

women's aid

until women & children are safe

Women's Aid Federation of England

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Jess Phillips MP

Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls

Home Office

2 Marsham Street

London, SW1P 4DF

10th January 2025

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of Women's Aid and member services working together to fight domestic abuse to express our solidarity and sisterhood with you. We are horrified by the misogynistic and the far right attacks we've seen against you in the last week.

We know you have immense credibility for your fight for justice for women and for the voices of women to be heard against all forms of male violence. This is beyond question. We hugely respect you for your unstinting commitment to achieving real change in combatting violence against women and girls and for putting the voices of survivors at the heart of that work.

As organisations working on the ground to support survivors of domestic abuse, we know to suggest that you are dismissive of the voices of women is outrageous and untrue. We are horrified by the cynical and dangerous attacks which are clearly intended to endanger and discredit someone who champions the rights of women to be safe and live free of abuse – something you have undertaken locally as a former Victim's Champion in Birmingham, and now nationally in Parliament and in Government.

Once again, we are seeing the national emergency that is violence against women and girls (VAWG) being weaponised for political gain. These atrocious attacks do nothing to address the issue of survivors not being believed or listened to, nor to improve support for those victimised by male violence, and instead put survivors at risk of harm.

With one in four women experiencing domestic abuse in their lifetime, and at least one woman being killed every week by a current or former partner, now is the time that we need to come together and stand up against VAWG.

We stand in solidarity and sisterhood with you during this challenging time and in your Government's mission to halve VAWG, as you have done previously with countless women and children who have experienced abuse.

Yours sincerely,

Farah Nazeer, CEO, Women's Aid Federation of England

Patrons: Dame Julie Walters and Melanie Brown

Women's Aid is the national federation for local domestic abuse services supporting women and children across England.

Refuge

Catherine Skinner, Director, Empowering Single Asian Mums

Elaine Yates, CEO, Coventry Haven Women's Aid

Nicola Miller, Chief Executive, The Dash Charity

Anna Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, CHADD

Hannah Ashford, Chief Executive Officer, North Devon Against Domestic Abuse

Amanda Elwen, Chair, The Emily Davison Centre

Debbie Fawcett, CEO, HARV Domestic Abuse Services

Louise Neville, COO, Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service

Ashliegh Walsh, Director, HARV Housing CIC

Natasha Rattu, Director, Karma Nirvana

Yasmin Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Staying Put

Valerie Lolomari, CEO/Founder Women, Grace UK

Alison Hope, Director, Wear Valley Women's Aid

Paula Carling, Director, Wear Valley Women's Aid

Emma A, CEO, I Choose Freedom

Rebecca Radcliffe, South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Service

Karen Hague MBE, CEO, Vida Sheffield

Springfield Domestic Abuse Support in South Lakeland

Firoza Mohmed, CEO, Humraaz

Carey Philpott, CEO, SATEDA

Keasha Kellam, Honour Thy Woman Group

Rachel Duncan, CEO, Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service

Gail Heath, CEO, The Pankhurst Trust (Inc Manchester Women's Aid)

Clair Johnson, CEO, Bexley Women's Aid

Claire Lambon, CEO, Stop domestic Abuse

Angie Stewart, CEO, Cambridge Women's Aid

Mandy Geraghty, Peterborough Women's Aid

Hollie Venn, Chief Executive, Sheffield Women's Aid

Nik Peasgood, Chief Executive, Leeds Women's Aid

Sara Britnell, CEO, Wycombe Women's Aid Ltd

Sanja Kalik, CEO, Gilgal Birmingham

Georgia C-M, VAWG Prevention and Engagement Worker, South West Surrey DA Service

Sema Gornall, CEO, The Vavengers

Sahdaish Pall, CEO, Sikh Women's Aid

Sandra Horner, Manager, Salisbury Women's Refuge

Jo Charleson, Service Manager, Salford Women's Aid

Jasmine Mohammad, Director, Safety4Sisters Northwest

Hayley Brewer, Manager, Independent Choices Greater Manchester

Sally Winston, Chief Executive, Lighthouse Women's Aid

Heather Smiles, Centre Manager, Sutton Women's Centre

Vicky Bunnage, CEO, Crossroads Derbyshire

Mandy Green, Head of Services, Nottinghamshire Women's Aid Ltd

Charlotte Almond, CEO, Staffordshire Women's Aid

Samira Gjerde, CEO, Haven (Sheffield)

