

## Further support and information:

**If you are deaf and are calling a hearing person from a textphone:** Dial 18001 followed by the full telephone number from your textphone. If the call is answered by a hearing person, an operator is brought into the call.

**Police** Call 101 or in an emergency call 999

**Women's Aid** Provides support to victims of domestic abuse through programmes and dedicated workers. Support is also on offer for male victims.

**Aylesbury Women's Aid** 01296 437777  
[www.aylesburywomensaid.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.aylesburywomensaid.org.uk/contact-us)

**Wycombe Women's Aid** 01494 461367  
[www.wycombewomensaid.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.wycombewomensaid.org.uk/contact-us)

**24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline** is a national service for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf. Textphone is available for those with hearing impairments. 0808 2000 247  
[www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)

**Men's Advice Line** Advice and support for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse.  
0808 8010327

**Social Care at Buckinghamshire County Council**  
**First Response Team (Children's Social Care)**  
0845 460 001

**Adult Safeguarding team (Adult's Social Care)**  
0800 137915

**Scope** Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) operate across England and Wales. Our helpline refers callers to DPOs who provide information and advice.  
0808 800 3333  
[www.scope.org.uk/support/disabled-people/local/about](http://www.scope.org.uk/support/disabled-people/local/about)

**Disability Rights UK** For information on social security benefits, tax credits and community care.  
[www.disabilityrightsuk.org](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org)

**RNIB helpline** Information and support for people with visual impairment and sight problems.  
Phone: 0303 123 9999  
[www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)

**Action on Hearing Loss** Provides support for people with hearing loss and tinnitus.  
Telephone 0808 808 0123  
Textphone 0808 808 9000  
SMS 0780 0000 360  
[informationline@hearingloss.org.uk](mailto:informationline@hearingloss.org.uk)  
[www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)

**Respond** For people with learning difficulties who have experienced abuse.  
0808 808 0700  
[helpline@respond.org.uk](mailto:helpline@respond.org.uk)  
[www.respond.org.uk](http://www.respond.org.uk)

**Broken Rainbow** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Helpline for domestic abuse.  
0300 999 5428  
[www.brokenrainbow.org.uk](http://www.brokenrainbow.org.uk)

**Victim Support** Helps anyone affected by crime and also their friends, family and any other people involved.  
0808 168 9274

**Thames Valley Independent Sexual Violence Advisory Service** Supports victims who have experienced, or at risk of experiencing, sexual assault or rape.  
0800 221 8186  
[isvathamesvalley@refuge.org.uk](mailto:isvathamesvalley@refuge.org.uk)

**Rape Crisis** Women supporting female survivors of rape, sexual assault & childhood sexual abuse.  
Wycombe, Chiltern & South Bucks: 01494 462222  
Aylesbury: 01296 392468

## If you require this document in an alternative format please contact

Community Safety Team  
Buckinghamshire County Council,  
Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UA  
[communitysafety@bucksc.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@bucksc.gov.uk)  
01296 395000

If you can't hear or speak on the phone we can help you: 18001 0845 3708090  
Next Generation Text Service (NGT)

# Domestic Abuse and Physical Disability



There is no excuse for domestic abuse towards any person and in any relationship at any time.



**Research commissioned by Women's Aid in October 2007 reveals that people with disabilities are more vulnerable to domestic abuse and will often face additional difficulties in attempting to access support.**

### **Domestic abuse against disabled women and men:**

Disabled victims may experience some or all of the same types of abuse as non-disabled victims: physical violence, emotional abuse, financial control or sexual abuse. However, disabled victims may also experience other forms of control. For example:

- Their partner/carer may withhold vital care, medication or food
- Their partner/carer may remove or damage equipment such as sensory or mobility aids in order to limit their independence
- If the victim has a visual impairment or mobility problems, their partner/carer may create obstacles around the home so that she/he is afraid to move around independently
- Their partner/carer may claim disability benefits on her/his behalf and limit her/his access to funds
- Their partner/carer may use the victim's disability to criticise or humiliate them. Or they may threaten to tell social services that she/he is not fit to live alone.

### **Many disabled people also face additional barriers to safety and support. For example:**

- Some disabled people may be more physically vulnerable than those who are able-bodied and may be less likely to escape or protect themselves from violent attacks
- Some disabled people may be more socially isolated as a result of their physical dependence on their partner/carer
- Particularly where the partner is their carer, a disabled person may have fewer chances to attend medical or other appointments alone, and therefore will have fewer opportunities to talk to someone about the abuse
- Some disabled people may feel particularly nervous about leaving their partner if they have had special adaptations to their home
- Some victims may also worry about who will care for them if they move away, or about a change to their care package in a new area that could leave them with less support.

**Both men and women with a limiting illness or disabilities are more likely to experience intimate partner violence.**

### **Safety Planning:**

- Ask a trusted relative, friend or neighbour for help – for example, they could gather information for you or talk to the police or other agencies
- Have a secret code to signal for help with a friend/neighbour so they are aware of when you need assistance
- Have a small bag ready with essentials (medication, marriage/birth certificates, bank information, passport, money etc) you may need should you have to flee the property in an emergency. Alternatively, leave this bag with a neighbour or friend
- Have some money stored should you need to use public transport to leave the property
- Keep with you any important and emergency telephone numbers
- Remember, if you leave the property and forget something essential, the police can always collect your belongings for you
- Take special care if you are considering leaving the home. Risk for a victim is highest when leaving their partner or shortly after, so make sure arrangements are in place
- If you have a dependent child/ren you should phone the First Response Team so your child/ren can be safeguarded. If your child/ren is over the age of 18 and they are considered vulnerable then a referral can be made to the Adult Safeguarding team.

**They must be a saint, caring for you when you're disabled?**