



Domestic and Sexual Abuse Newsletter

November 2023

Hello and welcome to the Doncaster domestic and sexual abuse newsletter.

This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with local, regional and national information about domestic and sexual abuse.

Please share with colleagues and if this email has been forwarded to you and you want to subscribe please email Sophie.bishop@doncaster.gov.uk

You can also email Sophie if you would like to unsubscribe.

International Men's Day

The 19th November is International Men's Day which aims to highlight the positive value men bring to the world, their families and communities.

In the domestic and sexual abuse and violence against women world, men are often portrayed in a negative way, as the cause of the abuse, but it is important that we remember that there are so many kind and respectful men in society and positive male models too.

The three core themes for International Men's Day in the UK which are used every year to help maximise participation are:

- Making a positive difference to the wellbeing and lives of men and boys

- Raising awareness and/or funds for charities supporting men and boys' wellbeing
- Promoting a positive conversation about men, manhood and masculinity

With that in mind please do all you can to raise awareness of domestic and sexual abuse with men, and promote the support that they can access.

Free training is available in relation to male victims of domestic abuse. The next session is on 19th December 2023 [Domestic Abuse - Training - City of Doncaster Council](#)

There is a domestic abuse webpage for male victims and all sexual and domestic abuse services support male victims.

Male victims of domestic abuse

DBTH 16 days of action for International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

25th November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls and is followed by 16 days of activism which ends on 10th December – Human Rights Day.

It is a great opportunity to raise awareness of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and other gender based violence.

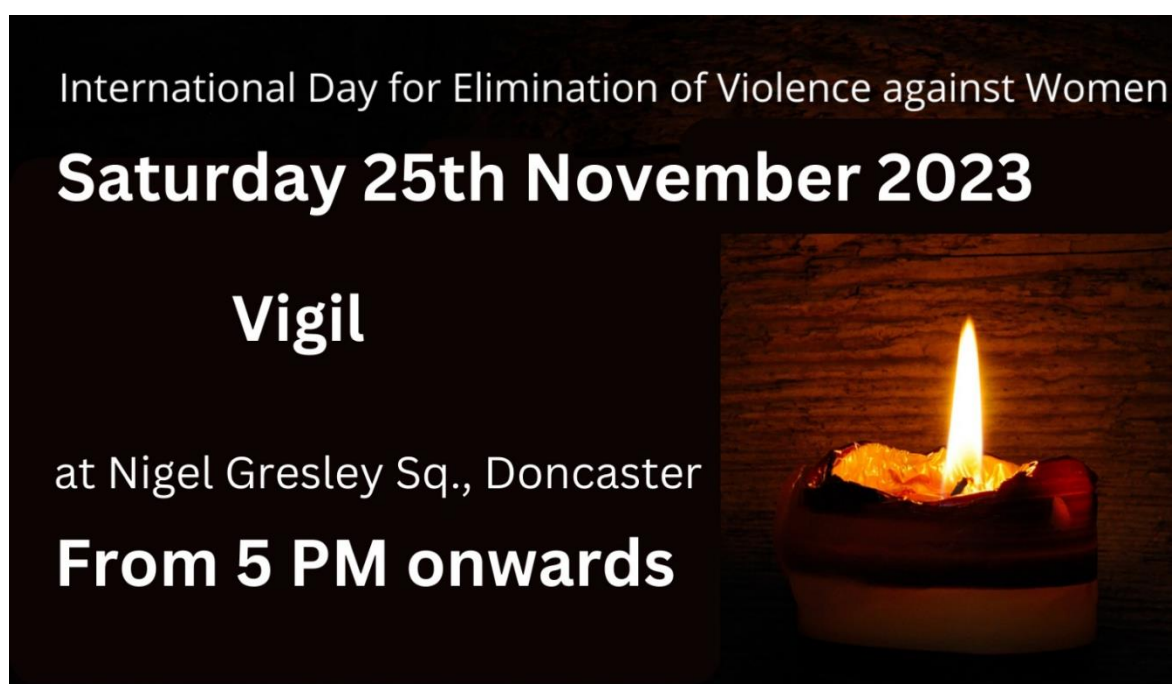
25th November is also called White Ribbon Day with people donning a white ribbon to show support for ending violence against women and girls.

