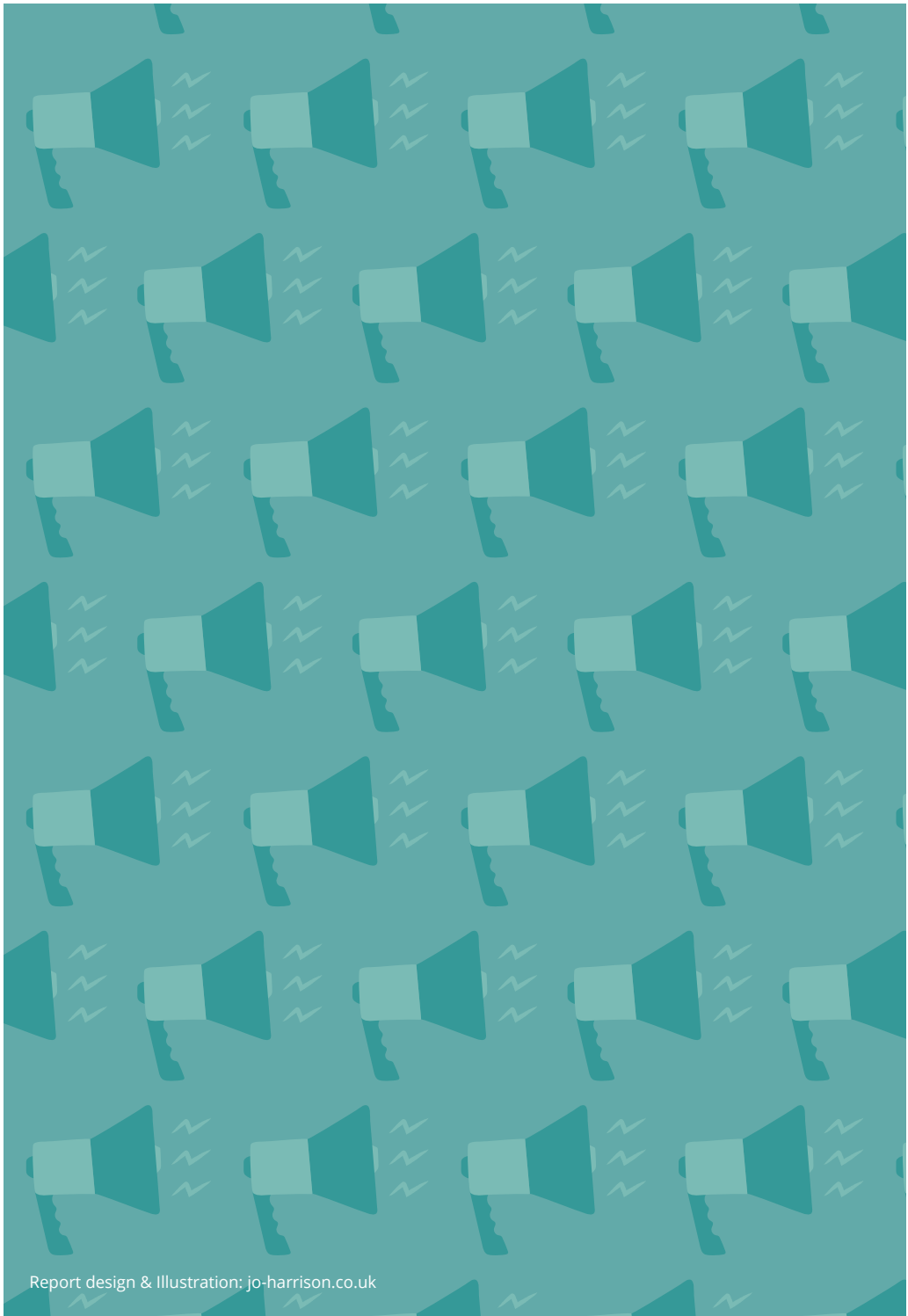




SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19



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ABOUT SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID

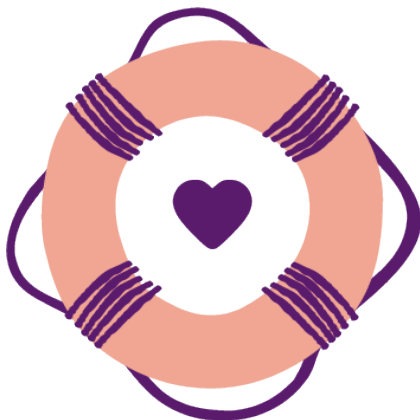
Scottish Women's Aid is the lead organisation in Scotland working towards the prevention of domestic abuse and we play a vital role in campaigning and lobbying for effective responses to domestic abuse.

