

Equalities and Community Justice

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk



Welcome

to our second quarterly Equalities and Community Justice bulletin for 2020. As we move towards change and adapt new ways of living and working, this edition covers some of the stories and events that have been happening around the city including sources of support.

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Families Outside Parent/ Carer & Toddler Group

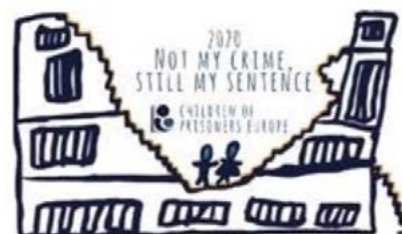
Families Outside is the only national charity in Scotland that works solely on behalf of families affected by imprisonment. To achieve this they offer direct support to families via their Helpline and their Regional Family Support Coordinators.

Training and information is available to a host of professionals who come into contact with families affected by imprisonment. These include, but are not limited to, teachers, social workers, health professionals, the police, and prison staff.

To find out more about the new Parent/ Carer & Toddler Group which is meeting by Zoom, contact:

Jen Riach, Regional Family Support Coordinator,
Families Outside
07572 022995 • 0131 557 9800
• jen.riach@familiesoutside.org.uk

Families Outside Support & Information Helpline:
0800 254 0088





Help and support minority ethnic groups

This case study highlights the type of work undertaken with families who have been resettled in Aberdeen through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The charity Action for Children are one of the organisations commissioned by Aberdeen City Council to support families and this case study describes the support the family have received from their Case Worker during lockdown.

The parents and their 4 children arrived in Aberdeen from Syria 9 months ago and have worked hard to make Aberdeen their home. Just before lockdown the family were helped to move from temporary accommodation to a secure tenancy. However, they were left with no internet access as suppliers were only conducting essential work, so their Case Worker applied for funding to purchase mobile broadband for the family. This meant the boys could access schoolwork and counselling sessions online. A Chromebook was also purchased for the family allowing them to keep in contact with relatives overseas.

Throughout lockdown, Aberdeen City Council has provided translated copies of the Government and Public Health Scotland advice to ensure families

are kept fully up to date with health and government guidelines. Ramadan and Eid were both celebrated during lockdown and translated advice was shared with all families about celebrating these important events in a safe way. The Case Worker adjusted her working hours to support the family during their time of fasting and delivered Eid celebration gifts and made regular doorstep visits to the family to check on their wellbeing and to offer ongoing support. Lockdown has also posed financial challenges and the parents were worried about the additional cost of having the boys home every day. Their Case Worker helped them to register

for free school meal vouchers of £25 for each child every 2 weeks and £60 weekly food vouchers from the Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund.

Since the Case Worker's involvement, the family's confidence has increased, and they continue to thrive and integrate into the local community. The father now works part time and his son does voluntary work one day a week. To show their appreciation the family participated in the As-Salaam project cooking meals for NHS staff as a thank you to their local community.

Are you from an ethnic minority background in Aberdeen or Grampian?

If you are having difficulty accessing services or knowing who to turn to for help, GREC can support with:

- Explaining your rights and options
- Sign-posting you to the right service
- Helping you apply for benefits or other support.

We also have interpreters available for all community languages.

Phone: 01224 595505
 Text or WhatsApp: 07517 357298
 Email: info@grec.co.uk
 Facebook.com/GrampianREC

Services available from Monday to Friday 10:00 until 16:30

ABERDEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP



Domestic Abuse is not acceptable It is not your fault and you are not alone

Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by:

- Your husband or wife
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend
- Your current or ex-partner
- Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Domestic Abuse is when they do any of the following things to you (although this list doesn't cover everything, and you may be experiencing other issues/ behaviours, too):

Physical harm

- such as hit or hurt you or your child (if you have one)
- lock you in
- hold you so you cannot move

Emotional harm

- bully you or say things that scare you
- make you feel sad or upset
- make you feel stupid

Sexual harm –

- make you do sexual things that you do not like or understand
- touch your body, your private parts or kiss you when you say no or do not want them to

