

# Domestic abuse charities can apply for vital funds

- Charities can bid for a share of £10 million funding to support victims of domestic abuse
- The money will be used to support additional refuge bed spaces and specialist support
- A further £6 million will also be given to homelessness charities to support their work during this time

Details on how domestic abuse charities can access the vital funds they need to support vulnerable groups over the coming months have today (7 May 2020) been set out by Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick.

Last week, it was confirmed that there would be an additional £10 million for domestic abuse accommodation services over the coming months.

This is part of a [£76 million package of government support](#) for the most vulnerable in society, including those affected by domestic abuse.

This funding will support domestic abuse safe accommodation services who not only provide beds, but also offer the critical help victims and their children need.

The support can be used to ensure existing services remain open as well as to create additional capacity and support during these unprecedented times.

The [fund will be open for domestic abuse charities in England](#), including refuges, to bid for a share. Charities providing Domestic Abuse Safe accommodation (including refuges) in England can apply for this funding.

In order to ensure the funding can be shared as quickly as possible, the bidding process has been streamlined meaning people can access the help they need as soon as possible.

Further information on funding streams for charities providing other domestic abuse services will be made available in due course.

Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick said:

Domestic abuse leaves vulnerable people, including children, living in fear in the very place where they should feel most safe and secure – inside their own home.

Protecting victims is an absolute priority and the funding charities can now apply for from today will help them meeting the challenges and support those that need it the most.

As well as this emergency funding, the government has also set out plans to support survivors of domestic abuse in the long-term by giving them better access to local housing services.

Government will bring forward legislation to give domestic abuse victims 'priority need' access to settled housing, ensuring they can find a home which is safe, secure and away from the threat of abuse.

Sandra Horley, CBE, chief executive of Refuge says:

Refuge welcomes the government's promise of extra funding for domestic abuse services. Over the last few weeks, calls to Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline have risen by around 50%, showing the sheer numbers of women needing support.

This extra funding will help ensure those providing specialist domestic abuse services can give abused women and children life-saving refuge accommodation. No woman or child seeking sanctuary and support should ever be turned away.

Linked to this, an additional £6 million will be made available for frontline homeless charities. This funding will be shared amongst organisations who are on frontline, keeping vulnerable people without a home safe and giving them the help they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This follows the [appointment of Dame Louise Casey](#) to spearhead a new government taskforce on the response to rough sleeping during the coronavirus pandemic.

The taskforce will work hand-in-hand with councils and agencies across the country on plans to ensure rough sleepers can move into long-term, safe accommodation once the immediate crisis is over – ensuring as few people as possible return to life on the streets.

In addition to the £10 million for accommodation services, the government is also providing further support to protect the most vulnerable. This includes:

- The Department for Education will provide £26.4 million to support vulnerable children, including support for families of disabled children and working to safeguard vulnerable children including care leavers and children in the early years. This funding applies to England, except for funding for Childline, which will apply to the UK.
- The Ministry of Justice will provide £25 million to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in the community access support services during the coronavirus outbreak, and a further £3 million per annum investment in Independent Sexual Violence Advisers until 2022. This funding applies to England and Wales.
- The Home Office will be providing £3.8 million for community-based domestic abuse services and modern slavery services, and for added support for modern slavery charities who have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The Home Office will be providing £7.8 million in

emergency support for charities helping vulnerable children who have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. This includes children at risk of sexual abuse and criminal exploitation. This funding applies to England and Wales.

Nicki Norman Women's Aid Acting CEO said:

The government's announcement of emergency funding for specialist refuges and safe accommodation services is very welcome. A recent Women's Aid Survivor Survey found it is significantly harder for survivors to leave the abuser and seek specialist help. Over three-quarters of survivors responding said Covid-19 has made it harder for them to leave.

Refuges are working around the clock to support women and children who are no longer safe at home. However, these life-saving services are facing the additional challenges of staff shortages, lost income and managing self-isolation in communal buildings.

We are pleased that domestic abuse charities can bid directly to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the urgently needed emergency cash. We hope all departments will now work in partnership with the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector to ensure funding is fair, flexible and reaches the frontline effectively.

It is also critical that funding for services led 'by and for' BME women, Deaf and disabled women and LGBT survivors is ring-fenced. These highly specialist services are vital for meeting survivors' needs but are often marginalized within current funding systems.

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## [Helen Chamberlain appointed as interim chair of the Independent Family Returns Panel](#)

News story

Home Secretary Priti Patel has agreed the appointment of Helen Chamberlain as interim chair of the Independent Family Returns Panel (IFRP).



The IFRP is an expert committee, sponsored by the Home Office, that provides independent advice to the department on how best to safeguard children's welfare during a family's enforced return.

Helen Chamberlain has been a member of the IFRP since August 2018. Her previous roles have included Chief Superintendent and Head of Public Protection at Nottinghamshire Police.

Interim chair of the IFRP Helen Chamberlain said:

I'm delighted and honoured to have been appointed as interim chair of the Independent Family Returns Panel.

We have an important role to play in ensuring the welfare needs of children are met when families are returned to their home country.

This interim appointment follows the expiry of Paul Greenhalgh's three year tenure as chair of the IFRP, on 1 May 2020.

The recruitment process to find a permanent replacement has already begun and will be conducted in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

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## [Veterans UK celebrates the 75th anniversary of VE Day](#)

News story

This Friday the nation will join together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.



Veterans UK VE day 75. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved

## VE 75 Celebrations

The special day will evoke memories of the jubilant scenes on the streets as Britons cast off the shackles of war – but the service and sacrifice of the WW2 generation will not be forgotten.