We are an umbrella organisation for 36 local Women's Aid groups spread across Scotland. These groups provide specialist front-line services to women, children and young people including safe refuge accommodation, information and support.

Our vision is a Scotland with no domestic abuse, where women, young people and children enjoy all of their human rights and have equal opportunity to explore all of their ambitions and aspirations.

We work towards achieving this by:

- Supporting and advocating for the women in our network who work with women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse
- Engaging with the government and other national stakeholders to help them understand and respond boldly to the problem of domestic abuse in Scotland
- Challenging the pillars of women's inequality – poverty of rights, autonomy, money and power.



JESSICA LINDOEH

Vice Chair of Scottish Women's Aid



2018-19 has been a busy year where Scottish Women's Aid have continued to work with

partners and develop the service, as well as building capacity around domestic abuse and gender-based violence. This year has seen the roll out of training in coercive control to Women's Aid groups enabling them to effectively promote the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act. The recognition of coercive control marks a cultural change in our understanding of domestic abuse which we hope will lead to an increased understanding of the impact domestic abuse has on survivors, as well improved mainstream responses to domestic abuse in all its forms. For too long there has been a disproportional focus on violence, and for survivors

and professionals working in this field the focus on violence does not tell the story of the real impacts of the daily and ongoing control that survivors experience. Scottish Women's Aid and the network of Women's Aid groups welcomes the Act and the changes it will provide for survivors.

We want to commend the hard work of all the staff at Scottish Women's Aid and their commitment to ensure work is done on time and to a high standard. We would also like to extend a thank you to the network of Women's Aid groups who, at a difficult time of austerity and ongoing challenges, continue to tirelessly work with survivors making them safer, more supported and enabling them to move on to a life without abuse.



MARSHA SCOTT

CEO of Scottish Women's Aid

What a year it has been! Having reached the landmark moment of seeing Scotland's ground-breaking new domestic abuse law passed in 2017-18, you would be forgiven for thinking that things might have slowed down for us a bit this year. However, that was not the case and the past year has been one of mammoth efforts for Scottish Women's Aid.

As soon as the Bill passed our attentions turned to the great deal of work required to ensure that, when it came time for implementation, this law would achieve all that it promised for women, children and young people

experiencing domestic abuse. It was all hands on deck at SWA around this as we engaged with partners in all areas of the justice system, looked at evidence about good practice implementation approaches, and developed and rolled out training on coercive control and the new law to multiple audiences.

Aside from our efforts around the new law, we progressed with a variety of projects to improve the lives of women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. From employment, to training, to homelessness, to court-ordered child contact, the staff at SWA, accompanied and assisted by



WHAT A YEAR
IT HAS BEEN!

many partners and colleagues, worked hard to carve out a future where Scotland is free of domestic abuse and its many consequences.

I continued to meet with the women working in the 36 local Women's Aid groups across Scotland. As ever, I was inspired and moved by the leadership, passion, and creativity that is on display across the groups. That on one day alone in 2018-19 Women's Aid groups in Scotland supported 1,181 women, children and young people speaks volumes to the hard work and consistent effort put in by these women every day. When I meet with staff delivering these front line services, I know that

they - and we - are honouring the thousands of women of the Women's Aid movement who got us here with their dedication.

I hope that the work you read about in the coming pages will shed light on the progress that we have made in Scotland towards a fairer and safer society for women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. However, I hope you are also motivated to keep pressing on – there is so much yet to do.

POLICY, INFLUENCING
AND LEGISLATION



COERCIVE CONTROL IS A PATTERN OF BEHAVIOUR

"IT'S NOT OBVIOUS AT FIRST,
BUT COERCIVE CONTROL
DOES REAL DAMAGE
AND IT'S A CRIME."

YOU CAN GET HELP AND SUPPORT FROM:

Scotland's Domestic Abuse
and Forced Marriage Helpline:

0800 027 1234

SDAFMH.org.uk

WomensAid.scot
LGBTDomesticAbuse.org.uk
Respect.uk.net

Charity No. SC011099
Registered company number SC12843

Graphics: mediaco-op.net

DOMESTIC ABUSE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2018

A critical focus for us in 2018/19 was preparation for the implementation of the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.

This work included the development and roll-out of training by our Coercive Control Training Project, which developed training resources to raise awareness and understanding of coercive control and the new law. One of these resources was a video shedding light on the various forms coercive control can take, produced in collaboration with Media Co-Op based on the first-hand accounts of women experiencing domestic abuse who had called Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline. These training resources were rolled out to Women's Aid groups in Scotland, as well delivered to other professionals and external bodies, to help them understand the implications of the Act for their work.

