



DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

The Church of Scotland Domestic Abuse Policy Statement, 2017

The Church of Scotland recognises that domestic abuse is part of the safeguarding and public protection agendas. It is also a component of the wider societal issue of Gender Based Violence.

Domestic abuse happens in all parts of society, including in faith communities. Domestic abuse is an issue for the Church of Scotland too.

We aim to:

- Raise awareness in local Congregations, Presbyteries, Councils of the Church and CrossReach Services about domestic abuse.
- Encourage Church communities to create safe pathways to support services for those affected by domestic abuse.
- Increase awareness of and access to support services for those affected by domestic abuse and where appropriate, for perpetrators.
- Facilitate suitable training from appropriate agencies for key staff and relevant Church leaders and to encourage Church members to undertake basic training.
- Encourage collaborative working with other denominations and agencies.

Safeguarding Handbook 6, May 2017, sets out the procedure for how the Church plans to implement this policy in practice.