



# **PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A NEW IMMIGRATION POLICY**

April 2012



# PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A NEW IMMIGRATION POLICY

A new policy will begin on 1 April 2012, to replace the current Sojourner pilot.

This will help support victims of domestic violence who came to the UK or were granted leave to stay in the UK as the spouse or partner of a British Citizen or someone settled in the UK. It will help by providing them with a means to access public funds whilst they make a claim to stay permanently in the UK under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule.

## **YOU CAN NOTIFY THE UK BORDER AGENCY OF YOUR NEED TO ACCESS PUBLIC FUNDS UNDER THIS POLICY IF:**

- you entered the UK or were given leave to remain in the UK as a spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same sex partner of a British Citizen or someone present and settled in the UK; **and**
- your relationship has broken down due to domestic violence; **and**
- you do not have the means to access accommodation or to support yourself and need financial help; **and**
- you are going to make a claim to stay permanently in the UK under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule (Settlement DV).

## **Why will I be contacting the UK Border Agency?**

You will be telling the UK Border Agency that you need a change to your leave to allow you to apply to the Department of Work and Pensions for financial help, while you make an application to stay permanently in the UK under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule (Settlement DV).

If the UK Border Agency consider you to be in a position to apply for assistance you will be given 3 months' limited leave to enable you to stay in the UK with access to benefits.

This is **NOT** an application to stay permanently in the UK under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule (Settlement DV). You will have to apply for this separately.

If you do not need financial help you can apply directly to stay permanently in the UK under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule (Settlement DV) by using the following link: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/dv-victims-settlement.pdf](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/dv-victims-settlement.pdf)

This process has not changed.

Please note that notifications from migrants in any other categories such as work, study, refugees or visitors will not qualify.

If you think you could be eligible for support you should contact one of the organisations listed on page 4, or you can apply directly to the UK Border Agency.

## **How does the notification process work?**

To notify the UK Border Agency you will need to download the notification form Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence (DDV). This can be found on the UK Border Agency website at: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Please fill in all the sections you can and provide as much information as possible, but don't worry if you do not have all the information needed.

You will need to send your completed form by email to: [\*\*Domestic.Violence@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:Domestic.Violence@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

Notifications sent by email will receive a confirmation receipt from the UK Border Agency within 1 working day. Postal notifications will be accepted **BUT** they will take longer to process. The address for postal notifications is:

DV Duty Officer  
Dept 81  
UKBA  
PO Box 306  
LIVERPOOL  
L2 0QN

When the UK Border Agency receives your notification, we will decide whether you are eligible for this leave. If you are eligible, you will be issued with a vignette confirming you have been given 3 months' permission to stay in the UK. This will enable you to seek access to emergency refuge accommodation and to apply to the Department of Work and Pensions for financial help.

**YOU MUST APPLY SEPARATELY TO DEPARTMENT OF WORK AND PENSIONS. THE UK BORDER AGENCY CANNOT HELP OR ADVISE ON ANY ASPECT OF APPLYING TO DEPARTMENT OF WORK AND PENSIONS.**

Claims for Department of Work and Pensions benefits can be made by calling freephone number 0800 055 6688.

For those who find it hard to speak or hear clearly, a textphone is available on 0800 023 4888.

Lines are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Claims for Jobseeker's Allowance can also be made online via the Directgov website.

For more information on applying to Department of Work and Pensions please see the Directgov website at: [\*\*www.direct.gov.uk\*\*](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

## **BEFORE YOU CONTACT THE UK BORDER AGENCY**

Please make sure you are eligible by looking at the four bullet points listed on page 2.

If you have answered yes to ALL of the above questions then you should notify the UK Border Agency that you need to be able to apply for some income-related benefits and assistance with housing.

If you are not eligible, the UK Border Agency will not be able to give you leave with access to benefits.

You can find out more about the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule, and about help for domestic violence victims from the UK Border Agency website at: [\*\*www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/dv-victims-settlement.pdf\*\*](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/dv-victims-settlement.pdf)

**Please note:**

**ANY GRANT OF LEAVE UNDER THIS POLICY WILL CHANGE THE TERMS OF YOUR STAY IN THE UK. YOU MAY WISH TO SEEK ADVICE BEFORE COMPLETING THE REQUEST FORM.**

During your 3 months' limited leave you will also need to make an application to stay permanently in the UK under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule (Settlement DV) by using the following link: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/dv-victims-settlement.pdf](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/dv-victims-settlement.pdf)

This process has not changed.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP AND ADVICE**

**National Domestic Violence Helpline**

[www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)  
Phone: 0808 2000 247

**Abused Men in Scotland**

[www.abusedmeninscotland.org](http://www.abusedmeninscotland.org)  
Phone: 01383 62 44 11

**All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline**

[www.allwaleshelpline.org.uk](http://www.allwaleshelpline.org.uk)  
Phone: 0808 80 10 800

**BAWSO**

[www.bawso.org.uk](http://www.bawso.org.uk)  
Phone: 0800 731 8147

**Men's Advice Line**

[www.mensadvice.org.uk](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk)  
Phone: 0808 801 0327

**Refuge**

[www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)  
Phone: 0808 2000 247

**Rights of Women**

[www.rightsofwomen.org.uk](http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk)  
Phone: 0207 251 6577

**Scottish's Women's Aid**

[www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk)  
Phone: 0800 027 1234

**Southall Black Sisters**

[www.southallblacksisters.org.uk](http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk)  
Phone: 0208 571 0800

**The Dyn Project – Wales only**

[www.dynwales.org](http://www.dynwales.org)  
Phone: 0808 801 0321

**Welsh Women's Aid**

[www.welshwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk)  
Phone: 02920 390 874

**Women's Aid**

[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)  
Phone: 0808 2000 247

**Women's Aid Federation (Northern Ireland)**

[www.womensaidni.org](http://www.womensaidni.org)  
Phone: 0800 917 1414

## **IMMIGRATION ADVICE**

All immigration advisers must be registered with the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC), or be an adviser with an organisation which is exempt from registration.

UK Border Agency's Immigration Enquiry Bureau can provide information about the Immigration Rules' requirements for permission to stay and settlement in the UK. They cannot provide estimated completion dates for applications. They cannot give you legal advice.

### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

[www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

### **Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA)**

[www.ilpa.org.uk](http://www.ilpa.org.uk)

Phone: 0207 251 8383

### **Rights of Women, Immigration and asylum advice**

[www.rightsofwomen.org.uk](http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk)

Phone: 0207 490 7689

### **Southall Black Sisters**

[www.southallblacksisters.org.uk](http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk)

Phone: 0208 571 0800

### **UK Border Agency – Immigration Enquiry Bureau**

[UKBApublicenquiries@ukba.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKBApublicenquiries@ukba.gsi.gov.uk)

Phone: 0870 606 7766

**For more information on sources of help and advice please see the Directgov website: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)**