In preparation for implementation we also conducted an extensive literature review across various

jurisdictions in relation to dual arrests/arrests of women as perpetrators of domestic abuse, particularly for coercive control. We analysed statistics from Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and the Scottish Government to identify a baseline of expected numbers of arrests and prosecutions of female perpetrators.

We then organised three events to discuss the issues identified by this work, including roundtables with representatives from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Police Authority, Police Scotland and the Special Prosecutor for Domestic Abuse at COPFS. This research and these events flagged up concerns about possible negative implementation effects – for example inappropriate arrests of women victims and highlighted the need for a consistent approach to children and women in the criminal and civil justice system.

VULNERABLE WITNESSES (CRIMINAL EVIDENCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL

We submitted both oral and written submissions to the Justice Committee's call for evidence on the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill. We worked with the Scottish Government on their Stage Two amendments and successfully lobbied to have domestic abuse cases added to the list of cases where child witnesses will give pre-recorded evidence ahead of trial in solemn cases.



HOMELESSNESS

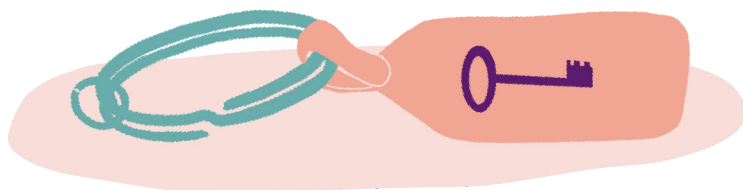
Domestic abuse continues to be the main reason given by women making a homeless application in Scotland. In 2018/19 we have continued to progress the recommendations from our research on domestic abuse and homelessness.

We worked with the Scottish Government in developing their consultation on Emergency Barring Orders, and submitted a response to the subsequent paper. We held a roundtable on housing and domestic abuse in partnership with the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO), the Chartered Institute for Housing (CIH), the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Scottish Federation of Housing

Associations (SFHA) and Shelter Scotland. We subsequently developed a framework for good practice guidance on domestic abuse for social landlords, to be co-published with these partners.

We met with the Scottish Government's Homelessness Team, as well as the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, to discuss the issue of women's homelessness within the Scottish Government's homelessness strategy and progress on research recommendations.

We also prepared a parliamentary briefing for the Scottish Government debate on the Ending Homelessness Together high level action plan.



SOCIAL SECURITY

Cuts to social security and tax credits, as well as other austerity measures, have disproportionately affected women, particularly lone parents and disabled women. These cuts have forced some women to remain with or return to an abusive partner.

Over 2018/19 we worked with the Scottish Government to develop options for making separate payments of Universal Credit to a couple and carried out focus groups with women with lived experience to inform this process.

We provided written evidence to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty as part of his visit to the UK, where he subsequently reported on the disproportionate impact of cuts to social security on women.

We also submitted joint evidence with Engender to the UK Parliament Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiry into Universal Credit and the impact of single household payment to facilitate domestic abuse.

Ensuring the participation of women in key areas of policy development is vital. To aid this, we worked on a participatory project with women supported by Edinburgh and Shakti Women's Aid. Recounting Women is a participatory photovoice project that supports women who have experienced domestic abuse to share information about the issues that affect them and the barriers they face in rebuilding their lives, including poverty and homelessness.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

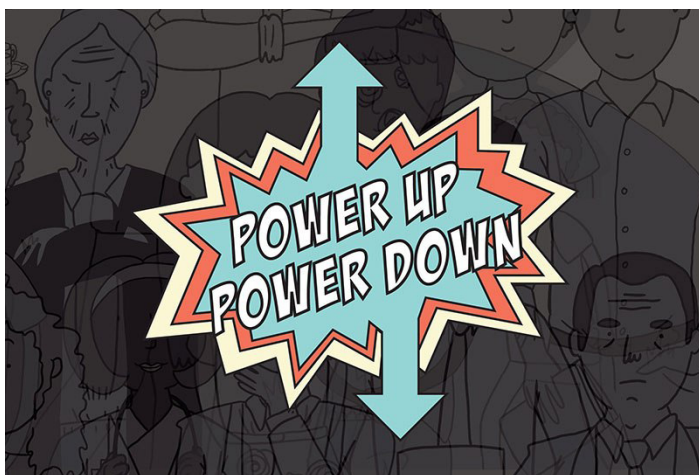
We continue to seek opportunities to improve child protection responses, ensure the participation of children and young people in decisions that will impact on them and support them to understand their rights.

In 2018/19 this work has included the promotion of children's rights through policy responses and various working groups. We have especially championed children's rights to participation, to protection from abuse, and to their best interests being paramount.

We redesigned and updated the Power Up, Power Down toolkit for Women's Aid workers, and

supported the Women's Aid network in their participation work with children and young people to increase their voice and influence in matters affecting their lives.

