



West Cork Whisper

WEST CORK WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE PROJECT NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 66 | FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2017

8th of March is International Women's Day why is it marked every year?

Discrimination against pregnant women is still the most common discrimination in the workplace

One in five women will be subject to violence by a male partner

Domestic violence is not a criminal offence

Women still die because they do not have reproductive rights over their own bodies

Women still do a disproportionate amount of housework and childcare even if they also work outside the home

Women make up only 28% of the voices heard on Irish radio

70% of all those living in poverty are women

Women spend twice as much as men on domestic work and when all work, paid and unpaid is considered women work longer hours than men

We still have no affordable, accessible childcare and it's the 21st Century

We rank 17th out of 27 EU member states in Political representation of women

We still have not had justice for the women & babies of the Magdalene Laundries

Women still earn 20% less than men for the same or similar job

statistics
for Ireland

Half of all women killed globally were killed by a male partner or relative

Globally, women make up just 22% of parliamentarians

In a study of 173 countries, 100 of those had laws that restricted the jobs women could do and 18 countries gave husbands the right to refuse to allow their wives to work.

Half the world's refugees are women and they are at special risk of violence and exploitation including: rape, forced impregnation, forced abortion, sexual slavery, HIV through intentional spreading, trafficking.

An estimated 133 million women and girls around the world have experienced female genital mutilation

In 10 countries, child marriage of little girls to older men is still permitted

Worldwide, women are paid 60-70% of what men are paid

worldwide
statistics

anyone can suffer domestic abuse but there is support for everyone

Disabled women and domestic violence

According to research from Womens Aid in the UK, the number of disabled women experiencing domestic violence is twice that of non-disabled women. Whether at the hands of their partner, family, or carer, almost one in two disabled women will be abused in their lifetime.

Sometimes, the experience of domestic violence will be much like the traditional definitions. However, for a disabled woman, her disability will also provide the means of abuse to her perpetrator;

such as having her medicine withheld, or deliberately not assisted to go to the toilet and being physically assaulted when she has no means of defending herself or access to escape.

In common with other abusive relationships, there is the exertion of power and control but this is much more easily accomplished because the abuser has both a physical advantage and is often the person who the woman relies on for her care.

It can be harder for women with disabilities to escape an abusive relationship, not only in terms of financial resources or having to take children into account but there are additional barriers. Refuges are rarely adapted to meet their needs. The continued underfunding

of refuges is unlikely to make adaptations to these buildings a likely prospect in the foreseeable future. Even when disabled women seek help from their GP or the Gardaí, their abusive partner/carer can easily take over and may even appear more credible to services unfamiliar with the dynamics of domestic violence, especially for women with a disability.

Disabled women find it harder to speak out and to be believed as there is usually so much public sympathy for him of the type.. “oh isn’t he so good to look after her”

Escape may mean leaving an adapted house. Refuges are rarely adapted to the degree required to meet her needs, in no small part

due to continued underfunding. The invisibility of domestic violence against women with disabilities here in Ireland is such that WCWAV have had to use statistics and findings produced in the UK and several disability organisations we approached about the subject where unable to help as they did not have any research on the issue.

For deaf women, Women’s Aid operates a text service, as well as the face to face support service that is available for deaf women experiencing domestic violence. All texts are treated in the strictest confidence and can support a woman face-to- face using an accredited professional interpreter. Womens Aid also have a series of Irish Sign Language videos available on domestic violence which can be accessed on their website: www.womensaid.ie

a Traveller’s tale

“As a Traveller woman I would have been aware of domestic violence in my community growing up. Traveller women have particular difficulties when faced with domestic violence. The Traveller community is tight knit and extended and women experiencing domestic violence find it difficult to leave the family in the first instance for fear of being isolated from their community. As well as the immediate fear of being further abused they fear that if they leave it would cause further conflict between extended family members and often feel responsible for making things worse.

Because of the pressure to stay married Traveller women are very reluctant to walk away and there is always the hope that the violence will stop, which as we know, rarely happens. It may be necessary to leave older children behind and the Traveller woman then feels responsible for their safety. If a woman does leave and goes to a refuge she is isolated from other members of her community. She no longer has her

community supports and may also be concerned about the possibility of leaving other family members or friends vulnerable and under pressure should they be thought to have information of her whereabouts or circumstances. Once in the refuge, women have described facing discrimination from staff due to a lack of understanding of Traveller Culture and stereotyping of Traveller women. Such attitudes can negatively affect a woman’s self-confidence and ability to make safe choices.

