

How can you access our service?

We receive referrals from the Police where incidents have been reported as domestic abuse and are due to go through the Court process. When we receive a referral, an IDVA will contact you to offer support. We can meet with you in private, somewhere you feel comfortable.

You may also be referred to us by agencies such as Victim Support, Housing, Health, or Children's Services where they feel you would benefit from our support.

If you think you may be experiencing domestic abuse you can always get help by telephoning our Helpline number on 01254 260465.

“I never thought I would be able to get through court, I was too scared. Without the support of my advocate, I wouldn't have gone through with it. She explained everything that was happening and kept me updated with the case, she even sat behind me whilst I gave evidence.”

Useful Contact Numbers:

Wish Centre
01254 55111

Helpline
01254 260465

Floating Support Service
01254 698549

National Helpline
08082 000247

Blackburn Police
01254 51212

Blackburn Town Hall
01254 585585

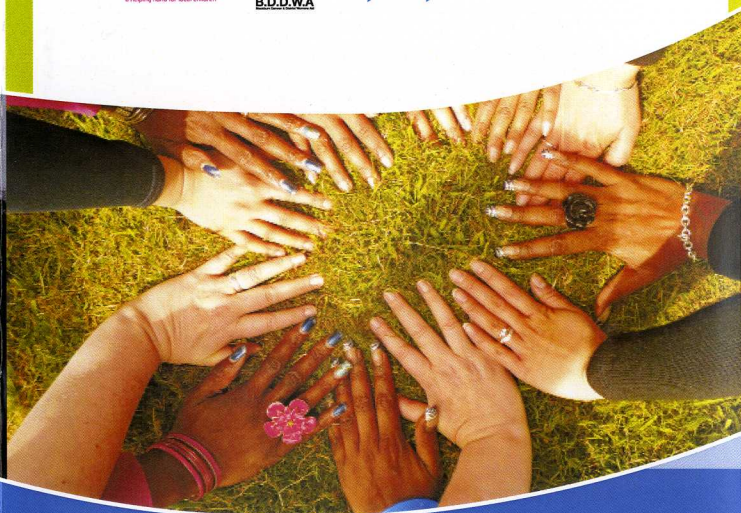
Childrens Services
01254 666400

Email

email info@womens-aid-blackburn.co.uk



Independent Domestic Violence Advocates



What is domestic violence?

Domestic abuse isn't just physical. It's about someone you know trying to control your life - a partner, ex partner, friend or family member. It can be financial, psychological, emotional or sexual and there is no excuse for it. Abuse can affect your long term self esteem and wellbeing and also your children's.

- **Are you prevented from seeing friends or family or from leaving the house?**
- **Are you constantly criticised?**
- **Does anyone constantly check up on you or follow you?**
- **Have you or your children been hurt or threatened?**
- **Does someone control your finances?**
- **Have you been forced to have sex against your will?**
- **Are you afraid?**

Any victim can experience domestic violence regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, disability or lifestyle. Domestic violence can also take place in lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender relationships, and can involve other family members, including children.

Domestic abuse is a crime
there are **NO** excuses

What are the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)?

As IDVAs, we provide a professional and confidential service to anyone experiencing domestic abuse. We also have specialist IDVA's who work with victims with additional support needs such as Substance Misuse, Forced Marriage & HBV and an ISVA who specialises in victims affected by sexual violence. Our services are for male or female victims. Our support is centered around you and your needs. We are not part of the police, courts or social services which means we are totally independent and our primary aim is to help you through a difficult time whilst maximizing your safety and that of your children.

- Crisis intervention
- Advice, support & advocacy
- Prioritising your safety
- Giving you options
- Listening to what YOU want
- Giving you a voice
- Support for all victims of Domestic Abuse
- Specialist support for victims with additional needs around Forced Marriage, Substance Misuse & Sexual Violence

How can we help you?

With specialist knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse and its effects on individuals and their families, we will listen to you, provide emotional support and:

- **Explore and explain your rights and options**
- **Support you through the court and legal system and keep you updated on court proceedings**
- **Attend court and solicitors appointments with you**
- **Provide advice on immigration if necessary**
- **Be a single point of contact for agencies such as Housing, Crown Prosecution Service, or the Police, talking to them with you or on your behalf if you want us to**
- **Help you to stay in your own home if you want, exploring extra security measures and ensuring it is safe and secure**
- **Help you to stay safe by developing a personal safety plan**
- **Refer you for other support such as counselling.**



You can self refer or ask another agency to do so on your behalf.

You can get help and support from the Wish Centre on

0845 077 7088

or

01254 260465

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 9.00pm

or email

info@womens-aid-blackburn.co.uk

If in urgent need
call the Police on

999

Useful Contact Numbers

National Domestic
Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247

Forced Marriage Unit

0207 0081 500

Karma Nirvana

01332 604098

Respect

0845 1228 609

Children Services

01254 587547

Community Cohesion Team

01254 353638

Housing Needs

01254 585444



**BME
Specialist Service**



Advice & Support on Domestic Abuse

We provide advice and information to women who experience or have experienced Domestic Abuse from their partner or extended family.

We explore choices and opinions around safety planning to protect women and children.

Support can be provided in Urdu and Gujarati. The service is available throughout Blackburn with Darwen.

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic violence is any threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship, or between family members. It can affect anybody, regardless of their gender or sexuality. The violence can be psychological, physical, sexual or emotional. It can include honour based violence, female genital mutilation, and forced marriage.

What does the service offer their children?

- ▶ Confidential advice and support.
- ▶ Crisis intervention.
- ▶ Recognising the risks and the effects on women and children.
- ▶ Help women to develop a safety plan to keep them and the children safe.

We will help you find safe emergency accommodation. We will help you stay in your own home if you wish with the help of the Sanctuary Scheme.

Advice & Support on Forced Marriages

What is a Forced Marriage?

Marriage is something that most of us dream of happening... one day.

But for some people marriage can become a nightmare - when they are forced to marry someone against their will.

If this is happening to you, or someone you know, this is not your fault and you are not alone.



Safety Planning...

If you are worried for your own safety or of someone you know please provide us with the following information:

- ✓ Name and date of birth on passport
- ✓ Passport number
- ✓ Overseas contact details of where you are going and who you will be staying with
- ✓ Families address and telephone number in the UK
- ✓ A recent photograph
- ✓ Departure and expected return dates
- ✓ Contact details of someone you trust in the UK