We also co-facilitated a week-long Winter School for Global Partnership to Prevent Violence against Children. Working with participants from Scotland and seven other countries, we looked at improving understanding of children's gendered experience of violence and of the importance of linking causes with interventions through an evidence-based theory of change.



PROJECT WORK



Illustration: Gina Ramsey

EQUALLY SAFE IN PRACTICE

The aim of this project is to develop a model for creating and sustaining a national corps of trainers who can deliver high-quality gendered violence against women and girls (VAWG) training for public and third sector organisations, violence against women partnerships and other policy providers in all areas of Scotland.

The project team leading this work came into post this year and has developed a detailed operational plan for the project, liaising with key agencies and networks to discuss and promote it.

A feasibility study was commissioned and commenced to research and identify a national model of provision of expert training on VAWG and women's equality. The study worked with participants from a wide range of organisations, both statutory and third sector.

PARTICIPATING IN EQUALLY SAFE IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

This project gathered views on participation in the Equally Safe strategy from 188 women and girls from across the Highlands and Islands who have survived gender based violence.

The participants gave their views on the barriers to their participation in action to end VAWG at a local level, and made recommendations on what needs to improve locally and nationally to increase participation. The recommendations will be presented to the Scottish Government in a published report in 2019/2020.



BUILDING EQUALITY

Building Equality was an innovative joint employability project with Close the Gap and Engender that was taken forward by four Women's Aid groups (Edinburgh, Shakti, Ross-shire and South Lanarkshire & East Renfrewshire) to challenge economic discrimination and develop effective models to improve and protect the economic independence of women experiencing domestic abuse. The project was in its final stages this year, with evaluation to follow.



IMPROVING JUSTICE IN CHILD CONTACT

The Improving Justice in Child Contact project is a partnership with the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research on Families and Relationships and agencies in Portugal, Romania, Bulgaria and Cyprus. It is working to find solutions for the ongoing problem of court-ordered child contact in the context of domestic abuse. Scottish Women's Aid is working to support a group of young experts who are advising on this project. The project will allow us to further develop Power Up, Power Down and to share our learning with partners across Europe.



Improving Justice in Child Contact

Are you a Super Listener?



kind...	...eyes to see the problems
knows what they are doing...	...mouth to communicate
remains calm under pressure...	...knows about children's rights
uses funds to communicate...	...respectful
remains calm under pressure...	...empathetic
will talk to...	...will talk to
listen children...	...graveside for you
very and finally...	...can make you laugh
	...do what they promised

SUPER LISTENER was translated as part of Improving Justice in Child Contact (IJCC), a project seeking to improve children's participation in child contact decisions across five European countries.

To learn more about Power Up/Power Down, visit www.scjcc.org.uk/policy/domestic-abuse/power-uppower-down/videos

www.ed.ac.uk/education/ijcc

Use the **Super Listener** checklist overlaid to make sure that children feel safe, supported and respected when giving you their views.

This translated resource is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020).

ASK ME

Scottish Women's Aid, in partnership with Women's Aid England, Welsh Women's Aid and Women's Aid Northern Ireland received funding from the Tampon Tax Fund to establish and implement a community bystander/mobilisation model called Ask Me. In 2018/19 this funding set up two pilot projects in rural areas of Scotland.

The Ask Me project creates a network of community ambassadors who will work to raise awareness of domestic abuse in their local area and to create safe, supportive communities for women experiencing domestic abuse.

Ambassadors signpost to local specialist domestic abuse services with the aim that all women receive the response they need, the very first time they reach out for support. Scottish Women's Aid developed the infrastructure to set up this project and are providing local project support. We also continue to be involved in the strategic discussions around this with other UK national Women's Aid groups.



SCOTLAND'S DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FORCED MARRIAGE HELPLINE

This year marked the third year of our contract with the Scottish Government to run Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline. We saw a 20% increase in contacts to the Helpline, we believe partly due to our increased profile and the positive feedback we have received from callers, concerned others and professionals. This year we were also awarded the next Scottish Government contract to continue delivering the Helpline in 2019-2020 and beyond

As in previous years, the majority of callers (94%) identify as female. Most callers are calling for support in relation to domestic abuse, with less than 1% of contacts relating to forced marriage. Many callers are experiencing more than one form of abuse when they reach out to us. Some callers need information on legal issues, and over the course of these three years we have identified that the consistent legal issues callers are looking for information on relate to child contact/custody, interdicts/

non-harassment orders and housing/exclusion orders.

We continue to gather information to help inform wider developments and to improve responses for those who are navigating the legal system. This year we introduced a short online survey to allow callers to give their feedback anonymously. The feedback for the first quarter was exceptionally positive and affirming, with callers giving a 5-star rating for all areas of the survey.