Traveller organisations in Cork have begun to address the issue of domestic violence within the community. As a result of work undertaken by the Southern Traveller Health Network, a Traveller specific forum for women, domestic violence training for Traveller women was delivered and from this came ‘The Rings of Hope’ awareness raising booklet. This booklet outlines the experiences of domestic violence within the Traveller community. ‘Rings of Hope’ refers to the symbolic ring of marriage and reflects the Traveller communities value and trust in marriage and the circular nature of family culture and tradition. Just as in the wider community, negative attitudes towards women need to be challenged and we need to bring such hidden crimes out into the public domain.

Gender based violence affects women from all walks of life whether Traveller or from the wider settled community. Whilst domestic violence is still an issue for Traveller women, I feel that through initiatives in Traveller organisations and increased working relationships with organisations such as WCWAV, actions are being taken to improve supports and build relationships with mainstream service providers. Because of these programmes, it is my belief that the younger generation will now have a greater awareness of gender based violence. The cycle of violence is not part of Traveller culture as indeed it is not part of the culture of the settled community. We all need to stand up to sexism, misogyny and negative attitudes towards us whatever our culture, creed or ethnic group and Traveller women are committed to ending the cycle of violence for everywoman.

Eileen Burke is a Traveller Community Health Worker with West Cork Travellers (WCTC)



Rings of Hope - a book put together by Traveller Women to break the silence and highlight violence against women and girls in the Traveller community.



LGBTQ communities & domestic violence

The lesbian and bisexual (LB) women’s community in Cork have a long history of providing support services for others in the community. Now in its’ seventeenth year, LINC (Lesbians in Cork) developed out of this activism and continues to promote health, equality and social inclusion for LB women throughout the Republic of Ireland. As the only community development organisation which works exclusively with Lesbian and Bisexual women and their families, LINC’s aim is ‘to improve the quality of life, health and well-being of all women who identify as lesbian or bisexual in Ireland’. The objectives of the organisation are:

- To build a safe, accessible and vibrant community centre (actual and virtual) for lesbians, bisexual women.
- To provide information and support for LB women and their families
- To promote the mental, physical, emotional and sexual health of LB women
- To inform and contribute to relevant policy development at local, regional and national level
- To be a model of best practice rooted in feminist, social justice and community development principles.

Domestic violence is not the preserve of heterosexual people. There may be a belief that within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities, domestic violence does not exist. However, this is a myth. Perpetrators of domestic violence come from all sexual orientations, genders, religions, race and class, as do their victims. While the overwhelming majority of culprits are male, women are also perpetrators, not just in heterosexual relationships but also in lesbian and bisexual women’s relationships.

According to research undertaken in the UK 25% of lesbians and bisexual women had experienced domestic abuse in a relationship, two thirds of those say that the abuse was caused by a woman while 33% said it was by a man. While no large scale research is available for lesbian and bisexual women in Ireland, health research undertaken by LINC in 2006 showed that 20% of the research group reported that they had experienced sexual abuse or violence from a female partner at some point in their lives.

Despite these high figures, the issue of domestic violence is seldom addressed within the LB women’s community or domestic violence services. There are many reasons for this and far too many to be discussed in this short article. However, living in a homophobic society where lesbian and bisexual

women have traditionally been part of a marginalised community oft derided, excluded and discriminated against will have played a contributory role. Any attention brought to such an issue in the past would have brought a collective shame on a community still fighting for their rights and place in society.

While domestic violence experienced by lesbian and bisexual women has many similarities to that experienced by heterosexual women there are also differences. The threat of being ‘outed’ to family, friends, work colleagues for a LB woman who has not disclosed her sexuality publically can be terrifying and can be used to coerce a woman to stay in a relationship. The belief that men are the only perpetrators of domestic violence may also contribute to LB women not recognising that what they are experiencing is domestic violence.

It is important to remember that we live in a society where the relationships of LGBTQ people have only since 2015 been put on an equal par to heterosexual relationships by opening up the institution of marriage to us. People grew up being told that there was something wrong with them, that they were sick and perverted. In such a society, perhaps it is not surprising that the presence of domestic violence remains so hidden. But there is no doubt that it is time for this issue to be ‘outed’ and addressed by both LGBTQ organisations and services.

migrant women & domestic abuse

Meet Sheema. Sheema arrived in Ireland as the spouse of a work permit holder and so her residence permit was dependent on her husband's. She came to Ireland with their young daughter.

