



**END VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN  
AND GIRLS**

*Together we can stop it*

# Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Guidance for Professionals

What to do if you know or suspect someone  
is being affected by VAWG in Haringey

June 2021



**Haringey**  
LONDON

# Contents

<b>1</b>	What is Violence Against Women and Girls?	p3
<b>2</b>	What to do if you know or suspect someone is being affected by VAWG in Haringey	p6
<b>3</b>	Domestic Abuse Support Services	p8
<b>4</b>	Additional Violence Against Women and Girls Services	p11
<b>5</b>	Services for Children and Young People	p14

# 1. What is Violence Against Women and Girls?

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) refers to a range of incidents, abuses and crimes which are predominantly experienced by women and girls on the basis of their gender.

VAWG includes the following:

## Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse (DA) is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading, and/or violent behaviour. DA can include, but is not limited to: emotional, physical, sexual, or financial/economic abuse, as well as coercive control, stalking, harassment, and online/digital abuse. DA is often perpetrated by a partner or ex-partner, but it can also be perpetrated by a family member, or in any intimate relationship between individuals aged 16 and above.

## Coercive and Controlling Behaviour

Coercive and controlling behaviour can also be called 'coercive control'. Coercive control is a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation, and control, which often involves the use or threat of physical or sexual violence. It is designed to punish or frighten the victim/survivor and create a dependence on the perpetrator. Coercive control describes a variety of acts including manipulation, intimidation, sexual coercion, and gaslighting. Gaslighting is a form of psychological abuse where a person intentionally makes someone question their sanity, perception of reality, or memories.

## Sexual Violence, Abuse and Exploitation including rape and prostitution

Sexual abuse is the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, where by force or under unequal coercive conditions. Sexual exploitation is the actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which violates a person's dignity, makes them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, creating a hostile or offensive environment. One does not need to have previously objected to someone's behaviour for it to be considered unwanted.

## Stalking and Harassment

Stalking and harassment is persistent and unwanted attention that makes one feel pestered and harassed. It includes behaviour that happens two or more times, which causes one to feel alarmed or distressed or to fear that violence may be used against them.

## So-Called 'Honour' Based Violence

So-called 'Honour'-Based Violence is an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the so-called 'honour' of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.

## Harmful Practices

Harmful cultural practices, such as child marriage, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), virginity testing, acid attacks, and witchcraft rituals, are discriminatory practices committed regularly over such long periods of time that communities and societies begin to consider them acceptable. These practices reflect values that hold girls and women in low esteem.

## Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Modern slavery is the recruitment, movement, harbouring, or receiving of human beings through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation. Human trafficking is the movement of people by such means of force, fraud, coercion or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. The most common form of modern slavery is forced labour, closely followed by sexual exploitation which predominantly affects women.

## Gendered Gang Violence (i.e. girls in gangs)

Girls are typically not seen as gang members and that makes police less likely to identify them as such. However, gang associated girls are often subject to some of the most serious crimes including county lines activity and modern slavery. Girls are groomed to gangs through the impression of a romantic relationship, substances, cigarettes or possessions. When they try to leave the group, gang members may threaten the victim's family with kidnapping and violence. It is common that gang members use sexual abuse including rape to control the girls.

## 2. What to do if you know or suspect someone is being affected by VAWG in Haringey

### 1. Identify if they are in immediate danger:

- If the person in question is in immediate danger, you should advise them to call **999** immediately or call **999** on their behalf.
- Silent Solution: If the victim is unable to speak, they can press **55** after dialling 999 on their mobile phone and the police will aim to assist them without requiring them to speak.

### 2. Identify a safe way to communicate:

- Ensure you have a safe way of communicating with the victim/survivor so that they can speak openly with you.
- You should speak to them alone (without children, partners, etc present).
- If an interpreter is needed, you must not use family members,

friends, or community members and you should always use an appropriate certified interpreter.

- Ask if they prefer to speak to someone of the same gender.
- Please be mindful that perpetrators may monitor survivor's devices and listen in on phone calls so they may not share vital information if they feel it is unsafe to do so.
- Ask if, when, and how it is safe to contact them to avoid increasing risk.
- You can establish a 'codeword' which the survivor can use to let you know if someone is listening in, or if they are in serious danger.