We continue to work in close partnership with local Women's Aid services, all of which provide the Helpline number when their service is unavailable. In addition, several of the local Women's Aid services divert their calls to the Helpline when they are unavailable, enhancing their out of hours provision.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING MY
ABUSE A NAME. I FEEL BETTER
ALREADY. SO, IT'S NOT
MY FAULT?

THAT MADE ME FEEL SO
MUCH BETTER. THANK YOU,
I NEEDED TO HEAR THAT.
I CAN'T SAY HOW HELPFUL
YOU'VE BEEN.



MOST PEOPLE CAN'T
EVEN TALK TO ME,
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

YOU'RE THE FIRST PLACE I'VE SPOKEN
TO THAT HAVE OFFERED ME SOMETHING
PRACTICAL, THANK YOU.

YOU'VE BEEN WONDERFUL, YOU REALLY
UNDERSTAND. I'VE GOT SOME
ANSWERS AND I FEEL MY STRENGTH
AND FIRE COMING BACK.

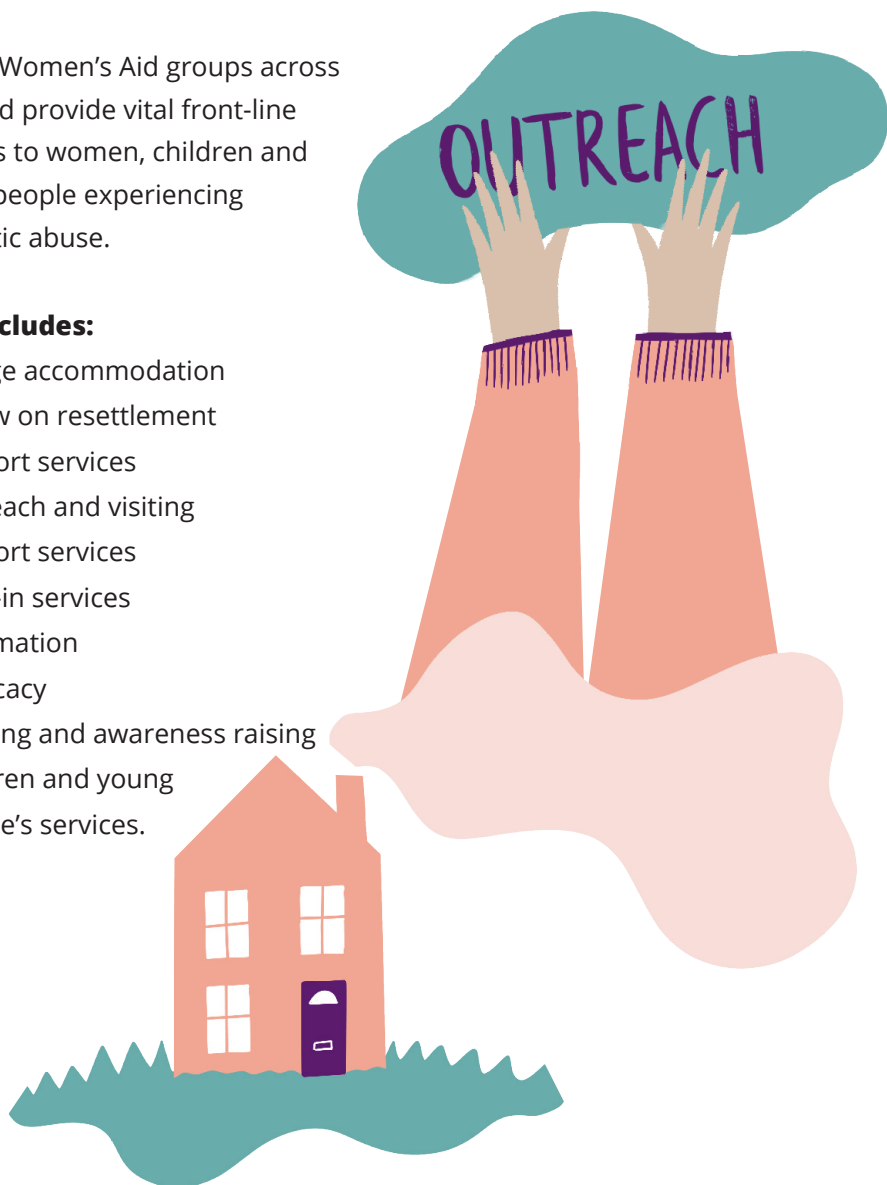
WORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS

WHAT SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID GROUPS DO

The 36 Women's Aid groups across Scotland provide vital front-line services to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

This includes:

- Refuge accommodation
- Follow on resettlement
- Support services
- Outreach and visiting
- Support services
- Drop-in services
- Information
- Advocacy
- Training and awareness raising
- Children and young
- People's services.







