

## 2015-16: A YEAR IN NUMBERS



**738** women & **520** children stayed in refuge  
**267** women couldn't access refuge as it was full



**6,212** women & **7,296** children accessed community-based outreach support, allowing them to stay in their own homes



**15** babies born to women in refuge



**25,935** calls managed by the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline



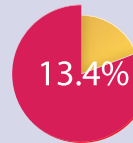
Pregnant women who accessed our support services:

Refuge: **51** women

Outreach: **167** women



Police responded to a domestic incident every **19 minutes** of every day



Domestic violence accounted for **13.4% of all crime** reported to the PSNI

### Domestic Homicides in Northern Ireland between 2010-2015



Women killed: **21**

**17** by partners or ex-partners / **4** by family members



Men killed: **10**

**1** by a partner or ex-partner / **9** by family members



“ When you're in the marriage you think it's only happening to you. It's great coming to Women's Aid, we make friends and we can talk about the abuse. Because every one of us, we're all in the same boat. ”

Women's Aid defines domestic violence as *“The intentional and persistent physical or emotional abuse of a woman, or of a woman and her children in a way that causes pain, distress or injury.”*

“ If I hadn't got in touch with Women's Aid a couple of years ago, I don't know if I'd still be here today. ”

# Women's Aid Services: At a Glance

Women's Aid exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs which perpetuate domestic violence. We work to promote healthy, non-abusive relationships.

Women's Aid supports all women and children affected by domestic violence. We work to help women and children be safe, to break free from the cycle of violence, and to rebuild their lives. Our wraparound services are available across Northern Ireland to support women and their children and help keep them safe.

Our vision is the elimination of domestic and sexual violence.



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Charity number: XN45049  
For our CEO report, Chair's report & financial year end report, go to [www.womensaidni.org](http://www.womensaidni.org)

*Thank you to all our wonderful donors. Your generous donations, no matter how big or small, help us keep working for women and children affected by domestic violence.*

**Donate to Women's Aid Federation NI**



[www.womensaidni.org/support-us](http://www.womensaidni.org/support-us)  
Text **WANI01** and the amount you want to donate to **70070**

With thanks to our funders:



# Breaking Free: Support for all women

Anyone can experience domestic violence, regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or background. Women's Aid works to support all women.

## Black & Minority Ethnic Women

- 172 women stayed in refuge**
- 561 women received outreach support**
- 242 calls to the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline**
- 35 women from the Travelling community supported in refuge**
- 44 women and 38 children with no recourse to public funds supported in refuge**

## Disability & Complex Needs

- 46% of women in our refuges had a disability or complex need**
- 23% of women in refuge and outreach services disclosed a mental health issue**

## Support at every stage of life

- 10% of women in our services were over 55**
- 18% of women in our services were under 25**

## Who are the abusers?

### WOMEN IN REFUGE

- 51% male current partner**
- 29% male ex-partner**
- 0.3% same-sex partner**
- 11% family member**
- 8% other**

### WOMEN IN OUTREACH

- 34% male current partner**
- 58% male ex-partner**
- 0.2% same-sex partner**
- 6% family member**
- 1% other**

## Empowering Women, Rebuilding Lives

Domestic violence can destroy the confidence and self-esteem of victims, preventing them from reaching their full potential as active, contributing members of society. Women's Aid supports women to fully recover from abuse through a wide range of personal development programmes, covering topics like self-care, mental health, trauma recovery, safety, parenting, and employment and life skills.

### JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Journey to Freedom is a personal development group process for women who have experienced (or who continue to experience) domestic violence.

This year **642 women** took part in the programme.



### YOU & ME, MUM

The You & Me Mum programme is designed to empower and support mothers to address the needs of their children who have lived with domestic violence.

This year, **65 women** took part in the programme.



**1,968** women took part in all programmes run by Women's Aid in 2015-16

## Developing skilled and qualified staff

We are fully committed to provision of quality training to staff and volunteers. Through this commitment, we continue to provide quality service and consistently achieve best practice. In Autumn 2015, we delivered the NOCN accredited two-day training programme "The Role of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Practitioner" to **38 staff** from across Women's Aid.