Doncaster Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital (DBTH) have a full programme of activities for the 16 days of action starting on 25th November 2023 including:

- Daily themed communications around domestic abuse via the safeguarding team social media platforms
- Discussion on domestic abuse during all daily SG Huddles across the Trust (Emergency Department, Paediatric, Neonatal, Minor Injuries Unit) – across all 3 Trust sites (Doncaster, Mexborough, Bassetlaw)
- Four '10 at 10' DA updates throughout the 16 days of action in which they will focus on the statistics and how DA impacts people's lives as well as some positive information on the increase in awareness and the effect this has on victims being able to access support. These will be held in A&E on the 28/11, 01/12, 05/12 and 08/12

- They will also be holding a DA champions update the week before the 16 days of action in which they will raise the awareness about the upcoming 16 days of awareness. This will take place 20/11
- An in person DA champions session as an appreciation and recognition session to recognise their efforts and for being part of the change in culture
- 29th November – briefing on Domestic abuse to the Paediatric international nurse induction

Violence Against Women and Girls Vigil



Successful Domestic and Sexual Abuse Event

A huge thank you to all of the agencies that had a stand at the domestic and sexual abuse event in September. And thank you to everyone that attended the event.

The feedback from professionals attending the event was incredible with requests to do it all again next year!

Here are a few photos from the event – thanks to Elaine Potts from Cranstoun for being the event official photographer!



Amparo – support for anyone affected by suicide



Amparo means 'shelter' or 'safe haven' in Spanish and provides support for **anybody** who has felt the impact of suicide

Amparo is the largest provider of suicide postvention in the country, covering over 31% of the population and the British Armed Forces.

Amparo is free and confidential and provides short or long term support to anyone affected by suicide. Once a referral is received, our local liaison workers will make contact within 24 hours, and will provide emotional support, whilst helping with a range of practical matters, such as:

- liaising with police and coroners
- helping with media enquiries
- preparing for and attending inquest
- finding other, appropriate, local support services

Support is tailored to each individual and can be provided one-to-one, in family groups, for groups of work colleagues – whatever is preferred and is most appropriate to the situation.

The service is not just for 'next of kin' – anyone who has been affected by suicide and is living in the following areas can access Amparo: Cheshire & Merseyside, Coventry & Warwickshire, Kent & Medway, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Mid and South Essex, North Central London, South Yorkshire, Southampton, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth, Thames Valley, and for serving personnel within the British Armed Forces.

For professionals, Amparo offers regular 'briefing sessions' via Teams, delivered by one of our Amparo Team Leaders. These sessions provide an overview of the support offered by Amparo, including how to refer someone for support. Places are limited to 15 per session, however if you think you have a team that would benefit from a bespoke briefing session, please contact amparo.service@listening-ear.co.uk

For more information about Amparo, visit: <https://amparo.org.uk>

To book a professional briefing session, visit: <https://amparo.org.uk/free-briefing-session/>

To refer, visit: <https://amparo.org.uk/refer/>

Rape and sexual assault victim national police experience survey

Victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault are invited to take part in an anonymous national online survey about their experience dealing with the police.

The survey is designed to help understand how the police process feels to victims of rape and sexual assault. Findings will be used to help police forces nationally to improve victim support and better understand people's experiences of reporting sexual violence.

It is open to those over the age of 18 who are the victim of rape or sexual assault where the case is being investigated by a police force in the UK. Investigations can be at any stage – following the initial report, ongoing, or finalised.

The anonymous survey is part of a national Home Office funded research and change programme known as Operation Soteria Bluestone. It aims to understand and tackle the challenges seen in rape and serious sexual offences investigations. Complete the survey anonymously online at: https://cityunilondon.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4GikU2bi38jO0MS.