CENSUS DAY

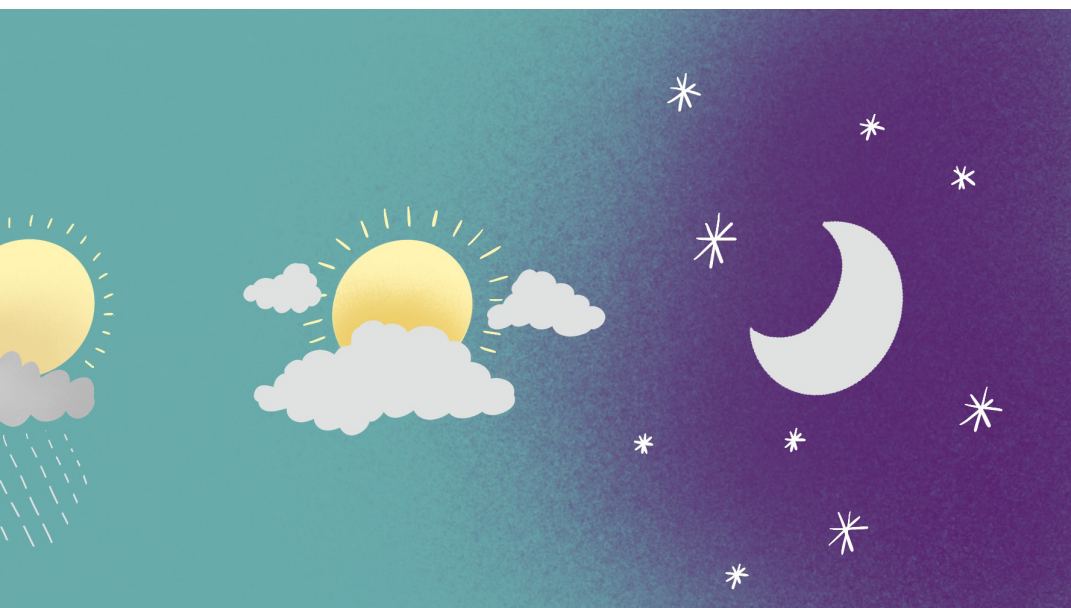
On **Thursday 27th September 2018**, Women's Aid groups across Scotland took part in our annual 24 hour census to identify how many women, children and young people were being supported on that day, in refuge or through outreach and on-call support services.

ON THIS DAY ALONE:

1,181 women, children and young people were supported.

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. Due to pressure on services, Women's Aid groups were unable to find suitable spaces for 6 women and 9 children and young people.

There were no easy options for those who could not get into refuge.

5 women and 3 children were able to stay with friends or family.

At least 1 woman and 4 children remained at home with the abusive partner.

MEMBER SERVICES

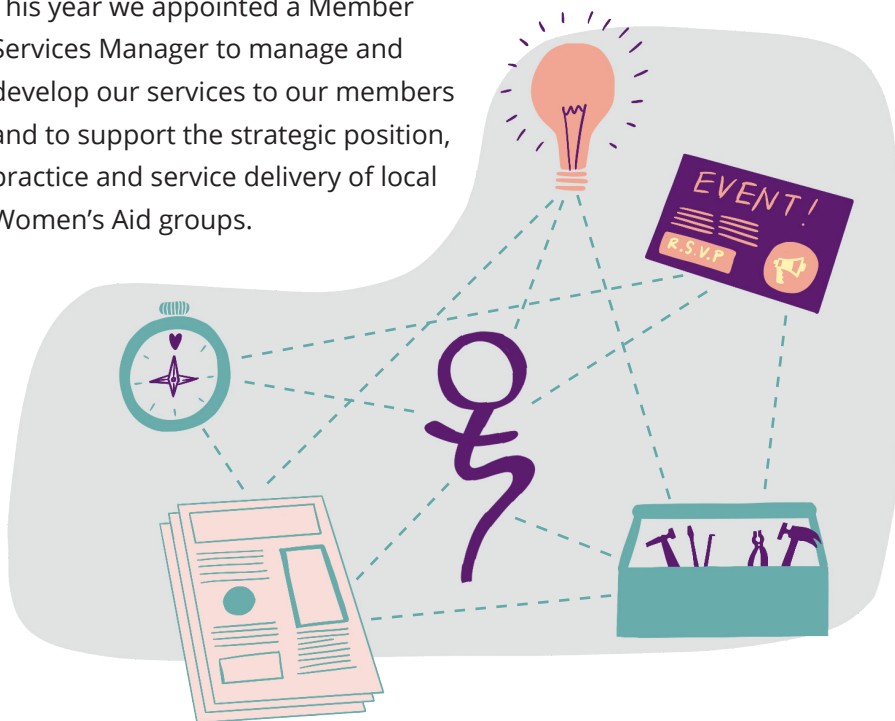
Scottish Women's Aid delivers a range of services to our member groups, including:

- Networking and knowledge-sharing events
- Training
- Resources
- Toolkits
- Guidance
- 1-to-1 support for frontline staff, managers and trustees.