## Increasing awareness through external training

We are constantly working to increase awareness of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, and to develop best practice response across a range of agencies, through delivery of our external training programmes. This year we trained approximately **400 doctors and dentists** as part of their professional training programme through NIMDTA (Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency). We have also worked with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and, in partnership with our local groups, delivered a total of **23** training sessions to **over 300** PSNI recruits at Garnerville Training College.

# 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline



**The 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline** is a confidential, listening ear service for all women and men affected by domestic or sexual violence. The Helpline is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and takes calls from anyone affected by abuse, friends and family, professionals, and anyone with questions or concerns about domestic or sexual violence.

We offer a confidential Freephone service, as well as email and text support, and can support callers whose first language isn't English through Language Line. The Helpline is managed by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland.

## Helpline Calls 2015-16

The Helpline managed **25,935** calls this year

**242** calls from black and minority ethnic women

**55.5%** calls from women and **2.8%** calls from men identifying as direct victims of domestic and sexual violence

**43%** of women callers disclosed a mental health issue.

## Our Volunteers

The Helpline is run by both staff and highly-trained specialist volunteers. This year volunteers contributed **1,207 hours** of work to the Helpline – this amounts to a **£15,177.30** contribution in kind.

## Giving Survivors a Voice

Women's Aid works to ensure the voices of victims and survivors are heard. Our policy and lobbying work is based on over 40 years' experience of listening to and supporting women and children. This year we held focus groups on coercive control, the domestic violence disclosure scheme and engaging with the criminal justice system. We worked with government and other agencies on the Stopping Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy, access to justice, supporting women with no recourse to public funds, peace and security, economic and social rights, sexual consent, gender equality, child safeguarding, health and social care reform and human trafficking.

We lobbied the main political parties to include violence against women in their manifestos, and attended the **5** main Party Conferences.

This year, we responded to **18** consultations.

# Preventative Education



Tackling domestic violence is about more than protecting those in danger – it's about stopping domestic violence from happening in the first place. Through our innovative Helping Hands programme, we have been helping the children of Northern Ireland learn how to understand the warning signs of abuse and know who to turn to if they need help. Through our capacity building programme, *Developing Social Guardians to Deliver Helping Hands*, we have trained a total of **974 teachers from 650 primary schools** over the last six years across Northern Ireland.



This year we trained **150 teachers from 97 Primary Schools** to deliver Helping Hands in their classroom.

## Keeping Children & Young People Safe

Domestic violence affects whole families, including children who witness and experience domestic violence. Domestic violence impacts on all aspects of children's lives, including their health, education, and development of relationships. Women's Aid is committed to building a future where all children and young people are safe and protected from domestic and sexual violence; where they have self-belief, respect for themselves and others and where their fundamental human rights are met. This year we continue to deliver on our 5-year children & young people's strategy, *Our Place – Safe Space*, to meet the needs of children and young people affected by domestic violence.

### In 2015-16...

**520** children stayed in our refuges

**7,296** children benefited from our outreach support

We held **5,626** one-to-one support sessions with children in Women's Aid refuges, centres and in the community

We ran **2,201** childcare sessions for **785** children, to support mothers in getting their lives back on track after abuse

We delivered preventative education programmes to **11,406** children & young people in our refuges, centres and the community

We trained **638** external agency staff on the impact of domestic violence on children

We gave a voice to **168** children & young people in our services through meetings, youth fora and consultation events

## New developments: Children in Need Funding

Women's Aid Federation NI is delighted to have secured funding from Children in Need, to help us build capacity and share best practice in relation to children and young people's services across Women's Aid. This funding, which is over a three-year period has the following high level outcomes:

1. More children and young people who experience domestic violence will have a voice.
2. Policy makers implement positive changes to government agenda to reflect the voices of children and young people who experience domestic violence.
3. More services that create safe spaces for children and young people affected by domestic violence are being commissioned in Northern Ireland.

