

Scottish Women's Aid statement on the publication of the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill – 5th October 2020

Dr Marsha Scott, Chief Executive of Scottish Women's Aid, said:

"The publication of this Bill is a milestone moment for women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse who for years have asked us why it should be them, rather than their abusers, who have to leave their homes, pets and belongings to seek safety.

"Domestic abuse is the leading cause of women's homelessness in Scotland, with women often facing the impossible choice between living with an abuser and making themselves and their children homeless. We have long said that Emergency Protective Orders will make an immediate and significant difference for those women and children, offering them respite and breathing space as they seek support and safety. The role of social landlords is also key in this, and so new powers to allow them to help survivors of domestic abuse to remain in the family home are welcome news.

"We look forward to continued engagement with colleagues from all parties to strengthen the legislation even further as it makes its way through Parliament."

Information for editors

Women who have experienced homelessness themselves as a result of domestic abuse have helped identify the need for this legislation, and have recommended such measures in our report *Change, Justice, Fairness*. The report looks at the impact of domestic abuse on women's housing and homelessness, and it includes first hand accounts from survivors. [You can read the report here](#).

Any reporting on domestic abuse should refer to appropriate sources of support, including Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline. The Helpline is available 24/7 on 0800 027 1234 or via web chat and email at www.sdafmh.org.uk

For free, survivor-sensitive images to use with any story about domestic abuse, [download One Thousand Words](#) - our accredited stock image series by Laura Dodsworth, created with Zero Tolerance.