### 3. Make sure you say to them:

- I believe you
- It's not your fault
- Support is available
- You have a right to feel safe

#### 4. Refer and/or signpost them to the appropriate VAWG service:

- Consult the attached referral pathways to identify the most appropriate service. If in doubt, you can contact the VAWG team on  [VAWG@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:VAWG@haringey.gov.uk)
- Obtain consent for referral: While consent is not necessary for safeguarding referrals, you will need the consent of the survivor to make a referral to a VAWG service.
- Safely signpost information: Some people may not consent to a referral and you need to respect their decision even if you do not agree with it. However, you should still thoroughly explain what support is available to them and identify a safe way for you to share this information with them so that they have the option to self-refer in the future should they choose to. Let them know they can also get in touch with you again if they change their mind.

#### 5. Identify if there are any safeguarding concerns:

- Regardless of whether or not the victim/survivor has consented to a referral to a VAWG support service, if you have reason to

believe that a child (under 18, including unborn children during pregnancy) or a vulnerable adult is being abused, neglected, or is at serious risk of harm then you must make the relevant safeguarding referrals. Do not assume other professionals will do this. If you are unsure if the situation meets the threshold for a safeguarding referral, you should speak with the relevant Safeguarding team.

#### Adult Safeguarding

-  020 8489 1400
-  [firstresponseteam@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:firstresponseteam@haringey.gov.uk)

#### Child Safeguarding

-  020 8489 4470
-  [mashreferral@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:mashreferral@haringey.gov.uk)

#### 6. Identify if a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referral is necessary

- All high risk Domestic Abuse cases should be referred to the MARAC, regardless of client consent. For guidance on understanding if a case is high risk and for how to make a referral, contact Standing Together via email:  [MARAC@standingtogether.org.uk](mailto:MARAC@standingtogether.org.uk)

# 3. Domestic Abuse Support Services

## Domestic Abuse Support for All Genders

### Hearthstone

Provides emotional and practical support to survivors of all genders and backgrounds aged 17+.

 0208 489 3411       [Hearthstone.domesticviolence@homesforharingey.org](mailto:Hearthstone.domesticviolence@homesforharingey.org)

### Sign Health (Pan London Domestic Abuse Service for Deaf People)

Provides specialist support to survivors who are Deaf, from all genders and backgrounds aged 11+.

 020 3947 2601       Text/Whatsapp/Facetime: 07970 350366

 [da@signhealth.org.uk](mailto:da@signhealth.org.uk)

### Galop (Pan-London LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Service)

Provides specialist support to all survivors who identify as LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bi, pan, queer, ace, trans, non-binary and intersex). Provides an Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service for LGBT+ adults aged 18+ and a service for LGBT+ Children and Young People aged 13-25.

 0800 999 5428       [referrals@galop.org.uk](mailto:referrals@galop.org.uk)

### Victim Support (Pan-London Victim and Witness Service)

Referrals only accepted from the Police and Barnet, Enfield, and Haringey (BEH) Mental Health Trust.

Provides specialist support to survivors of domestic abuse from any background aged 16+.

 0808 168 9291       [LVWS@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:LVWS@victimsupport.org.uk)

## Domestic Abuse Support for Women Only

---

### Nia

Provides practical and emotional support to women aged 16+ who are at high risk of domestic abuse.

 0300 012 0213       [HaringeyIDVA@niaendingviolence.org.uk](mailto:HaringeyIDVA@niaendingviolence.org.uk)

### Solace (Haringey Floating Support Service)

Provides advice, support, advocacy, and group activities to women and girls over the age of 16 affected by domestic and sexual violence, who are of standard to medium risk.

 020 8885 3557       [haringey.fs@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:haringey.fs@solacewomensaid.org)

### Solace (Haringey Domestic Abuse and Employment Programme)

Service description: Provides employment, education, and training support for women aged 18+ in Haringey who have been affected by abuse and are in receipt of benefits or have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and are looking to work. Solace support them through work readiness, training and into employment.