Financial harm-

- take your money and things

that are yours

- tell you how to spend your money or check how much you spend

Controlling

- don't like you speaking to your friends or other people
- always want to know where you have been or where you are going
- always want to know who you speak to
- stop you seeing your family or friends

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust, or contact:

Police Scotland

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999.
For non-emergencies call 101

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day.
Telephone: 0800 027 1234.
Website: sdafmh.org.uk

Rape Crisis Grampian

Telephone: 01224 590932.
Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk

The Respect Phonenumber

A confidential helpline offering advice, information, and support for anyone concerned about their own abusive behaviour towards a partner or ex-partner.
Freephone 0808 802 4040.
Email: info@respectphonenumber.org.uk.

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381.
Website: grampian-womens-aid.com

Further information: grampian-womens-aid.com/newsevents/covid-19-our-commitment-remains-unchanged/

For more information about domestic abuse, and support available, go to:
communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/



- If you are worried about a child or young person's safety in Aberdeen, please call the Joint Child Protection Unit on 01224 306877 or Police Scotland on 101.
- Everyone's mental health matters. Why not show your children some fun games they can play to help relieve stress on the ChildLine website? <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/games/>
- Help children stay safe online. If your child is an online gamer who uses a headset whilst playing, check they are only engaging with friends and not strangers. Did you know you can set parental controls on your broadband settings?
- Top tip to help children stay safe online; Only allow phones and tablet to be used in common rooms in the house and set a time in the evening when phones and tablets are handed in before bed.
- Domestic abuse is never acceptable. Help is available, visit <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse/> for more information, or call the Joint Child Protection Unit on 01224 306877 if you are concerned about a child's safety.

Visit <https://www.aberdeengettingitright.org.uk/> for more information



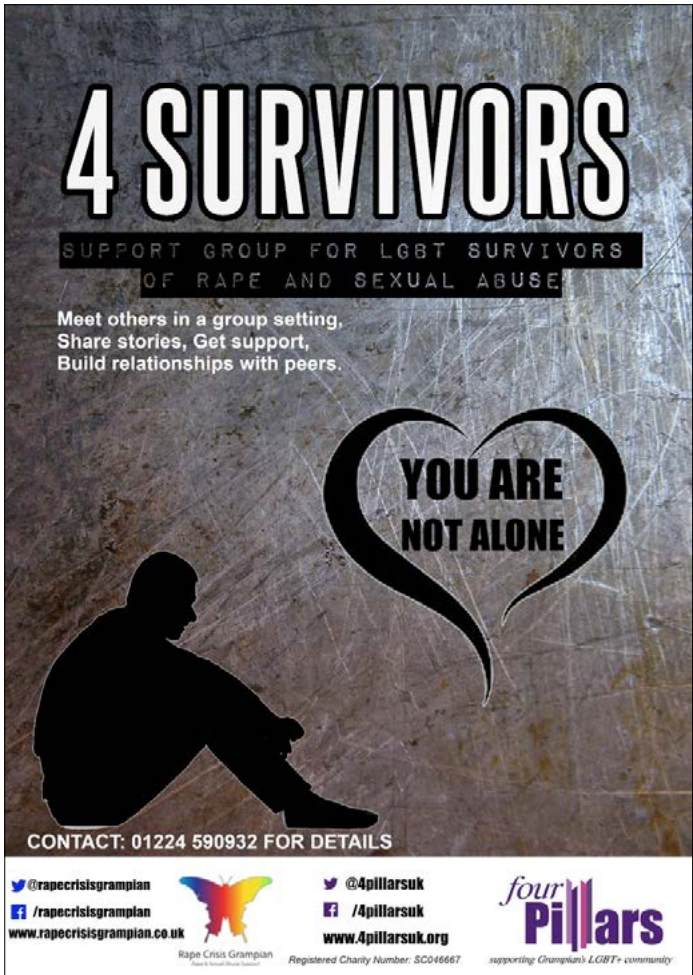
Get BSL accessible information and updates on the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and other useful resources from the British Deaf Association. <https://bda.org.uk/covid19/>



Fifty years after the world said "Never Again" to the horrors of the Holocaust, genocide took place on European soil.

