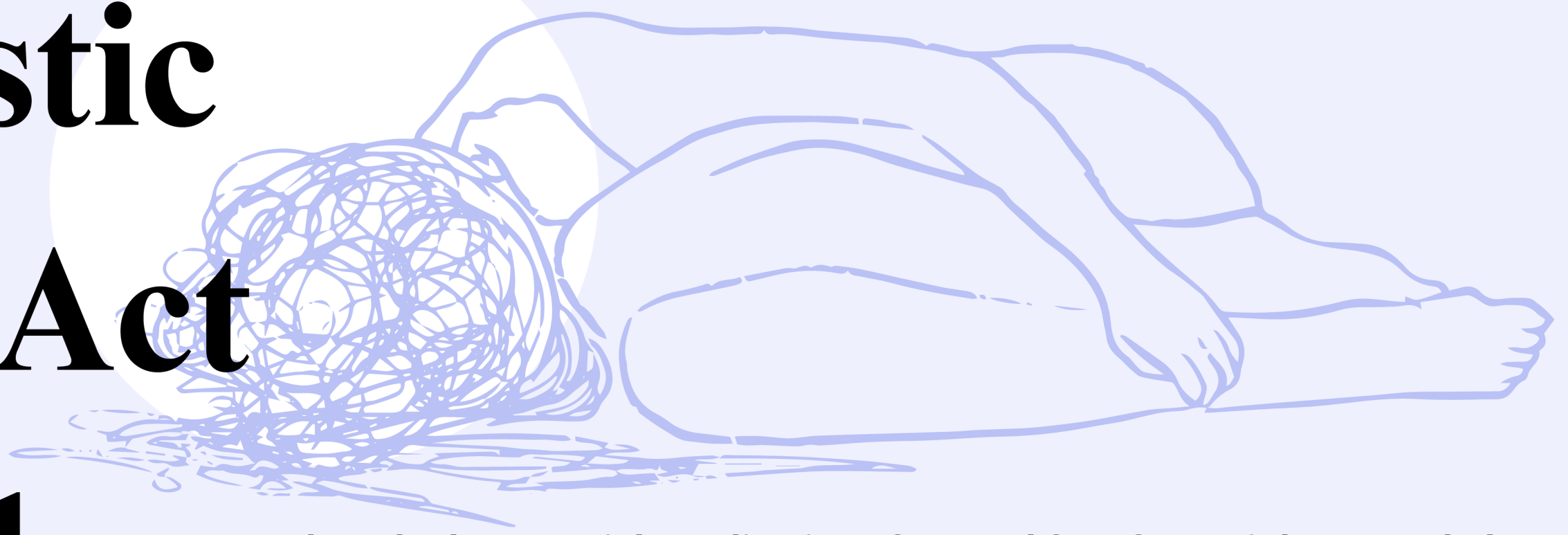


Domestic Abuse Act 2021



"Everyone has the human right to live in safety and free from violence and abuse. Society has a duty to recognise and defend this right."

– Women's Aid

Its aims raise awareness and help people understand the impact that domestic abuse can have on their victims as well as their families.

It also aims to improve the effectiveness of the justice system by providing better protection for victims of domestic abuse as well as better support and bringing perpetrators to justice.



Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 came into law on 29 th April 2021,

2.3 million people aged 16 and over in England and Wales experienced some form of domestic abuse in the last year ending March 2024.

1 in 4 women in England and Wales will experience domestic abuse in her life

Every year more than 75,000 people in the UK are at high risk of being murdered or seriously harmed due to forms of domestic abuse.

Over 105,000 children live in homes where there is high-risk domestic abuse.

78% of children living with domestic abuse are harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, as well as the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others.

73% of victims seek help two times on average from professionals in the year before they received effective help to stop the abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines "domestic abuse" as behavior of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") if both of these people are over the age of 16 and are personally connected, and the behavior is abusive. This includes various forms of abuse, such as physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. This also applies to any intimate partners or family members as well as others in a close relationship."

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Priorities of the Domestic Abuse Act

Create a definition that covers how domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse

Place reasonability on local authorities to provide accommodation and support to victims of domestic abuse and their children

Introduce steps to prohibit the cross-examination of victims of domestic abuse by their abusers.

Create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation that will help provide the perpetrators with a fairer sentencing

Include on the the 'revenge porn' offence to include the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress

No fees can be charged for relevant medical evidence of the abuse from registered health care professionals or anyone working for the NHS.

Support Available

- Advice is available nationally 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247.
- The National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans+ Domestic Abuse Helpline offers specialist LGBT+ support: 0800 999 5428.
- Specialist support given to male victims and survivors is available through the Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010327