

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Domestic Violence
Country:	United Kingdom
Year:	/

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Relevant legislation:	<p>The Domestic Violence Crime and Victims (DVCV) Act 2004</p> <p>The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act received Royal Assent in 2004 and will increase the protection, support and rights of victims and witnesses. The Act introduced a number of new powers, and amendments to existing ones, to strengthen the victim's case when brought to the attention of criminal justice system.</p> <p>The key domestic violence related measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> (Significant new police powers to deal with domestic violence, including making it a criminal offence to breach a non-molestation order, punishable by up to five years imprisonment (implemented July 2007); <input type="checkbox"/> (Strengthening the civil law on domestic violence to ensure cohabiting same-sex couples, and couples who have never lived together have equal access to non-molestation and occupation orders (implemented in December 2005 and July 2007 respectively); <input type="checkbox"/> (Making common assault an arrestable offence (superseded by the implementation of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, in 2006 which made all offences arrestable) <p>(S12 – extending the courts' powers to impose restraining orders when sentencing for any offence and even on acquittal for any offence, if it is considered necessary to protect the victim (implemented September 2009)</p> <p>The following provision has yet to be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> (S9 – putting the establishment and conduct of domestic homicide reviews on a statutory footing, allowing a systems review of key agencies policies and practices when a domestic homicide has occurred, in order to find out what can be done to improve the system and prevent future deaths. <p>To view the Act in full go to http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2004/20040028.htm</p>
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Trends:	Long term trends in violent crime as measured by the 2009/10 British Crime Survey (BCS), which is a large scale national survey of victimisation, have
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shown a significant decline in the risk of being a victim of violence since its peak in 1995. In particular there have been large and significant falls in the risk of being a victim of domestic violence (down 71% since 1995) and of being a victim of acquaintance violence (down 63% since 1995). Domestic violence accounted for one in seven (14%) violent incidents in 2009/10 compared with one in four (24%) in 1995.

Source: Flatley, J., Kershaw, C., Smith, K., Chaplin, R. and Moon, D. (2010) Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/10 <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210.pdf>

Long term trends in violent crime as measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS), which is a large scale national survey of victimisation, have shown a significant decline in the risk of being a victim of violence since its peak in the 1995 survey. Incidents of domestic violence as measured by the BCS peaked in the 1993 survey. Between the 1993 and 2005/06 surveys, there was a 69 per cent fall in domestic violence incidents. Since 2005/06, the numbers of incidents have fluctuated from year to year, and there has been no clear trend. The small number of domestic violence victims identified in the BCS (currently around 200 in any one year) means that estimates are prone to fluctuation from one year to the next. The estimated number of domestic violence incidents in the 2010/11 BCS is 35 per cent higher than the 2009/10 estimate but broadly in line with those seen since 2005/06.

However, figures from the main BCS are known to be affected by under-reporting. The BCS therefore also contains a self-completion module (since 2004/05) covering violent and non-violent abuse by a partner or family member (domestic abuse), which provides more reliable estimates for these types of incidents. The proportion of people who were victims of domestic abuse has decreased compared with 2004/05 for both male and female victims, but there have been no statistically significant changes in recent years.

Source: Chaplin, R., Flatley J. Smith K. (2011) Crime in England and Wales 2010/11 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/11 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/hosb1011?view=Binary>

Contacts:

National organisations:

Women's Aid

The Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid) is an England-wide domestic violence charity which co-ordinates and supports a network of refuges, helplines, outreach and advice services, including specialist services for black and minority women. It runs the freephone 24 hour national domestic violence helpline in partnership with Refuge (see below). Contact National Domestic Violence Helpline Freephone 0808 2000 247 (24 hours run by Women's Aid and Refuge) 0117 944 411 Office (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri)

www.womensaid.org.uk

Refuge

Refuge runs helpline and refuge services. It has specialist refuges for Asian, African-Caribbean, Vietnamese, Somali and Turkish women.

0808 2000 247 Helpline (24 hours)

020 7395 7700 Office (9am-5.30pm, Mon-Fri)

www.refuge.org.uk

Broken Rainbow

This organisation provides specialist services on domestic violence for people from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Contact

08452 60 44 60 Hotline (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri, except for lunch 1-2pm)

Forced Marriage Unit

The Forced Marriage Unit is a joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Home Office unit providing support and information on forced marriage.

Contact 020 7008 0151(9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

Out of Hours Service: 020 7008 1500 (ask for the FCO response centre)

www.fco.gov.uk (click on “what we can do to help” and then “forced marriages”)

Forced Marriage Unit, G55, Consular Human Rights, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Old Admiralty Building, London SW1A 2PA.

Male Advice Line and Enquiry (MALE)

MALE provides sign-posting for any male victim of domestic abuse. Also provides advice and support to individuals, relatives and professionals.

Perpetrators are referred to Respect or other accredited local programmes.

Helpline: 0845 064 6800 www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Southall Black Sisters

A recourse centre providing information, advice, advocacy, counselling and support service to Asian, African and Caribbean and other minority women and children. Although information and advice services may be provided on a national basis, most on-going casework may only be possible in the London Borough of Ealing. Contact 020 8571 9595 (10am to 4pm Mon-Fri, except Wed and lunch times 12.30 to 1.30pm) www.southallblacksisters.org.uk

Contact details:

VAWGENQUIRIES@HOMEOFFICE.GSI.GOV.UK

Completed template to be sent to the EUCPN Secretariat at eucpn@ibz.eu.