

ON ONE DAY IN SCOTLAND

**336 women and  
310 children and young people**  
were living in a Women's Aid refuge

**919 women and 461 children and young  
people** were supported by a Women's Aid group

**151 women and 13 children and young  
people** contacted Women's Aid for the very first time

**33 women and 25 children and young  
people** asked for refuge accommodation, but  
Women's Aid groups were unable to find suitable  
spaces for **10 women and 5 children  
and young people**

**For further information, contact:**

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For the contact details of your local  
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Scottish Women's Aid Charity No SC001099,  
Company No. SC128433

On Thursday 21st September 2017, Women's Aid groups across Scotland took part in our annual 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 1,380 women, children and young people that contacted Women's Aid on this day:



#### On this one day...

151 women and 13 children and young people contacted Women's Aid for the first time. They were most likely to hear about Women's Aid through friends, the police, social work and health care services and through advertisements.

38 children and young people received support even though their mums were not in contact – through school-based drop-in, awareness-raising events or prevention work in schools provided by Women's Aid. Children and young people also heard about Women's Aid services from social work services, friends and family and local authority housing workers.

33 women and 25 children and young people requested refuge. 13 women and 6 children and young people did get space when they needed it, but Women's Aid groups were unable to accommodate 30% (10 women and 5 children and young people) due to lack of space and/or unsuitable space. One Women's Aid group was unable to accommodate a woman because she had no recourse to public funds – they were able to find safe space in another WA group.

There were no easy options for women who couldn't get into refuge; 13 women (and their 9 children) were able to stay with friends or family or get temporary emergency accommodation via their local authority. At least 2 women (and their 5 children) remained at home with the abusive partner.

## 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.