

## PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE

This Leaflet:

- Outlines what is domestic abuse and today's statistics.
- Outline what you can do to protect yourself.
- Outlines how TV Edwards can help you.

### What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse or domestic violence is any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or who have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.

**IN 2011/2012 AN ESTIMATED 1.2  
MILLION FEMALE VICTIMS AND  
800,000 MALE VICTIMS REPORTED  
HAVING EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC  
ABUSE.**

The definition includes violence such as female genital mutilation (FGM); so-called 'honour' based violence and forced marriage.

Anyone can experience domestic abuse regardless of race, ethnicity, religious group, class, sexuality, disability or lifestyle. Most often, domestic abuse is committed by men against women, but it also happens in gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender relationships. Sometimes women abuse men. Sometimes other family members may be involved. In 2011/2012 an estimated 1.2 million female victims and 800,000 male victims reported having experienced domestic abuse in the UK alone. Less than half of all incidents of domestic abuse are reported to the police but they still receive reports of one incident of domestic abuse every minute. On average, 2 women a week are killed by a current or former male partner.

### What can you do?

- Recognise that what is happening to you is abuse and is NOT acceptable
- Accept that you are not to blame; they are responsible for their own actions

- Find help and support to work out your options and increase your safety (see below for possible help agencies)
- If you are concerned that you or your children may be at risk of serious harm always call the police on 999

**Other organisations may also be able to offer advice and assistance including:**

- Community Safety Units are police domestic abuse units based at local police stations
- Domestic Violence Team at your local council – for advice, support and details of local agencies
- [One Stops Shops](#) - free and confidential advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse (including in London Boroughs of Bromley, Kingston, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Sutton)
- [National Women's Aid](#) – for 24 hour domestic violence helpline. Telephone: 0808-2000-247
- [Rape Crisis](#) – Supporting sexual violence services nationally. Telephone: 0808-802-9999
- [The Hideout](#) – For young survivors of domestic violence
- [Men's Advice Line](#) – For male victims of domestic & sexual violence. Telephone: 0808-801-0327
- [Broken Rainbow](#) – For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) victims of domestic & sexual violence. Telephone: 0800-999-5428
- [Karma Nirvana](#) - Supporting victims of honour crimes and forced marriages. Telephone: 0800-5999-247
- [Forced Marriage Unit](#) - operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage inside the UK, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals, as well as to professionals dealing with cases. Telephone: 0207-008-0151
- [Forward](#) - provides support to women affected by FGM. Telephone: 0208-960-4000

## What can we do to help you?

### In urgent cases

We can assist you in applying to court for

#### **Non-Molestation Order:**

This is an order which prevents a person or anyone acting on their behalf from being violent to or threatening violence towards you, or any children. These orders can be tailored to your individual circumstances and can prevent any specific behaviour that has made you feel unsafe. Breaching a non molestation is a criminal offence.

#### **Occupation Order:**

This is an order that regulates who can live in the family home. This order can be applied for if you live or have lived in the same property as the violent partner. The order can require the

other party to leave the home or restrict the other party from returning to, entering or attempting to enter the home or allow you to return to the home. The Court can also make provisions requiring the other party to pay the rent, mortgage and other outgoings on the property.

The Court may attach a Power of Arrest if it's satisfied that physical violence has been used or threatened against you. A Power of Arrest allows the Police to make an immediate arrest if the terms of the Order are broken, this person will be taken before the family court.

## **Forced Marriage Protection Order**

This is an order to prevent a person from being forced into a marriage; it is designed to protect you according to your individual circumstances. Breaching a forced marriage protection order is a criminal offence.

**At TV Edwards we work closely with other local agencies and can provide advice on all of the options and support open to you. This means that you can make the best informed decisions and keep your family safe.**

### **TV Edwards LLP**

TV Edwards was founded in 1929 and has since been providing expert legal advice to individuals and their businesses. The firm has leading solicitors in the country and can provide you with legal advice in Criminal, Road Traffic, Mental Health, Family, Housing, Community Care, Personal Injury and non-contentious private client work. Although we have many offices around London, our team of expert solicitors will provide you specialist legal advice nationally.

**Please feel free to contact us on the following:**

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