

ON ONE DAY IN SCOTLAND

**345 women and
348 children and young people**
were living in a Women's Aid refuge

**904 women and 277 children and young
people** were supported by a Women's Aid group

**69 women and 21 children and young
people** contacted Women's Aid for the very first time

**16 women and 13 children and young
people** asked for refuge accommodation, but
Women's Aid groups were unable to find suitable
spaces for **6 women and 9 children
and young people**

For further information, contact:

Scottish Women's Aid
2nd floor, 132 Rose Street
Edinburgh, EH2 3JD
Tel: 0131 226 6606
Email: info@womensaid.scot

For the contact details of your local
Women's Aid Group visit our website
www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk

Scottish Women's Aid Charity No SC001099,
Company No. SC128433

On Thursday 27th September 2018, 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 1,181 women, children and young people that contacted Women's Aid on this day:

459

were looking for emotional support

758

required practical support with housing, safety planning, finances and access to legal protection

116

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

On this one day...

69 women and 21 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, and social work services.

42 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.

16 women and 13 children and young people requested refuge. 6 women and 3 children and young people did get space when they needed it, but Women's Aid groups were unable to accommodate 38% of women and 69% of children and young people (6 women and 9 children and young people) due to lack of safe and/or suitable space.

There were no easy options for women who couldn't get into refuge. 5 women and their 3 children were able to stay with friends or family. At least 1 woman and 4 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.