



# The Irish SPIN

(social policy in the news)

November 2022

## From AWARENESS into ACTION

Throughout the 16 DAYS campaign, Mothers' Union joins with many others, globally, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in *all* forms and in *all* societies.

### Come Together To End Domestic Abuse

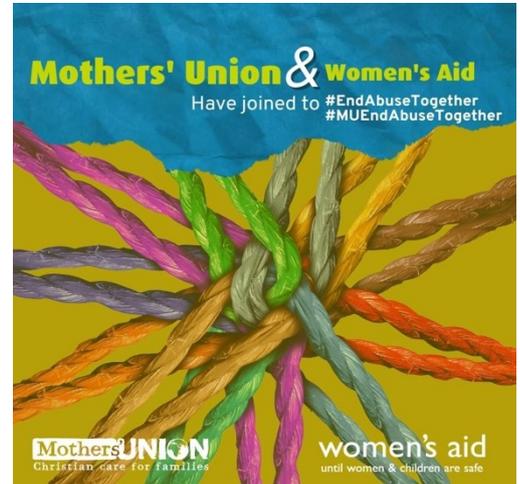
Mothers' Union and Women's Aid are coming together across society and communities to end domestic abuse - what can I do?

#### 5 things everyone can do:

1. **Make a change where you are** – workplace, school, sports club – is there a domestic abuse policy? Is there a poster in the bathroom or in communal spaces on how to get help? Has anyone had domestic abuse training? How about nominating Women's Aid training in your workplace?
2. **Dispel myths about domestic abuse and challenge sexism** – domestic abuse doesn't happen because you provoked them, and it isn't your fault if you are being abused by your partner – sexist attitudes to women's roles and men's role must be challenged to end domestic abuse.
3. **Take action, your voice counts** – join campaigns for better protection for survivors to enable us to make a change. You can put on an event or take part in a challenge. You can also donate goods to Women's Aid member organisations through your Local Mothers' Union.
4. **Learn what to say to someone experiencing abuse** – understand the reasons why it may not be easy to just leave.
5. **Speak Up – show we are standing up against domestic abuse together**, send us photos and stories about what you are doing in your local area or online to help stop domestic abuse and support survivors. We want to show positive examples of how we can make a difference to encourage others to join with us.

For more information go to

<https://www.mothersunion.org/partnerships/womensaid>



*It can be easy to miss the signs of a coercive, abusive relationship. I didn't know the signs, but I want to make sure that other women do. Please know there is help if you need it.*

Mel B, patron of Women's Aid

[toointoyou.ie](http://toointoyou.ie)

**#Too Into You** is a Women's Aid National Public Awareness Campaign aimed at raising awareness of intimate relationship abuse against **young women aged 18-25**.

Women's Aid Research 2022 shows that:

- ❖ 1 in 5 young women have suffered intimate relationship abuse
- ❖ 1 in 6 young women have suffered coercive control

Support is available from

[www.womensaidni.org](http://www.womensaidni.org)

24 Hour Helpline 0808 802 1414

[www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie)

[www.womensaid.ie](http://www.womensaid.ie)

24 Hour Helpline 1800 341 900

# EQUIPPING THE CHURCH TO TAKE ACTION AND END DOMESTIC ABUSE

Join with experts from around the Anglican Communion to explore how you and your parish can join a larger movement of people of faith responding to and ending the shadow pandemic of domestic abuse.

This 5 part lecture series will take you on a journey to better understand domestic abuse and its root causes and will give you the confidence and the knowledge to take vital steps to take action to end domestic abuse and to build safe spaces for victims and survivors.



***Equipping The Church To Take Action and End Domestic Abuse*** is a practical, insightful, informative and explorative programme created by Mothers' Union, Bishops' Appeal and Tearfund Ireland. Accompanying the 5 part programme is an Irish edition of the Restored manual, *A Guide for Churches to Address Domestic Abuse*.

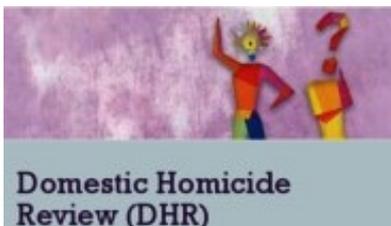
The programme is a real opportunity to make a difference. The church is at the grassroots in every community and ideally placed to speak up about violence against women, to stand against domestic abuse and walk alongside survivors.

Let's stand up and be counted. Let's encourage our communities to work together to make a difference.

For information contact [allireland.mothersunion@gmail.com](mailto:allireland.mothersunion@gmail.com)



*Northern Ireland – November 2022*



## **FIRST Domestic Homicide Review Reports Published**

The NI Department of Justice has welcomed the publication of reports on two reviews carried out by a Domestic Homicide Review Panel.

Domestic Homicide Reviews are carried out by an independent Chair with the support of a panel of representatives from statutory and voluntary and community organisations, who gather and review information pertinent to the case. The process is essentially about learning, to improve services and support families who are living with domestic abuse.

The Executive Summary report on the Domestic Homicide Review for 'Ellen' and 'Amy' have been published. [Domestic Homicide Review Report Published | Northern Ireland News, 09/11/2022 \(4ni.co.uk\)](#)



The **'Dublin Declaration'** on domestic violence, targets the systemic causes of gender-based violence. Ministers and representatives of the Council of Europe met in Dublin (October 2022) to discuss changing social norms to tackle violence against women, changing the behaviour of men who have been violent and training professionals to work with victims or perpetrators.

