

Message

**From:** Name Redacted /O=PHU/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= NR  
**Sent:** 27/03/2020 12:04:23  
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**Subject:** SPADS AND HOME SECRETARY FOR CLEARANCE: Gov.uk advice for those at risk of domestic abuse

**Deadline:** 2pm

**Cleared by:** Name Redacted

**Spads, Home Secretary's Private Office,**

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, domestic abuse charities have expressed concern that government requests for individuals to stay at home unless absolutely necessary will increase the risk of those vulnerable to domestic abuse.

Groups are pointing to increased rates of domestic abuse in China and Italy, who have similar lockdown policies, however there are no definitive statistics for the UK as yet. Various stakeholders have expressed directly to policy and the External Affairs team that they would welcome the Home Office taking a leadership role in signposting victims to existing services available.

As per the submission submitted to SpAds and the Home Secretary yesterday from Krisztina Katona (Submission on COVID 19 and domestic abuse), which included a comms plan, Press Office have prepared a factsheet that signposts those at risk to advice and helplines that are funded by the Home Office. This provides a central, authoritative source of guidance and shows that the Home Office is taking its responsibility to those at risk seriously. The guidance will be shared through social media channels and we will work with stakeholders and OGD to ensure the material is disseminated. We are currently working with the grid team to obtain a grid slot, but we would ideally want to get the advice out as soon as possible. In addition, we have also developed a comprehensive Q&A to respond to specific queries on our support to victims during the Covid crisis.

**Spads, are you content with the Press Office putting the below guidance on gov.uk and posting on social media?**

**Home Secretary's Private Office, is the Home Secretary content with the below guidance?**

Once agreed, we will share with No 10 and Cabinet Office for their approval.

We are aware that there is a separate commission from No10 for a Home Secretary op-ed covering topics including domestic abuse for this Sunday, and we will work with the HS speechwriter and policy on this.

Regards

Name Redacted

**Advice and Guidance for those at risk of domestic abuse**

Measures announced over the recent weeks to tackle Coronavirus (COVID-19) have seen people's day to day life be drastically altered. These changes are essential to beat [Coronavirus and protect our NHS](#)

The government acknowledges that the order to stay at home can cause anxiety for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is unacceptable in any situation, no matter what stresses you are under.

For anyone who feels they are at risk of abuse, it is important to remember that there is help and support available to you. Guidance is also available to help perpetrators change their behaviour.

The government supports and funds a number of charities who are able to provide advice and guidance and we are in regular contact with the charity sector and the police to ensure that these support services remain open during this challenging time.

Domestic abuse is more than physical violence. It can also include, but not limited to:

- Coercive Control and "Gaslighting"
- Economic abuse
- Online abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse

If you believe you are being abused, or worried you may commit domestic abuse, please use the following services which can help you:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police. The police will continue to respond to emergency calls.
- If you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone, call 999, and then press 55. This will transfer your call to the relevant police force who will treat it as an emergency.
- The [National Domestic Abuse Helpline website](#) provides guidance and support for potential victim, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. They can also be called, for free and in confidence, 24 hours a day on [I&S](#). The website also has a form through which women can book a safe time for a call from the team
- If you suspect that your neighbours or those in your community are victims of domestic abuse, we encourage you to report it to the police
- [Womens Aid](#) has provided additional advice specifically designed around the current Coronavirus outbreak, including a [live chat service](#).
- [The Men's Advice Line](#) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. It can be contacted on [I&S](#). If you are a member of the LGBT+ community, [Galop](#), runs a specialist helpline on [I&S](#) or email [help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk)
- If you are concerned about how COVID-19 may affect your finances and leave you vulnerable to economic abuse, please see the [advice provided by HM Treasury](#) on what support is on offer. The charity Surviving Economic Abuse has also provided [additional guidance and support](#)
- [Hestia](#) provides a free to download mobile app, Bright Sky, which provides support and information to anyone who may be in an abusive relationship or those concerned about someone they know
- [Chayn](#) provides online help and resources in a number of languages, ranging from identifying manipulative situations and how friends can support those being abused
- [SafeLives](#) is providing guidance and support to professionals and those working in the domestic abuse sector, as well as [additional advice for those at risk](#).
- If you are worried about hurting the ones you love whilst staying at home, call the Respect Phoneline for support and help to manage your behaviour, [I&S](#) [www.respectphoneline.org.uk](http://www.respectphoneline.org.uk)
- The [Ministry of Justice has provided guidance](#) on accessing victim and witness support services.

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T **Irrelevant &**  
M **Sensitive**