 020 3874 5013       [haringey.ep@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:haringey.ep@solacewomensaid.org)

## Culturally Specific Domestic Abuse Support for Women Only

---

### Imece

Provides a specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service to women aged 16+ from all Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, and Refugee (BAMER) backgrounds, particularly women from Turkish, Kurdish, and Turkish Cypriot backgrounds, including women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

 020 7354 1359       [vawgreferral@imece.org.uk](mailto:vawgreferral@imece.org.uk)

### Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)

Provides specialist culturally specific support to first and second generation Latin American women aged 16+, including women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

 0808 145 4909       [referrals@lawrs.org.uk](mailto:referrals@lawrs.org.uk)

## Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO)

Provides a specialist service to Kurdish, Middle Eastern, and North African (KMENA) women. Holistic services offered including intersectional advocacy for survivors of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG), counselling services, ESOL, employability courses, and Harmful Practices training.

 020 7263 1027/ 075 5723 6874

 [referrals@kmewo.com](mailto:referrals@kmewo.com)

## Roj Women's Association

Provides specialist culturally specific support to BAMER women aged 16+, particularly Kurdish and Turkish women, and including women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

 07851 800312

 [rojwomen@gmail.com](mailto:rojwomen@gmail.com)

## Jewish Women's Aid

Provides specialist culturally specific support to Jewish women aged 14+.

 0808 801 0500

 [clientsupport@jwa.org.uk](mailto:clientsupport@jwa.org.uk)

## Support for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (Men Only)

### Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (DVIP)

Provides support for men of any age or background who want to end their abusive behaviour towards their partner or ex-partner.

This service is not free of charge and may incur a cost

 020 7633 9181

 [dvip.vpp@richmondfellowship.org.uk](mailto:dvip.vpp@richmondfellowship.org.uk)

For refuge spaces and domestic abuse advice available 24/7 including bank holidays and weekends, please contact the **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** on **0808 2000 247**.

# 4. Additional Violence Against Women and Girls Services

## Rape, Sexual Violence, Abuse, and Exploitation

### North London Rape Crisis

Provides a range of services including a helpline, counselling, advocacy, and group work to women and girls from any background aged 13+ who have experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives.

 080 8801 0305

 [rapecrisis@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:rapecrisis@solacewomensaid.org)

### Galop (Pan-London LGBT+ Sexual Violence Service)

Service Description: Provides specialist ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advocate), CHISVA (Children and Young People's ISVA), and sexual violence casework support to all survivors aged 13+ who identify as LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bi, pan, queer, ace, trans, non-binary and intersex). Criminal justice and non-criminal justice support available.

 [referrals@galop.org.uk](mailto:referrals@galop.org.uk)

## Stalking and Harassment

### Paladin

Provides a National Stalking Advocacy Service which offers practical and emotional support and advocacy for those aged 16+ who are being stalked.

 020 3866 4107

 [info@Paladinservice.co.uk](mailto:info@Paladinservice.co.uk)

## Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Provides the National Stalking Helpline which offers advice via phone and email for anyone who is worried they are being stalked.

 080 8802 0300

## So-Called 'Honour' Based Violence and Harmful Practices

---

### Imece

Provides specialist culturally specific support to all BAMER women aged 16+, particularly women from Turkish, Kurdish, and Turkish Cypriot backgrounds, and including women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

 020 7354 1359       [vawgreferral@imece.org.uk](mailto:vawgreferral@imece.org.uk)

### Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)

Provides specialist culturally specific support to first and second generation Latin American women aged 16+, including women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

 020 7336 0888       [referrals@lawrs.org.uk](mailto:referrals@lawrs.org.uk)

### Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO)

Provides a specialist service to Kurdish, Middle Eastern and North African (KMENA) women. Holistic services offered including intersectional advocacy for survivors of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG), counselling services, ESOL, employability courses, and Harmful Practices training.

 020 7263 1027/ 075 5723 6874       [referrals@kmewo.com](mailto:referrals@kmewo.com)

## Female Genital Mutilation

---

### FORWARD

Provides specialist culturally specific support to African women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

 020 8960 4000

 [forward@forwarduk.org.uk](mailto:forward@forwarduk.org.uk)

## Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

---

### Haringey Council Modern Slavery Team

Provides confidential advice and support to individuals of any age, gender, or background who are experiencing or have experienced modern slavery or human trafficking.