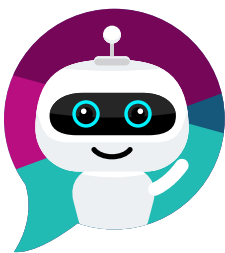
Remembering Srebrenica brings communities together through organising commemoration events in the UK. You can find out more about how you can pledge your support here. <http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/>

An advertisement for Age Scotland's support service. It features a dark blue background with a white speech bubble containing the text "I feel better talking to you". On the left, there is a circular illustration of a woman with glasses talking on a phone. On the right, there is a circular illustration of a man with red hair talking on a phone. Below the speech bubble, the text reads: "With Age Scotland, you are not alone. We're here to listen, provide friendship and offer support." At the bottom right, a purple box contains the phone number "0800 12 44 222".



People in Scotland can get the health information they need about coronavirus (COVID-19) from www.nhsinform.scot every day.

If you are living with sight loss you will find an audio version of the information about COVID-19 here: www.nhsinform.scot/translations/formats/audio/coronavirus-covid-19. The website is compatible with modern screen readers and other assistive technologies.



ACC updates on Corona virus can be found here <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19> including all the changes being made in Phase 2 of the lockdown.



Progress in Dialogue is a registered social enterprise, engaging with diverse communities and grassroots champions, find out more [here](#).

The National Advisory Council on Women and Girls - NACWG

In 2016, The Scottish Government pledged to establish a First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls, to help drive forward action to tackle gender inequality.

Every two months they put the Spotlight on a different gender equality issue. In July – August 2020 the Spotlight is Fair Work. Individuals and groups from all communities across Scotland are invited to share their experiences and ideas around this topic. #Generatiuonequal

<https://onescotland.org/equality-themes/advisory-council-women-girls/have-your-say/>

Aberdeen TEC Pathfinder Project Support pathways for domestic abuse

ACVO and Aberdeen HSCP have been chosen to lead on a Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Pathfinders Project within Aberdeen City. The project aims to explore, define and co-design how TEC can support the delivery of multi-agency services for people who experience domestic abuse. We are currently in the discovery phase of our project, which considers:

Identifying stakeholders, citizens and provision within the city
Mapping experiences, gaps and pain points for citizens and stakeholders
Understanding what citizens needs are when accessing and receiving support

Stakeholder research

Our stakeholder user research has been ongoing since October. We are hoping to talk to a range of organisations and practitioners

from different sectors. If you would like to support the project by sharing your insights, please contact Ali Jones: ali.jones@acvo.org.uk

Citizen research

The next stage of our discovery period will involve user research with citizens, to understand their experiences of accessing and receiving support for domestic abuse. Over the next few weeks we aim to set up a Citizen Reference Group. This group will co-design and refine how we approach engaging with a wider group of citizens.

We are currently looking for support from different organisations to recruit between 6-9 people (aged 18+) with experiences of accessing and receiving support for domestic abuse, from services in Aberdeen.

For further information, please contact Project Manager / Service Designer, Ali Jones: ali.jones@acvo.org.uk.



Watch our new
Equalities
Team video
here...the
story so far



<https://youtu.be/GjCS-Gr3a1l>

Read our new Equality Outcomes here...

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/people-and-communities/equality-and-diversity/equality-outcomes-and-mainstreaming-report>

BSL Version at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgvF3_ERk2o&feature=youtu.be

Further information about Community Justice here:

<https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/community-justice/>

& ABERDEEN ART GALLERY MUSEUMS

www.aagm.co.uk/museumfromhome

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Ma tha thu ag iarraidh eadar-theangachadh den sgrìobhainn seo ann an cànan neo cruth eile (clò mòr neo clàr clàistinneach) feuch an cuir thu fios gu

If you are deaf or have a hearing impairment, you can still communicate with the Council via Text Relay by dialling 18001 + telephone number:

01224 523542