

Scottish Women's Aid to Hold Online Vigil in Memory of Women and Children Who Have Died as a Result of Domestic Abuse.

6 December, 2022, Edinburgh - Scotland's leading domestic abuse charity Scottish Women's Aid (SWA) has today (6th December) announced it will hold a memorial event to mark the lives of women and children who have died as a result of the domestic abuse they experienced. The idea for the #ForThemAll vigil came from Scottish Women's Aid's own **Survivor Reference Group**. This group of Scottish survivors saw the need for a dedicated and safe space where domestic abuse related fatalities could be marked and reflected upon.

The vigil will be held in memory of those who have been murdered by abusive men, as well as those who died by suicide or other trauma directly related to their experiences of abuse.

The #ForThemAll event will form part of SWA's wider **16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence** campaign, and the vigil will highlight the need for more comprehensive data to understand the full impact of domestic abuse fatalities. These 'hidden deaths' from domestic abuse have been overlooked for too long.

Sociologist Professor Sylvia Walby estimates that about [one-third of female suicides](#) are women who had experienced domestic abuse, and a [2018 study](#) of women accessing services that support women and children experiencing domestic abuse established that 24% had felt suicidal and 18% had made plans to end their life.

SWA welcomes the Scottish Government's [recent announcement](#) that it will establish a taskforce to work on Scotland's domestic abuse killings review system, to ensure that all domestic abuse related deaths of women and children are visible.

One death from domestic abuse is one death too many, and SWA's #ForThemAll vigil will remember each life lost.

The event will take place online, on **Thursday 8th December, 2022 at 7pm.**

SWA invites those who wish to take part in the vigil to get involved on social media by lighting a candle for all the women and children who have died as a result of domestic abuse. They can post photos, reflections and calls for action using the hashtag #ForThemAll.

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

"Our vision is for a Scotland with no domestic abuse, where vigils to remember the women and children who died from abuse are a thing of the past. Unfortunately, we are still far from realising that vision, and domestic abuse deaths continue to ravage Scotland's families and communities.

"And so it is right that this vigil is taking place so we can reflect upon the lives so needlessly lost to domestic abuse and pledge ourselves to renewed effort to end domestic abuse. Every domestic abuse related death was preventable.

I would like to thank SWA's Survivor Reference Group both for their tireless work in bringing this much-needed event to fruition and for their courage in helping us transform Scotland.

"The #ForThemAll vigil will be held during the 16 days of Activism. This year, our campaign highlights the many costs of leaving for women experiencing domestic abuse. We know that for too many women and children in Scotland, a premature death is the ultimate cost of leaving an abuser. That injustice should be at the forefront of all our minds when we light our candles on the 8th of December."

Background

Throughout the **16 Days of Activism to end Gender Based Violence** Scottish Women's Aid is highlighting the many costs of leaving abuse – financial, emotional, and otherwise – through its #CostOfLeaving campaign. More information about the campaign [can be found here](#).

For interview with Dr Marsha Scott, please contact media@womensaid.scot with details of your request.

For free, survivor-sensitive images to use in any story about domestic abuse, [see here](#).

Any story about domestic abuse should point to appropriate sources of help and support, including [local Women's Aid services](#) and Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline. The Helpline is available 24/7 for anyone, of any gender or sexuality, who wants support around domestic abuse. You can call on 0800 027 1234 or email and web chat from www.sdafmh.org.uk.