**Addressing Domestic Violence (UK Context)**

**Background & Why It Matters**

Domestic abuse is a deeply entrenched public health and human rights crisis in the UK. It’s often hidden behind closed doors and affects people from all backgrounds. Survivors suffer physical and psychological harm, and children in these environments experience long-term trauma.

**Latest UK Statistics**

* **1 in 4 women** in England and Wales experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives [Refuge](https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/domestic-abuse-violence-statistics-refuge-b2606461.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* The UK sees a domestic abuse call to police **every 30 seconds**, yet fewer than 24% of incidents are reported [Refuge](https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* On average, **one woman is killed every five days** by a current or former partner [Refuge](https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/domestic-abuse-violence-statistics-refuge-b2606461.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Domestic abuse has a high human cost—every three weeks, around **three women die by suicide** linked to abuse [Refuge](https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Children are deeply affected too: **1 in 5 children** in the UK live with domestic abuse, and many experience direct harm or trauma [Refuge](https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[NCDV](https://www.ncdv.org.uk/domestic-abuse-statistics-uk/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Between April 2024 and March 2025, **525 young women (16–25)** supported by Refuge reported physical violence, half involving strangulation—a 9% increase year-on-year [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/young-women-uk-face-more-strangulation-violent-threats-says-charity-2025-08-13/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* The NHS has been widely criticized for inconsistent response and insufficient training—experts now call domestic abuse a **public health emergency** [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jun/22/domestic-abuse-public-health-emergency-experts-critical-nhs-report?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Practical Resources & Support Services**

* **National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Refuge):** 24/7 support line at **0808 2000 247**; live chat also available [Refuge](https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Women’s Aid Federation (England):** Nationwide support—including safe refuges, advocacy, and outreach—no proof of abuse needed to access safe housing [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_Aid?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **FLOWS (Legal Support):** Helps women navigate legal options regarding domestic abuse across England and Wales [House of Commons Library](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Paladin National Stalking Advisory Service:** Trauma-informed support for high-risk victims of stalking [House of Commons Library](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Victim Support:** Offers emotional and practical help post-incident, including domestic abuse cases—call **0808 16 89 111** (24/7) [House of Commons Library](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Citizens Advice:** Offers guidance on rights, housing, benefits, and domestic abuse options [House of Commons Library](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Regional Helplines:**
	+ **Scotland:** Scottish Women’s Aid – **0800 027 1234** [House of Commons Library](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
	+ **Wales:** Welsh Women’s Aid – **0808 80 10 800** [House of Commons Library](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
	+ **BME-specific (Scotland):** Shakti Women’s Aid – **0131 475 2399** [House of Commons Library](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).