At 11am there will be a national two-minute silence, which will also honour those so devastatingly affected by the coronavirus crisis, and DBS staff are invited to participate from their homes. There is no right or wrong way to take part – some may wish to stand at their windows, step outside while remaining socially distanced, watch the broadcast on TV or simply sit in quiet reflection.

Whilst the UK is unable to celebrate this day as originally planned, it is important that we do everything we can to virtually mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8 May. You can tune into TV coverage on the day to pay tribute and respect to the Second World War Generation. There will be various dedicated shows across radio stations and TV channels.

[Timeline of events](#)

VE day celebrations. Crown copyright. All rights reserved

## What's on...

Just because we can't all be together right now, doesn't mean we can't all be involved. There is something for everyone to try whilst you're at home...

Looking for some home-schooling inspiration? [Look no further...with teaching remembrance with the British Legion](#)

Have your VE Day plans been cancelled? [Not to worry...](#)

Join the RBL for a [VE Day Singalong](#)

Why not get involved on Twitter with the hashtag #ThisIsYourVictory to share

with us what you're doing to spend VE Day at home.

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## [Bristol boy inspired by Captain Tom wins PM award](#)

News story

A six-year-old boy from Bristol who raised over £280,000 for NHS charities has been awarded the Prime Minister's daily Point of Light today.



A six-year-old boy from Bristol who raised over £280,000 for NHS charities has been awarded the Prime Minister's daily Point of Light today.

Frank Mills, who has spina bifida, is following in the footsteps of his hero Captain Tom by walking every day to raise money for the NHS. Frank's initial fundraising target of £99 – in honour of Captain Tom's age when he began – has been met nearly 3,000 times over. Having learned to walk only 18 months ago, Frank continues to walk every day.

In a personal letter to Frank, the Prime Minister said:

Every day I say thank you to someone in our country for doing something special. And today I want to say thank you to you! Your daily walks are an amazing fundraising feat.

I know you have watched Captain Tom on the television and I think you are brave and brilliant just like him.

Well done and thank you for all you have achieved for our wonderful

NHS.

Reacting to the Prime Minister's announcement, the Mills family said:

What started as a very simple, spur of the moment response to seeing Captain Tom Moore do his fundraising walk, with the hope of raising £99, has become an incredible amount of money raised for an excellent charity by people very generously responding to Frank's effort. As a family we've been utterly overwhelmed not only by the amount of money given but by the lovely messages of support and encouragement left on his Just Giving page. We feel thanks really should go to all those who made it happen!

And Frank's response was:

Cool!

The Prime Minister's UK daily Point of Light award was first launched in April 2014 to recognise outstanding individuals making a difference where they live. Frank is the 1367th person to be recognised. As Britain unites to fight the spread of coronavirus, the award is focusing exclusively on people serving their community through the pandemic.

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## **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO – Sixtieth Series of Meetings**

World news story

This UK statement was delivered at the Sixtieth Series of Meetings in Geneva





The Assembly takes place in Geneva.

1. The United Kingdom aligns itself with the Group B statement. We commend H.E. Ambassador Zniber, the Chairman of the WIPO General Assemblies, H.E. Ambassador Rivasseau, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, Dr Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General, and all other colleagues who have made it possible for this important session of the WIPO Assemblies to proceed in these unique and unprecedented times.
2. We would like to take this opportunity to thank DG Gurry for his long lasting dedication to intellectual property in general and to the World Intellectual Property Organization in particular. We look forward to reflecting fully upon the twelve years of his leadership and accomplishments during the sixty-first series of meetings of WIPO Assemblies scheduled for September 2020.
3. This delegation would like to congratulate Mr Daren Tang on his election and appointment as the next Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. This is an important moment, commencing a transition period from one leadership of this organisation to another. In this regard, the UK wishes to thank the chairs and vice-chairs of the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee, Director General Gurry, as well as the WIPO Legal Counsel and his team for guiding us through the electoral process.
4. The decisions made during this transition period will inevitably affect the functioning of the organisation under the new leadership. Therefore, we anticipate that the DG Elect will participate in discussions to enable a smooth transition on 1 October and ensure that this important organisation functions well in the years to come.
5. The UK delegation sees numerous challenges and opportunities going forward. The fundamental elements underlying the success of the WIPO are keeping the organisation, the international IP system and the IP narrative fit for purpose.



6. Fit for purpose for businesses to secure international protection effectively. We wish to engage in a discussion on a vision of the international IP system in 10 years and beyond. This includes clear pathways that enable services to be provided digitally from end-to end, as well as enhancing document-sharing services like the DAS. The current COVID-19 crisis poses both challenges as well as opportunities in this sense.
7. Fit for purpose for a robust IP narrative that informs complex discourse on global innovation and creativity. We call for a strong WIPO engagement strategy encompassing the use of its convening power as well as its knowledge base and resources. In our view, this will help deliver on the organisation's core mandate "to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world" for both IP stakeholders and global decision makers.
8. Fit for purpose for practitioners and policy makers around the globe to develop sound policies and advice. The UK welcomes the efforts so far on understanding the impact of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies relating to intellectual property. This delegation wishes to continue and strengthen this work stream going forward.
9. Fit for purpose for Member States and the organisational structure to govern the WIPO well. We will continue to stress the importance of the principles of accountability, transparency, ethics, independence, as well as efforts to minimise the organisation's environmental footprint. Likewise, we wish to discuss the current structure of WIPO committees and potential improvements.
10. The UK wishes Mr. Tang great success in his new role as Director General and looks forward to cooperating closely with him and his team in the coming six years.

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