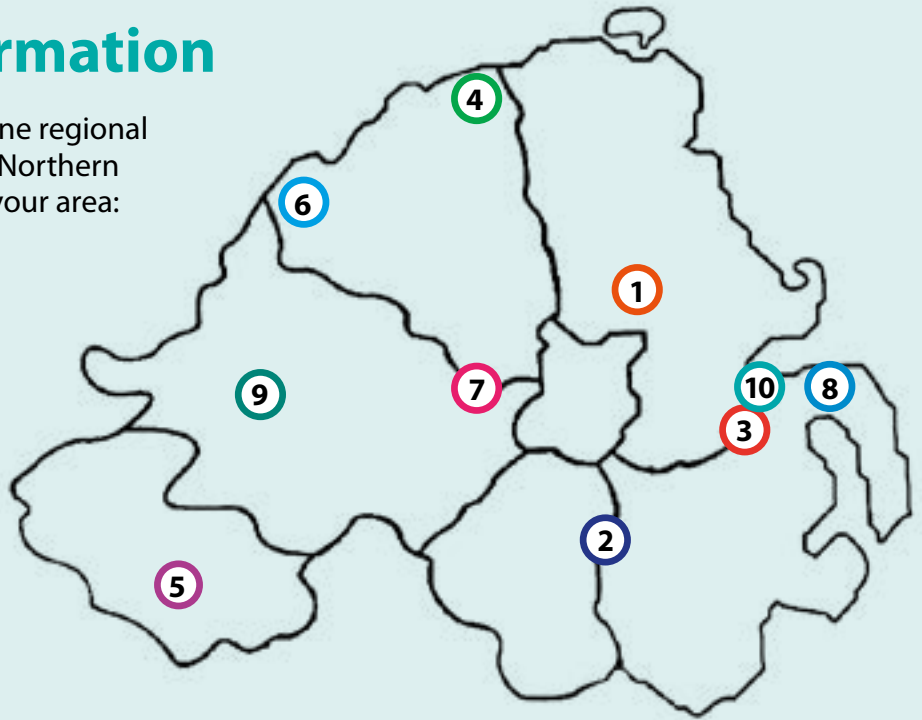


# Women's Aid information

Women's Aid has 9 local groups and one regional umbrella body covering the whole of Northern Ireland. Find a Women's Aid group in your area:

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland



1. Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey Women's Aid	womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com	028 2563 2136
2. Armaghdown Women's Aid	paula@womensaidarmaghdown.org	028 3025 0765
3. Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid	admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk	028 9066 6049
4. Causeway Women's Aid	womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com	028 7035 6573
5. Fermanagh Women's Aid	womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com	028 6632 8898
6. Foyle Women's Aid	info@foylewomensaid.org	028 7141 6800
7. Mid-Ulster Women's Aid	admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk	028 8676 9300
8. North Down & Ards Women's Aid	info@ndawomensaid.org	028 9127 3196
9. Omagh Women's Aid	info@omaghwomensaid.org	028 8224 1414
10. Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	info@womensaidni.org	028 9024 9041

## Need advice, support or just a listening ear?

Call 0808 802 1414

Email [24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org](mailto:24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org)

Text 07797 805839

Open to all women and men affected by domestic or sexual violence



## What to do...

...if you're worried about yourself...

1. Talk to someone who understands – the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline is open 24/7 to all women and men. We are here to listen and support you.
2. Take steps to keep you and your children safe – the Helpline can talk you through your options and help you make a safety plan.
3. If you are in imminent danger, always call 999.

...if you're worried about someone...

1. Get information on how you can help them – the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline takes calls from concerned members of the public.
2. If someone tells you they are being abused, listen to them and tell them you believe them.
3. Give them information about Women's Aid and the Helpline.
4. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

...if you're worried about a client...

1. Ask them if they're safe at home or have somewhere safe to stay.
2. Signpost them to Women's Aid and the Helpline.
3. Get information on how you can support them – The Helpline takes calls from concerned professionals and agencies.
4. Don't ask too many probing questions – this can retraumatise victims.