This year we appointed a Member Services Manager to manage and develop our services to our members and to support the strategic position, practice and service delivery of local Women's Aid groups.

Each staff member in the member services team now has a portfolio of member groups that they lead on, and are the first point of contact for those groups.

We have provided a significant amount of 1-to-1 support to member groups this year, with the main areas of focus being local authority contracts, tendering of services, changes to funding, governance and management.



NATIONAL SERVICE STANDARDS

The National Service Standards (NSS) are a quality assurance framework to support our membership to evidence the specialist services they provide to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. There is a three-yearly plan in place to assess all groups and the standards are being promoted to local authorities and the Scottish Government as a tool to commission specialist domestic abuse services.

In 2018/19 four groups were assessed and fully met the standards and eleven groups were assessed and are working towards their individual action plans.

MEMBERS CONFERENCE

The annual members conference takes place in November each year. It provides an opportunity to focus on key practice areas and allows groups to come together to discuss opportunities and challenges in their own local areas.



The conference theme for 2018 was about implementing our values in practice. Thirty member groups were represented at the conference, with 100 participants in total.



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERS

The Member's Learning and Development Programme is developed in consultation with our member groups, input from the SWA staff team and taking account of emerging policy and practice issues. The programme gives frontline staff, managers, volunteers and trustees of groups the opportunity to network, share knowledge, receive training, guidance, resources and 1-to-1 support.

In 2018/19, nearly 400 participants attended training, forums, policy and practice days and trustee development days.

Topics covered included:

- Domestic abuse
- Feminist support work
- Homelessness
- Transgender inclusion
- Listening to children experiencing domestic abuse
- Professional boundaries.

This work ensures Women's Aid staff, volunteers and trustees have relevant opportunities to access training and support relevant to their role.



EXTERNAL

SWA's external learning and development activities included running a programme of nationally advertised training and seminar events focused on delivering key messages and confidence building about appropriate and effective interventions on domestic abuse.

The programme is evidence-based, rooted in peer-reviewed research, and reflects good practice.



Examples of issues addressed this year include:

- Domestic abuse, coercive control and the law
- Domestic abuse and trauma
- Risk and recovery
- Stalking
- Domestic abuse and child protection
- Supporting LGBT, BME and transgender women.

We also contributed to the training agendas of national partner agencies including COPFS, Police Scotland, the Judicial Institute of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates.

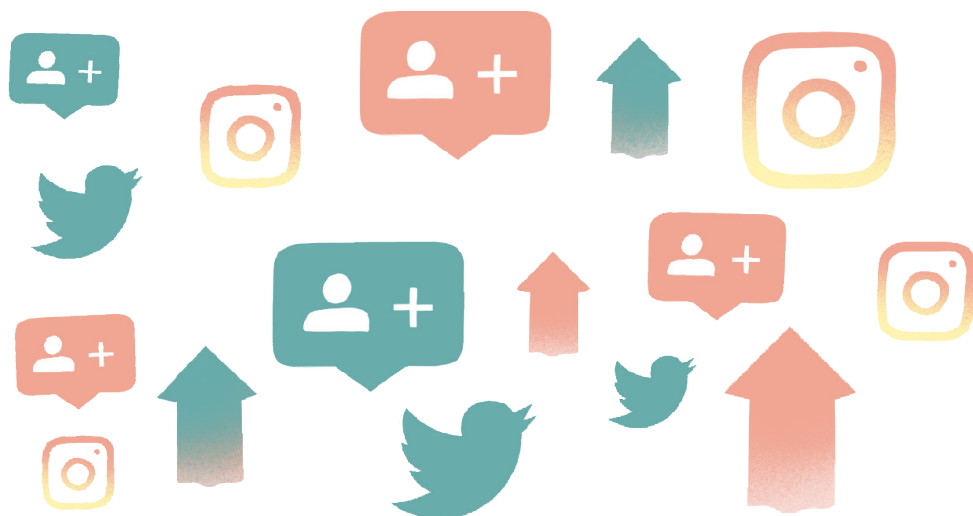
A key focus for 2018/19 was coercive control and legislative changes and how this relates to Scotland's criminal justice system. Over half of all those who attended SWA training events this year were criminal justice professionals.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

We continued to develop media relationships and to improve our media presence with positive feedback securing multiple exclusives, features and regular news pieces, as well as significant radio and broadcast coverage. We also supported local Women's Aid groups to achieve media coverage for their work and advised on media relations. As ever, we work collaboratively with sister organisations such as Rape Crisis Scotland, Engender and Zero Tolerance on media responses and issues in common.

