

Domestic violence in the UK

- 1 woman in 4 will experience domestic violence at some point in her life. This means that a woman you know – a sister, friend, daughter or colleague – could be at real risk of abuse
- 2 women are killed each week by a current or former partner in England and Wales alone
- On average, a woman is beaten 35 times before calling the police
- Domestic violence costs businesses in the UK over £2.7 billion a year through absenteeism, stress, decreased productivity and employee turnover
- In 90% of domestic violence incidents that take place in a family with children, children are in the same or next room. And in 50% of these cases, children are directly abused

Every day Refuge witnesses the results of these harrowing statistics - the black eyes, broken bones and bruises, the shattered confidence and self-esteem. We listen to women who experience constant intimidation and criticism. We see women and children whose lives are terrorised by violence. Many of them feel they have no-one to turn to or nowhere to go.

Every day Refuge supports over 1,000 women and children in its refuges and community outreach schemes across the country. Founded in 1971, we have grown from a small charity, operating the world's first safe house in Chiswick, West London, to become the country's largest single provider of emergency accommodation and specialist support for women and children experiencing domestic violence. We are committed to a world in which domestic violence is not tolerated or ignored.

Where your money will go

Refuge provision is, of course, a vital aspect of our work. But we offer so much more than just safe housing. From psychological support to community outreach schemes to award-winning advertising campaigns, Refuge's ethos is based on three broad areas: provision of services; protection of women and children; and prevention of abuse. We rely heavily on voluntary funding to sustain the services listed to the right.

Working with companies is important because it not only generates an income stream, but also gives us an avenue to reach more women. Women living with abuse often feel isolated and confused; they may not know that services exist to help them. Adopting Refuge as your charity of the year could throw a vital lifeline to vulnerable members of your staff or customer base.

- **Floating support:** we support over 160 women and children through this service including culturally specific services for Vietnamese, Somalian and eastern European women
- **Independent advocacy:** we provide expert guidance through the legal system. Our advocates currently support over 170 women
- **Psychological services:** where funding allows, we offer specialist psychological support for both women and children
- Award-winning **prevention and education** work: reaches out to more women and children and challenges destructive myths surrounding domestic violence
- **Policy team:** lobbies for better government policies to protect women and children

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Charity of the Year

If Refuge is lucky enough to be selected as your Charity of the Year, we will provide:

- **Support.** Refuge will provide support from its dedicated team of experienced fundraisers. This may include appointing a specific account manager and providing fundraising materials or assistance at any events.
- **Profile-raising opportunities.** Refuge has an established base of committed celebrity supporters, including our Patron Cherie Booth QC and new Honorary Patrons Patrick Stewart and Fiona Bruce. Our PR team has excellent links with the national media and can help generate high profile press coverage.
- **Regular updates.** We will provide you with regular feedback, case studies and reports on how your funds have been spent. We want you to know that your support makes a tangible difference to women and children living in the terrifying grip of domestic violence.

"Refuge's work is invaluable to the many thousands of women it supports each year. Yet it cannot solve the problem alone. Unless we all stand up and say that we will not tolerate domestic violence, it will continue to flourish in our society."

Cherie Booth QC, Refuge's Patron

Other ways to help:

- **Employee volunteering.** There are plenty of opportunities for staff to volunteer with Refuge. We are always looking for committed volunteers to support our work.
- **Payroll giving.** Refuge works with organisations who can promote the scheme in your workplace free of charge. Payroll giving is vital: knowing that we can rely on regular donations means that we can plan our services accordingly.
- **Fundraising appeals.** There are plenty of ways in which we can help you harness the support of your staff. For example, every year we launch a Christmas appeal, inviting people to donate Christmas presents for the children in our refuges.

Supporting your colleagues:

- **Increased awareness.** Given the prevalence of domestic violence, it is likely that women in your staff/customer base may be at risk. Supporting Refuge would be a powerful way of reaching out to them, and, where appropriate, to the wider general public. Changing attitudes and raising awareness *can* save lives.



Domestic violence is a crime that transcends social, cultural and economic barriers. It shatters lives and affects not only individuals but communities and society as a whole.

Many of Refuge's services are totally reliant on income from companies like you. We urgently need funding to ensure the future of these life-saving services.

If you would like more information about Refuge or have any questions, please contact Elaine Hake on 020 7395 7728 or email elaine_hake@refuge.org.uk

94.6p in every £1 raised goes directly into our services