After her arrival, Sheema became pregnant and subsequently gave birth to the couple's second child. Throughout her pregnancy, she experienced domestic violence and was forced to leave home and stayed with friends on several occasions. She was also admitted to hospital a number of times, including once after an especially violent assault and stabbing by her husband. She obtained a Protection Order and a Barring Order but ultimately left the family home and was admitted to a women's refuge, where she was referred to the Immigrant Council for advice. She was not receiving any financial support from her husband.

Having escaped her abuser, Sheema still faced a complicated path to ensure security and safety for herself and her children. She needed to apply for an independent residence permit, so that she would be in a position to find paid employment and financially support her children. Happily, after four months, she was granted an independent residence permit. However, in the intervening period there was confusion over her status, which meant she and her children had to survive solely on the only income she could access, Child Benefit.

Living through the horror of domestic violence is harrowing for anyone. When you are a migrant and your residence status depends on your abuser the situation becomes even more complex - and scary.

If you have 'dependent' status, it means your permission to remain in Ireland has been granted only because you are cohabiting with a partner or family member (who has a more secure permit) and relying on them for subsistence. Therefore in situations where your residence permit relies on the perpetrator of domestic abuse, you are put into an impossible situation of having to choose between continuing to live in fear of your abuser, or trying to escape and facing the fear of losing your right to live in Ireland.

Even if you do make the brave decision, like Sheema did, to leave your abuser and seek support, you are likely to face additional challenges including, for example, language barriers, social isolation, and a lack of knowledge regarding supports and assistance available. You can also face difficulties accessing appropriate supports e.g. suitable housing and social welfare benefits.

In their 2015 Annual Report, Women's Aid highlighted that 390 of the 9,308 callers to the National Freephone Helpline in 2015 identified that they were migrant women, Traveller women and women with disabilities. Of those, 87% were migrant women. This is not an isolated issue.

Many women (and it is usually women) have contacted the Immigrant Council precisely in this situation. They often come to us as a last resort because they are unsure where else to seek help, they are afraid about their immigration status, and are of course also terrified their abuser might find out they are trying to exit the situation.

Helpfully, since 2012 the course of action has been much clearer, as the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) provided clearer information on its website (www.inis.gov.ie). It sets out how a person may seek an immigration status independent of their relationship, allowing an explicit option for those seeking assistance and help with their situation without fear of removal from the State or of negative implications for their immigration status and that of any children that may be dependent on them.

More must be done to ensure that every migrant victim of domestic abuse knows that they can seek support safe in the knowledge their residence status will not be used against them. As the INIS says, "No one should have to suffer domestic violence and it is a matter that is taken seriously by the authorities. Migrants may have additional vulnerability in this area in that the person committing domestic violence may say 'if you report this you will lose your immigration status.' This is not true. Domestic violence should always be reported and you do not have to remain in an abusive relationship in order to preserve your entitlement to remain in Ireland."

If you have any questions regarding the issues raised in this article please contact the Immigrant Council of Ireland's helpline, open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-1pm, 01 674 0200.

Immigrant
Council
of Ireland

NASC

Providing legal supports to migrant victims of domestic violence

Nasc is a non-governmental organisation, based in Cork, working for an integrated society based on the principles of human rights, social justice and equality. Nasc (the Irish word for link) works to link migrants to their rights through protecting human rights, promoting integration and campaigning for change. Nasc provides a front line legal information and advice service to over 900 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers annually in Ireland. We use the evidence base from our direct service to promote positive policy and legislative change.

Nasc works closely with domestic violence support services locally and nationally to support victims of domestic abuse. Migrant women seeking to leave abusive relationships are often faced with unique challenges, including language barriers, isolation, lack of 'local' knowledge of available support services and an immigration status that is dependent on an abusive partner. In our experience it is common for an abuser to threaten a spouse/partner with deportation.

Nasc recognises that regularising a woman's immigration status is one of the important steps for her after she has left an abusive situation and secured her immediate safety. Access to employment, to social welfare supports, to long term supports from domestic violence services all hinge on having the correct immigration status. We work in partnership with any other agencies involved to gather the evidence of abuse, presenting a case to INIS seeking independent residence permission for the woman which does not require her abusive partner/spouse's involvement. We are there every step of the way to act as a support every time her immigration status presents a barrier to accessing the support she needs. Finally, we document all of the cases we see and try to make the system better – one small change at a time.

Nasc were leading members of a campaign which succeeded in having the INIS publish guidelines for victims of domestic abuse for the first time. These guidelines contain details of how to make an application for an independent residence permit and state, "[d]omestic violence should always be reported and you do not have to remain in an abusive relationship in order to preserve your entitlement to remain in Ireland". Recently, the Department of Social Protection updated their website so information on interpretation and translation services is easily available on the homepage.