Some highlights this year have been:

- Multiple commendations in the Scottish Parliament and Westminster during speeches and debates as a result of our continued efforts to develop cross-party political connections
- Growing our social media presence to a combined total of nearly 20,000 followers across all platforms, reaching new and particularly younger audiences





- A packed 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women programme, including events with the Young Women's Movement on self-care, working with survivors of domestic abuse to share online content about their experiences and a sell-out event with the First Minister in conversation with Akwugo Emejulu on race, gender

and activism

- Working with the Scottish Government's media team to advise them on their messaging and creative options for their publicity campaigns around the new



Domestic Abuse Act

- A sold-out external conference looking at victim-blaming. This conference was attended than more people than ever before and looked at the various ways that the media, society and services blame women for the violence they're subjected to. The conference saw increased participation and high levels of engagement with the topic on social media.

THANKS TO PARTNERS

Partnership working continues to be critical to our work.

We value immensely the working relationships we have with our many partners. This includes the 36 Women's Aid groups across Scotland, who are our members.

Additionally, the many other organisations, teams and groups who work with us, advise us and partner with us in our efforts. We thank you all.

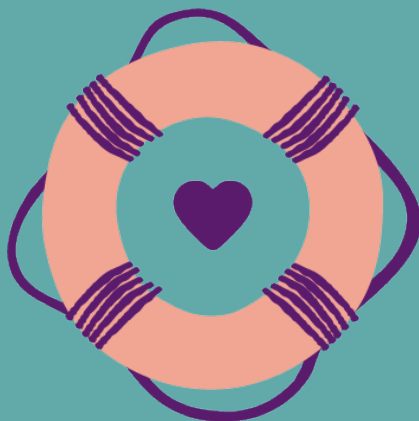
Action against Stalking and the Scottish National Stalking Group
ASSIST **Barnardo's** **Care Inspectorate** **Carers Scotland**
Centre for Research on Families and Relationships
Chartered Institute of Housing **Children & Young People's Commissioner**
Child Poverty Action Group **Children 1st** **Children in Scotland**
Close the Gap **Community Care Providers Scotland** **COSLA**
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance**
Engender **Fife Domestic & Sexual Abuse Partnership**
Glasgow Women's Library **Homelessness Action Scotland**
Housing Support Enabling Unit **Human Rights Consortium Scotland**
Judicial Institute of Scotland **Law Society of Scotland** **LGBT Youth Scotland**
Local Authorities and Housing Associations
Network of Women's Aid groups across Scotland **NUS Scotland**
Police Scotland **Positive Action in Housing** **Poverty Alliance**
Queen Margaret University **Rape Crisis Scotland** **Safe Lives**
Save the Children, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
Scottish Campaign on Welfare reform **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations**
Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service **Scottish Housing Regulator** **Scottish Refugee Council**
Scottish Government's Homelessness, Social Security and Violence Against Women Teams
Scottish Government Improvement Service **Scottish Legal Aid Board**
Scotland's Commissioner for Children & Young People
Shelter Scotland **University of Glasgow**
Victim Support Scotland **WAVE** **Welsh Women's Aid**
Women's Aid England **Women's Aid Federation northern Ireland**
Women's History Scotland **Zero Tolerance**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2019	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	59,348	1,121,032	1,180,380	725,136
Charitable activities	58,700	258,133	316,833	422,711
Other trading activities	33,109	668	33,777	21,730
Investments	887	-	887	533
Total income:	152,044	1,379,833	1,531,877	1,170,110
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	216	-	216	246
Charitable activities	94,305	1,415,013	1,509,318	1,186,291
Total expenditure	94,521	1,415,013	1,509,534	1,186,537
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	57,523	(35,180)	22,343	(16,427)
Other recognised gains and losses				
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension schemes	(5,337)	-	(5,337)	(51,909)
Net movement in funds	52,186	(35,180)	17,006	(68,336)
Reconciliation of funds				
Fund balances at 1 April 2018	177,195	399,876	577,071	645,407
Fund balances at 31 March 2019	229,381	364,696	594,077	577,071

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.



Scotland's Domestic Abuse
and Forced Marriage Helpline
24 hours a day - 7 days a week

0800 027 1234
sdafmh.org.uk

womensaid.scot

Scottish Women's Aid
2nd Floor, 132 Rose Street,
Edinburgh, Scotland EH2 3JD
Tel: 0131 226 6606



@scotwomensaid
womensaid.scot

Charity No. SC001099
Company No. 128433