It is provided by the City University of London and is open until July 2024.

Rape and Sexual Assault Survey

Unwanted sexual behaviour short film

Northern Rail, British Transport Police and Network Rail, have supported the creation of a short film to raise awareness of unwanted sexual behaviour in society.

The short film highlights the types of activity that are unacceptable, including cat calling, staring, up-skirting, cyber flashing, exposing, touching and pressing, and encourages people to report it.

The idea is to help people feel safe and empowered when they travel and to feel reassured that help is always at hand if needed.



The film also promotes the British Transport Police Railway Guardian app which allows customers to report crimes or concerns on the rail network, share their journeys with trusted contacts, and get access to news, guides, or support.

Details of how to download the app and how it works can be found at btp.police.uk/police-forces/british-transport-police/areas/campaigns/Download-Railway-Guardian/.

Northern Sexual Harassment Film

MARAC Representatives and Chair Training

If you are a MARAC representative or Chair in Doncaster there is now new training to support you in your role. The training gives MARAC representatives information about the process, roles and responsibilities, the MARAC Operating Protocol and changes that are being implemented as a result of a recent independent MARAC review.

The training will take place on 19th February 2024 and 18th March 2024. The training will be held in person at the Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster. The training will start at 9.30am and finish at 1pm. Before booking a place please ensure that you have completed your Domestic Abuse Awareness training first (within the past three years): [Domestic Abuse - Training - City of Doncaster Council](#)

To book a place on the MARAC representatives training please contact Sophie.bishop@doncaster.gov.uk

Please promote!!!! We want to hear from you!

Survivors of domestic abuse are being asked to share their experiences and insights to help future victims of domestic abuse.

A new survey produced by the Council's Domestic Abuse Survivor Liaison Service aims to truly understand the experiences of Doncaster people that have gone through domestic abuse, identify good practice, and listen to people who know better than anyone else how we can improve.

We really need to hear from anyone affected by domestic abuse and are calling for all agencies to help promote this survey. Please share far and wide and also facilitate feedback where possible, particularly for people who might need help with the English language, reading, using technology etc.

If you would like printed copies of the survey or translated versions please email: laura.bunting@doncaster.gov.uk

Survivor Consultation

In the News

[Lockdown study shows home drinking is a major contributor to alcohol-related violence](#)

New research isolates impact of alcohol sold in shops and supermarkets on violence, including domestic violence.

[Latest data shows our justice system is still failing survivors of rape and domestic abuse](#)

Last week (19th October 2023) the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) released its [quarterly figures on charging, prosecution and conviction rates for rape, sexual offences and domestic abuse](#) – painting a concerning picture of how our broken justice system is responding to violence against women and girls.

[SYP committed to tackling FGM and supporting victims](#)

Suzanne Jackson, the Force lead for Honour-based abuse, Forced Marriage and FGM, said: "FGM is a violent crime which shouldn't be happening. It is gendered violence against women and girls and is totally unnecessary and extremely harmful."

“Sadly, women and girls have already suffered FGM abroad and are living with the consequence in the UK and including in our county. We know that FGM also takes place in the UK.”

For more information about:

- [Sexual abuse - Doncaster Council](#)
- [DRASACS](#)
- [Services for victims and people who are abusive](#)
- [Domestic and sexual abuse training for practitioners](#)
- [The domestic abuse protocol](#)
- [Digital copies of leaflets and posters and how to order hard copies](#)
- [Details of Domestic Homicide Reviews](#)
- [Survivor stories](#)
- [The MARAC](#)
- [The Doncaster Domestic Abuse Strategy](#)

and much more, visit the Doncaster Domestic Abuse website:

www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse

You can also follow us on Twitter: @NoToDomAbuse

Newsletter produced by Karen Shooter, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Lead, Doncaster Council.

If you would like to include an article in a future edition please email:

Karen.shooter@doncaster.gov.uk

Stay Connected with Doncaster Council



Subscription Services

[Manage your preferences and unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

