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Housing
Scotland

Make a Stand Scotland

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1. Why domestic abuse is a housing issue
2. How the sector should respond

Why domestic abuse is a housing issue



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Homelessness
is gendered

Access to
homes

New definition
of domestic
abuse

Scale of
domestic
abuse



Situation A

- Victims reports domestic abuse
- Victims forced to repeat account to multiple staff and asked to report to police
- Told she will be removed from her home but given little choice where to live
- Children moved to new school
- Moves home again and again
- Unable to settle

Situation B

- Victim report domestic abuse
- Housing staff ask her what she would like to do
- Management transfer arranged to nearby home so children can stay in same school
- Immediately moved into temporary accommodation while belongings retrieved
- Housing support officer provided

Women's experience: Change Justice and Fairness



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View of service provider

- More than half of service providers (58%) agreed or strongly agreed that some women claim domestic or sexual abuse when they have not experienced it.
- Only 14% of service providers agreed that women who experience domestic abuse are able to make appropriate decisions about how to handle their situation
- Almost half (47%) of service providers were not confident about giving information about how to exclude an abusive partner, or what action could be taken against a perpetrator.

Women's experience: Change Justice and Fairness



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Views of women about service

- Council default position was that victims (and children) move out of their home.
 - They questioned validity of their experience,
 - Did not challenge their partner's entitlement to remain in the home,
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- Very few women were able to remain in their home.
 - Lack of support was noted as essential in allowing them to remain in their home.

Make a Stand



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MAKE
A
STAND

Our homes, our people,
our problem.



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women's aid
until women & children are safe



daha

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

Make a Stand:

1. Make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available
2. Appoint a champion at a senior level in your organisation to support people experiencing domestic abuse
3. Put in place a HR policy, or amend an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse
4. Put in place and embed a policy to support residents who are affected by domestic abuse.

Challenges



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- Partnership Working
- Remaining at home
- Housing Allocations
- Financial challenges (for women)
- Staff attitudes
- Rehousing Perpetrators



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Now for how