women's Aid IDVA Service:
01793 864984

Swindon Women's Aid
Outreach and Male Advocacy Service:
01793 614444

Swindon Women's Aid Refuge (24 Hour):
01793 610610

You can write to us at:

Swindon Women's Aid
P.O.BOX 3816, Swindon SN5 1BQ

Or email us at:
office@swindonwomensaid.org

Other useful contacts:

Domestic Abuse
Investigation Team (Police): 01793 507801

Police (Non-emergency): 101

Samaritans: 01793 537373

Sexual Assault Referral
Centre: 0808 168 0024

National Stalking Helpline: 0808 802 0300

ManKind: 01823 334244 (Mon-Fri 10-4 & 7-9)
(advice and support for male victims of domestic abuse)

Broken Rainbow: 0300 999 5428
(advice & support for victims of domestic abuse from the LGBT communities)

Forced Marriage Unit: 020 7700 8151

Honour Network Helpline: 0800 5999 247



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Swindon Women's Aid Refuge Accommodation

Swindon Women's Aid
Integrated Domestic Abuse Services

**Emergency temporary
accommodation for female
victims of domestic violence
and 24 hour helpline**

01793 610610

About Swindon Women's Aid Refuge Accommodation

The Refuge is temporary accommodation for women who are abused by their partner or former partner.

The building provides a safe and secure environment and has trained staff who can provide you with help and support.

Each woman or family has their own self-contained accommodation and we also have communal areas that enable residents to come together and join in activities if they wish.

The Refuge is close to local shops, schools and amenities. Bus routes are easily accessible.

Staff are available to provide advice, support, information, and practical assistance if you need it. They can give you information about your legal, financial and housing rights. They can also support you in accessing other relevant services.

Everyone who needs help will be treated in a fair and equal way. Confidentiality is respected and the support and advice is free.

You might not want to leave your home but would like to talk to someone about your situation.

If you want advice or information or if you need emergency Refuge accommodation please call our 24 hour helpline: (01793) 610610.

You will always speak to a person and not a machine.

**Domestic
Violence is a crime
It is not your fault if
it happens to you**

Who can go to the Refuge for help?

Any woman, with or without children, who is fleeing violence or abuse from their partner or former partner.

How do I get there?

You can contact the Refuge through an agency such as Housing Dept, the Police or you can ring us directly.

What should I bring with me?

The Refuge accommodation is fully equipped with everything you need. We can also supply food, toiletries, second-hand clothing and baby equipment if needed. Please try to bring some identification.

What about money?

Once you have left home, if you have no money you are likely to be able to claim welfare benefits for yourself - and any children you have with you. Staff can assist you with this.

How long can I stay?

As long as you need. Depending upon what you decide to do, this could be anything from a few days to several months.

When can I come?

The Refuge is open 24 hours a day for emergencies.

What about my children?

At the Refuge arrangements can be made to assist children get to school so they don't miss any education. Our child workers organise social activities and provide help and support for children and young people living in the Refuge.

What legal steps can I take?

You may decide to take legal action e.g. get an injunction, divorce or residence order. At the Refuge you will be given any information and help you may need and staff can put you in touch with sympathetic solicitors.

What about housing?

You could return to your own home with an injunction or perhaps find different accommodation elsewhere. Staff can give you more information about housing matters. If you decide not to come to the Refuge our Outreach Team could offer you support in the community.

They can be contacted on 01793 614444

Will the police help me?

Yes, the police treat domestic abuse seriously. When they attend an incident, officers will speak with you on your own, if you prefer. If you have injuries they may bring criminal charges against your partner.

I don't feel safe in my home town

The Refuge can put you in touch with other Refuges as near or as far away as you want if you would prefer to leave the area.

All I want is a break from the violence

Many women come to the Refuge for a breathing space - giving them time to think and explore their options. Some women decide to return to their partner and try again. The Refuge & Helpline operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Can I come back?

Yes - you can use the Refuge for information, help, friendship and support at any time or, of course, if you need to stay there again.

**The police receive
one call every minute
concerning domestic
violence incidents**