

Asylum Support Partnership

help and advice



November 2012

English

Domestic abuse – do you need help?

Domestic abuse is any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship together, between family members, or between other people who live or have lived in the same household/accommodation regardless of their gender or sexuality.

Domestic abuse can affect anybody at any time. Both men and women may be affected by it regardless of who they live with and their relationship with that person. If you are having to live with this behaviour, either as a victim or witness, it is important to realise that you can ask for help. Everyone is entitled to protection from domestic abuse irrespective of their immigration status.

The abuse can take many forms:

- **Physical abuse**; beating, kicking, assault with or without weapons, strangling and stabbing
- **Sexual abuse**; rape, forced sex, forced to watch or participate in pornography, being denied access to contraception
- **Emotional and verbal abuse**; threats (including to kill, prevent access to children or have you deported), damage to property, being shouted at, intimidation, being controlled (for example preventing access to documents), harassing, humiliation, name-calling
- **Financial abuse**; being denied food or money

If you are being abused, remember that:

- It is not your fault you have been abused
- Reports of abuse are taken very seriously
- You can just ask for information, you don't have to take action
- The law can offer you protection against your abuser, for example through legal action
- You can be moved to a safe place immediately, along with any children that are with you
- The information you give will be kept confidential and no action will be taken without your agreement
- You may be able to apply for asylum independently and continue receiving support from UK Border Agency (UKBA) depending on your circumstances. The UKBA has a strong and protective policy on domestic abuse for those already receiving support

You can report the abuse to:

- A domestic violence helpline, the police, your doctor, health visitor, local support group
- A refugee agency in your area such as the North of England Refugee Service, Refugee Action, Refugee Council, Scottish Refugee Council or Welsh Refugee Council.
 - You can ask to speak to a female worker and/or a female interpreter if you would prefer.
 - The information that you give will be kept confidential.

Other translated leaflets are available at www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Asylum Support Partnership is a partnership project hosted by the British Refugee Council
British Refugee Council, (commonly called the Refugee Council) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, [No 2727514] and a registered charity, [No 1014576].
Registered office: PO Box 68614, London E15 9DQ, United Kingdom, VAT no: 936 519 988



- If you or your children are in immediate physical danger, these agencies may have to tell someone about your case.

Contact the following for help:

**England and Wales: Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247**

Scotland: Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234

If you don't speak English, please state what language you speak. You may have to wait while the interpreter is found, or you can say what language you speak, give your telephone number and an adviser and an interpreter will call you back.

Police (emergency) 999

Refugee agencies' contact details:

North of England Refugee Service Head Office (North East) www.refugee-org.uk

2 Jesmond Rd West
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PQ
Tel: 0191 245 7311

Refugee Action Head Office (East Midlands, North West, South Central, South West)

www.refugee-action.org.uk

Victoria Charity Centre
11 Belgrave Road
London SW1V 1RB
Tel: 020 7654 7700

Refugee Council Head Office (London, East of England, West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside) www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

PO Box 68614
London E15 9DQ
Free advice line: 0808 808 2255
Tel: 020 7346 6700

Scottish Refugee Council Head Office (Scotland) www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

5 Cadogan Square
(170 Blythswood Court)
Glasgow G2 7PH
Tel: 0141 248 9799
Freephone: 0800 0856 087

Welsh Refugee Council Head Office (Wales) www.welshrefugeecouncil.org

Phoenix House
389 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 1TP
Tel: 02920 489 800

Asylum Support Partnership consists of:

North of England Refugee Service, charity number: 1091200 www.refugee.org.uk
Refugee Action, charity number: 283660 www.refugee-action.org.uk
Refugee Council, charity number: 1014576 www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
Scottish Refugee Council, charity number: SC008639 www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk
Welsh Refugee Council, charity number: 1102449 www.welshrefugeecouncil.org