Lisa Larsen, Chief Executive Officer, The Liberty Centre

Beverley Jones, CEO, Next Chapter

Sam Booth, CEO, Pathway Project Staffordshire

Michelle Blunsom MBE, CEO, East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services

Yasmin Khan, CEO, Halo Project Charity

Jo Gough, CEO, RISE

Joy Doal Anawim, Birmingham's Centre for Women

Claire Bennett, CEO, PAC - Be Free (Pendle & Rossendale)

Laura Seebohm, CEO, WWIN Specialist Domestic Abuse Services for Sunderland

Debbie Cowling, Operations Manager, Behind Closed Doors, Leeds

Claire Williams, CEO, Oasis Domestic Abuse Service

Constanze Sen, CEO, Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid

Yasmin Rehman, CEO, Juno Women's Aid

Heidi Riedel, CEO, Woman's Trust

Shigufta Khan, Chief Executive Officer, The Wish Centre

Lesley Storey, Chief Executive Officer, My Sister's Place

Maureen Connolly, CEO, Birmingham Sollihul Women's Aid

Sharon Brown, CEO, Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services

Fran Ellis, CEO, Rising Sun Domestic Violence & Abuse Service

Gaby Price, Chief Executive Officer, Women's Aid Luton

Samantha Fisher, CEO, Trafford Domestic Abuse Services

Tracy, CEO, Pandora Project

Mollin Delve, CEO, PHOEBE

Sue Coleman, CEO, West Mercia Women's Aid

Hilary Brown, Service lead, Phenomenal Futures Nottinghamshire

Jan Tasker, Co-CEO, Collaborative Women UK

Faty Kane, Executive Director, The Angelou Centre

Angie Herrera, Latin American Women's Aid

North Lincolnshire Women's Aid

Mary Wakeham, Chief Executive Officer, Refuge4Pets

Kirsten Melbourne, Acting CEO, Voices (Bath)

Charlie Lockley, CEO, Stepping Stones Luton

Sarah Hill, CEO, IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services)

Shonagh Dillon, CEO, Aurora New Dawn

Liz Mack, Chief Executive, Advance

OPOKA

Debbie Hughes, CEO, Living Without Abuse

Amy Hyde, Service Manager, Cats Protection Lifeline

Sam Clifford, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Women's Aid

Joyce Simon, CEO, Anah Project

Lynne Kemp, Service Manager, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS)

Diana Nammi, CEO, IKWRO - Women's Rights Organisation

Tania Woodgate, Chief Executive Officer, Changing Pathways

Rukhsana Ismail, Chief Executive Officer, NIDAS

Sarah O'Leary, CEO, Next Link Domestic Abuse and Safe Link ISVA services

Jo Todd, CEO, Respect

Emma Clark, Chief Executive, Wirral Women and Children's Aid

Zlakha Ahmed, Chief Executive, Apna Haq

Sawsan Salim, Director, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO)

Sam Bowles, CEO, Nottingham Central Women's Aid

Sharon Brown, CEO, NDAS

Sally Startle, Chief Officer, Warrington Women's Aid

Jacqueline Baron, Adult Assessment and Support Team - Senior, HARV OUTREACH

Alix Simpson, CEO, Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA)

Selma Taha, CEO, Southall Black Sisters

Sharon Howard, Safe in Sussex

Charoline Grant, CEO, The First Step

Saskia Lightburn-Ritchie, Chief Executive, My CWA

Sam Booth, CEO, Pathway Project Lichfield

Surwat Sohail, Chief Executive Officer, ROSHNI

Nahar Choudhury, CEO, Solace

Elaine Langshaw, Chief Executive Officer, Newcastle Women's Aid

Amtal Rana, Kiran Support Services

Richinda Taylor, EVA Women's Aid

Shaminder Ubhi, Director, Ashiana Network

Mollin Delve, Chief Executive Officer, Phoebe Centre

Michelle Donnelly, CEO, Hull Women's Aid