

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>
- Restored is an international Christian alliance working to transform relationships and end violence against women: 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:

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline number: 0808 2000 247 www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk.
- Rape Crisis: 0808 802 9999 www.rapecrisis.org.uk
- Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327 www.mensadviceline.org.uk
- Galop – LGBT+: 0800 999 5428 www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse
- Women's Aid: 0808 2000 247 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/

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](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/12/domestic-violence-surges-seven-hundred-per-cent-uk-coronavirus>