 020 8489 1802

 [modernslavery@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:modernslavery@haringey.gov.uk)

## Gendered Gang Violence (Girls in Gangs)

---

### Abianda

Provides wraparound support and advocacy for young women and girls affected by gangs and county lines ages 16-21.

 020 7686 0520

 [hello@abianda.com](mailto:hello@abianda.com)

# 5. Services for Children and Young People

VAWG can affect anyone regardless of their age. If a child under the age of 18 is at risk of violence, abuse, or neglect directly, or is witnessing abuse taking place around them, you will need to make a referral to the Haringey Child Safeguarding team:

 [mashreferral@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:mashreferral@haringey.gov.uk)

 020 8489 4470

## All Forms of VAWG

---

### Solace Young People's Service

Provides a range of emotional and practical support for young women and girls aged 14-21 or up to 25 if they have a disability.

 080 8802 5565

 [cypservice@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:cypservice@solacewomensaid.org)

### CouRAGEus

Provides specialist support such as advocacy and counselling to black and minoritised young women and girls aged 14-24, including those from ethnic minority groups, LGBT+, and disabled young women.

 07484010014

 [cypservice@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:cypservice@solacewomensaid.org)

### Galop (Pan-London LGBT+ Children and Young People's Service)

Provides advocacy, emotional support, ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advocate) and IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) services for LGBT+ children and young people aged 13 to 25 who are experiencing, or are at risk of domestic abuse, family/community based abuse, honour based abuse, forced marriage, child abuse linked to faith & belief, so-called conversion/corrective practices, peer abuse, sexual exploitation and sexual violence and hate crime. Galop also provide support to LGBT+ Children and Young People who are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness, including sofa surfing, living in unstable accommodation, or living in an abusive household.

 [referrals@galop.org.uk](mailto:referrals@galop.org.uk)

## Victim Support (Pan-London Children and Young People's Service)

Provides support for children and young people (4-17 years old, serious youth violence 10-24 years old) who have experienced or witnessed all types of crime including domestic abuse or relationship abuse, sexual abuse and child exploitation, and gangs and street violence.

 0808 168 9291

 [cyplondon@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:cyplondon@victimsupport.org.uk)

## Rape, Sexual Violence, Abuse, and Exploitation

---

### The Lighthouse

Provides guidance and support to children and young people aged 0-18 as well as adults with learning disabilities up to the age of 25 who have experienced any form of sexual abuse, including sexual exploitation.

 020 3049 0010

 [thelighthouse.ask@nhs.net](mailto:thelighthouse.ask@nhs.net)

### North London Rape Crisis

Provides a range of services including a helpline, counselling, advocacy, and group work to women and girls from any background aged 13+ who have experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives.

 080 8801 0305

 [rapecrisis@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:rapecrisis@solacewomensaid.org)

## Gendered Gang Violence (Girls in Gangs)

---

### Abianda

Provides wraparound support and advocacy for young women and girls affected by gangs and county lines ages 16-21.

 020 7686 0520

 [hello@abianda.com](mailto:hello@abianda.com)

## Stalking and Harassment

---

### Paladin Young People Service

Provides a National Stalking Advocacy Service for young people aged 16-25, which offers practical and emotional support and advocacy for those who are being stalked.

 020 3866 4107

 [info@paladinservice.co.uk](mailto:info@paladinservice.co.uk)

# Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Haringey VAWG Team by emailing

 [VAWG@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:VAWG@haringey.gov.uk)

Get in touch if:

- You are not sure which service is the most appropriate for your client and you would like further guidance
- You are a professional working in Haringey and you would like to receive a training session on using this guide for yourself or your team
- You have any questions, comments, or concerns

To keep up to date with the latest Haringey VAWG news and updates on training, resources, and events please sign up to our Haringey VAWG Newsletter by clicking [here](#).

Produced by the VAWG team at the London Borough of Haringey  
For further information, please email [VAWG@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:VAWG@haringey.gov.uk)