***The Dublin Declaration on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence*** was adopted at the end of the conference, with **38 countries of the 46 in attendance supporting the Declaration**.

## Other Issues in the news –

### Cost of living leaflet highlights sources of help and support



A new leaflet from the Church of Ireland's *Church and Society Commission* highlights sources of help and support for households responding to the cost of living crisis. It is available to download from the

Church of Ireland website

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11507/cost-of-living-leaflet-highlights>

*"The circumstances of everyday living are spinning out of the control, and indeed the grasp, of more and more people. Escalating prices mean escalating hardship. Coping from month to month now means coping from day to day. These contacts are designed to help you, and anyone with whom you wish to share this information, in coping discreetly and on your own terms. People who never thought they would be in such a position as this are making choices to exclude essentials from their lives, not luxuries."* (Archbishop Michael Jackson)

### ARE YOU LONELY? DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS LONELY?

Anyone can feel lonely at any time, no matter what their age or gender or whether they live in an urban or rural setting. It is possible to feel lonely in a crowd. It is a feeling that comes and goes through life, but most loneliness is temporary. Being on our own does not always mean being lonely, and indeed, there may be times when we enjoy time alone.

There are many well-known charities who offer support to the lonely and to those who wish to volunteer. Below are the contact details for just a few of them.

**AGE NI:** Provides a listening ear to the lonely  
Phone 028-90245729  
Website [www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland)

**BELFAST CENTRAL MISSION:**  
Befriending Services Phone 028-90241917  
Website [www.belfastcentralmission.org](http://www.belfastcentralmission.org)

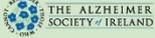
**THE GOOD MORNING SERVICE** provides reassurance and support to people right across Northern Ireland. Search online for Good Morning Services available in your area.

**ROI - NATIONAL SUPPORT & REFERRAL LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE** [0818 222 024](tel:0818222024) If you are over 60 years old and in need of advice, support or information, please call ALONE National Support, seven days a week from 8am – 8pm.

**Our National Helpline is expanding**

A new Dementia Nurse service is supporting people living with dementia in the community

To make an appointment for a 1:1 call, contact our National Helpline  
**1800 341 341**



### ELDER ABUSE

There are a number of types of elder abuse, including physical abuse, financial or material abuse, psychological abuse, neglect and acts of omission, sexual abuse and discriminatory abuse.

At [29253-age\\_action\\_a5\\_leaflet\\_web.pdf](#) ([ageaction.ie](http://ageaction.ie)) you can download a leaflet and find out more about what financial elder abuse is and how to address it. If you are concerned about a suspected case of elder abuse **please call the HSE helpline** on [1850 24 1850](tel:1850241850) (Monday to Saturday – 8am to 8pm).



For the first time, our Helpline is operating all weekend

# 24/7

**0808 808 8141**

SAFER AGEING



**Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI)** encourages churches of all denominations to take an **eco approach** to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, community outreach and contact with the developing world.

Why not think about this in your church? [www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)



**Buy Fairtrade**  
**Buy Ethical**

[Gifts of Support – Mothers' Union Shop \(mueshop.org\)](http://mueshop.org)  
[https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk)



**Youth Homelessness Strategy – Republic of Ireland**

18-29 YEAR OLDS REPRESENT  
20-30% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER  
OF HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE  
MAJORITY OF EUROPEAN  
COUNTRIES.

The new Youth Homelessness Strategy is a 3-year strategy working towards ending homelessness for young people aged 18-24. The Strategy identifies certain groups within the 18-24 age group who are particularly at risk of becoming homeless, and are disproportionately represented in the young homeless population.

[Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#)



**Come Together To End Domestic Abuse in 2022**



**All-Ireland 16 DAYS RTÉ TV SERVICE** at 11.10am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

The service will be led by Bishop Pat Storey and the address given by Sheran Harper, Mothers' Union Worldwide President.

**Cashel, Ferns & Ossory - Zoom services:** 22nd and 29th of November and 6th and 10th of December, focusing on DV and GBV. All services start at 8pm, with room open

at 7.45pm. Meeting ID: 6851708835 Passcode: 8nkAht

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6851708835?pwd=T2ZZZS9wVTRRbzljbjJ4S2ZnTDBwZz09>

**Dublin & Glendalough - A 16 Days ZOOM every** based on a UN theme with specialised speakers – will be available online afterwards

Topic: **D & G 16-days Nightly Broadcast** at 8pm; 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84528159775?pwd=MGpXRVRXREsvUVZvbnNrVVhjK2F0QT09>

Meeting ID: 845 2815 9775 Passcode: 998641

For in person activities, information and resources visit our website at

[16 Days ... - All-Ireland Mothers' Union \(mothersunion.ie\)](http://mothersunion.ie)



Share the Mothers' Union updated **16 Days Prayer Diary** with friends and family

[16-Days-Prayer-Diary-Oct-2022-interactive.pdf \(mothersunion.ie\)](http://mothersunion.ie)

**The 16 Days 365 – From Awareness into Action** is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers' Union. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

**Thank you for putting your faith into action.**