

ON ONE DAY IN SCOTLAND

350 women and
351 children and young people
were living in a Women's Aid refuge

737 women and **451 children and young people** were supported by a Women's Aid group

123 women and **31 children and young people** contacted Women's Aid for the very first time

40 women and **41 children and young people** asked for refuge accommodation, but Women's Aid groups were unable to find suitable spaces for **16 women** and **20 children and young people**

For further information, contact:

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For the contact details of your local Women's Aid Group visit our website-
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Scottish Women's Aid Charity No SC001099. Recognised as a charitable organisation by the Inland Revenue in Scotland

On Wednesday 22nd September 2010, Women's Aid groups across Scotland took part in our second 24 hour census to identify how many women, children and young people were supported on that day, in refuge or through outreach and on-call support services.

Women's Aid groups provide a range of services that are tailored to meet the individual safety and support needs of women, children, and young people throughout Scotland who experience domestic abuse.

Of the 737 women and 451 children and young people that contacted Women's Aid on this day:

301

were looking for emotional support

279

required practical support with housing, safe contact arrangements for their children, and access to legal protection

121

sought general information about domestic abuse or Women's Aid services

On this one day...

123 women contacted Women's Aid for the first time. They were most likely to hear about Women's Aid through friends, social services and the police.

17 children and young people contacted Women's Aid for the first time...on their own (mothers not receiving support from Women's Aid). They learned about Women's Aid through school-based activities; awareness-raising events and lunch-time drop-ins.

40 women (and their 41 children) requested refuge. Only 16 women (and their 15 children) were accommodated. 40% of women seeking refuge were turned away due to lack of space.

There were no easy options for women who couldn't get into refuge; most women were able to stay with friends or family or get temporary emergency accommodation in a B&B, hotel or homeless hostel. 5 women and their children had to stay home with the abusive partner until suitable space became available.

What Women's Aid groups do...

Refuge accommodation

Provide protection, sanctuary, shelter and a safe haven for women, children and young people who have to leave their home because of domestic abuse.

Moving on from refuge - Follow on resettlement support services

Supporting women, children and young people with the transition to a new home, school and community.

Outreach services – working in the community

Outreach services are provided to women experiencing domestic abuse who are living in the community rather than in refuge. This can range from providing individual support to women, to providing a drop-in service at a local health centre.

Information

Women's Aid groups provide information on women's housing options, benefits entitlement and legal rights and support women to access legal advice locally. Women can access this service in person by calling into the local Women's Aid's office or by telephone.

Advocacy

Advocacy support covers everything from safety planning for a woman and her children, accompanying women to the police or housing departments, registering with a G.P., enrolling children and young people at a new school and supporting them through legal action and the court system. It also includes helping women and her children to access multi-agency support when needed.

Training and awareness raising

Developing the understanding of people working in front-line services who will come into contact on a daily basis with women who are experiencing domestic abuse. Women's Aid groups also provide sessions in school to raise awareness of domestic abuse, promote healthy and respectful relationships, and to provide information about how to access the children and young people's outreach service.

Children and young people's services

Dedicated services are provided to children and young people in their own right, mirroring those provided to their mothers. Children's support workers work with children and young people in refuge, and when they move into their new home and also provide an outreach service to children and young people in the community.