



by Yasmin Bond

Who are we?

Women's Aid, established in 1974, is the national charity that co-ordinates and supports an England-wide network of over 500 local services working to end violence against women and children and promote the protection of adults and children who have suffered from or are exposed to gender-based violence. We provide support for up to 1 million women and children every year.

Our aims are to:

- Empower women who have been affected by violence
- Meet the needs of children affected by violence
- Provide services run by women which are based on listening to survivors
- Challenge the disadvantages which result from violence against women and children
- Support and reflect diversity and promote equality of opportunity
- Promote cohesive inter-agency responses to violence and develop partnerships

And our work has three major strands:

Protection - by campaigning for better laws and policies, and a coordinated approach to tackling violence against women and children in every community

Prevention - through raising awareness in every walk of life, and educating children and young people

Provision - by offering a package of 24 hour lifeline services for women and children experiencing violence

What do we do?

Women's Aid works to end violence against women and children. Keeping the voices of

survivors at the heart of our work, Women's Aid campaigns for better legal protection and services, providing a strategic "expert view" to government on laws, policy and practice affecting abused women and children. In partnership with its national network, Women's Aid runs public awareness and education campaigns, bringing together national and local action, and developing new training and resources. Women's Aid provides a package of vital 24 hour lifeline services through our publications (available in 11 languages including English), websites (www.womensaid.org.uk and www.thehideout.org.uk), and running the **Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline in partnership with Refuge. 0808 2000 247.**

How do we do this?

Women's Aid provides direct support for victims of violence through our websites, dedicated message-boards (for both women and children survivors of abuse), leaflets, as well as coordinating and supporting a network of local specialist organisations in England, providing refuges and outreach services, help lines and advice centres, as well as the National Domestic Violence Helpline in partnership with Refuge, that has taken over a million calls since 2003.

We undertake campaigning and political lobbying, and our campaign priorities are determined by our national network of local violence services, and are reviewed annually in Women's Aid annual conference.

The Women's Aid Website can be found at: www.womensaid.org.uk This is a comprehensive website about violence against women and children and its impact. The website has help sections for women experiencing violence, as well as policy briefings and research findings. Women's Aid also runs a website for children and young people experiencing violence that can be found at www.thehideout.org.uk