DOMESTIC ABUSE IN COVID-19

Raising awareness about Domestic Abuse and the charities/agencies who support victims and perpetrators is one of our priorities. According to the charity Refuge, the National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since the lockdown.

- The Anglican Alliance and Anglican Consultative Council has produced a resource to equip churches to recognise and take action to prevent domestic abuse: *Domestic Abuse and COVID-19: How Churches can respond* includes sections on what the Bible says about abuse, what domestic abuse is, and how widespread it is. It looks at the impact of Covid-19 on domestic abuse, sets out practical action for church leaders and good neighbours; advice for victims and survivors; and challenges for perpetrators: [http://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/gender-justice.aspx](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/gender-justice.aspx)
- Restored is an international Christian alliance working to transform relationships and end violence against women: [www.restoredrelationships.org](http://www.restoredrelationships.org)

HELP AND SUPPORT

Support is always available for victims of Domestic Abuse, however, identifying those who need it is currently more of a challenge because of social distancing: I appeal to everyone to keep an eye out in your neighbourhoods, among your friends and members of your family: the message is Be Brave; Speak Up.

Contact:

- Rape Crisis: 0808 802 9999 [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)
- Men’s Advice Line: 0808 801 0327 [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)
- Galop – LGBT+: 0800 999 5428 [www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse)
- Women’s Aid: 0808 2000 247 [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

Our diocese is part of the White Ribbon Campaign: watch Bishop Simon’s message about this our White Ribbon page here: [www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/domestic-abuse/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/domestic-abuse/)

RESOURCES:

Other useful resources: can be found here:

- Bishop Simon’s article: *Hate in a time of Coronavirus*
- Latest guidance from the National Church around Domestic Abuse (Tuesday 14 April)
- A safeguarding video message from the NHS which can be shared