There is however still much room for improvement. Disclosures of domestic abuse are not always dealt with in a sensitive manner. Each application for residence by an abused spouse or partner remains a matter for the discretion of the INIS. The ability to apply for independent residence is not enshrined in legislation and implementation of the guidelines can sometimes be inconsistent. Even recently enacted legislation, the International Protection Act, 2015 fails to provide any exceptions for cases of marriage breakdown or abuse when legislating for the rights of those granted family reunification with refugees.

While Nasc's work is only one piece in a much bigger package of much needed supports, security of residency is essential to ensuring that migrant victims of domestic abuse are in a position to be able to access the supports they need to leave an abusive relationship.

If you are a migrant experiencing domestic abuse and are looking for advice or information about your legal rights, please ring (021) 450 3462 or visit Nasc's website at www.nascireland.org to find out about our free Walk In Service.

nasc
Linking migrants to their rights

CEO of FLAC calls for Free Legal Aid for Victims of Domestic Violence

The CEO of Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC), Eilis Barry has said that the *“Legal Aid Board should end its requirement that people experiencing domestic abuse make a financial contribution before they receive legal aid or advice.”*

In a recent press statement Ms Barry says: *“One in five women in Ireland experience domestic abuse. Given the prevalence and the universal condemnation of domestic violence, it is remarkable how those affected by it still face financial barriers in seeking legal protection.”*

The Flac statement goes on to say that, many people will be surprised to learn that civil legal aid is not actually free. The Legal Aid Board which administers the legal aid scheme requires people to make a financial contribution. Most cases including domestic violence require the applicant to pay a contribution unless

fully or partially waived on hardship grounds. The Legal Aid Board does recognise the particular pressing needs of women experiencing domestic violence and will prioritise those cases so that applicants get to speak to a solicitor quickly. However, the minimum contribution is €30 for legal advice and €130 for legal aid.

For those on social welfare payments, this can be equivalent to two thirds of their weekly income. Even women who might appear financially better off, may also be unable to afford this vital assistance because financial abuse whereby the victim has limited or no access to family funds is often a tactic of abusers. Although, the Civil Legal Aid Act 1995 allows the Legal Aid Board to waive fees on the grounds of hardship, such waivers are not automatically applied in cases involving domestic abuse.

The CEO of Flac pointed out that, *“International Human Rights bodies have voiced concern about the cost of legal aid services in domestic violence situations.”* The Istanbul Convention which is a landmark treaty to fight domestic and sexual violence and which Ireland has signed up to, provides for a right to free legal aid for victims of domestic violence. However, the Irish Governments preparations to ratify the Istanbul Convention are silent on the issue of civil legal aid.

FLAC, in the words of its CEO, is very clear as to what needs to happen; *“No Person experiencing domestic violence should be discouraged from accessing essential legal aid on financial grounds. Abolishing fees in cases of domestic violence would help realise the vision of supporting and empowering those affected by domestic violence.”*



Eilis Barry, CEO
Free Legal Advice Centres

How to apply for Legal Aid in relation to Domestic Violence

For those living in the Cork area, there are two Legal Aid Board centres in Cork to which you can apply in order to request a solicitor to represent you in court. **Some family law matters may be around separation and divorce and once you are assessed you are then placed on a waiting list.**

The Legal Aid Board normally requires individuals to attend a mediation information session where there are dependent children involved in any proceedings. However, when there is a history of domestic violence this attendance is NOT required.

In relation to domestic violence, a client is given priority specifically where they have applied for one of the legal orders. In West Cork, a client can obtain a *Protection Order* and the proceedings for a *Safety / Barring Order* can be listed within two weeks. If they receive an *Interim Barring Order*, then the case has to be heard within eight working days. In these situations, it is important to have all available details to send with the Legal Aid application form in order to avoid delay. These applications can be made by calling into or phoning one of the centres and they will assist you with the application process or by going online. An application form can be downloaded from the Legal Aid Board website (www.legalaidboard.ie/en/Our-Services/Legal-Aid-Services/Application-For-Legal-Services-Form-October-2014.pdf). An information leaflet is available in the same section as to how to complete the form. This application form assesses one's financial eligibility for Legal aid services. You will be asked to complete a section about your financial income, outgoings, any savings or property that you may own.

It is strongly advised NOT to send original documents only photocopies. The following will need to be included with your application form:

- A copy of any court proceeding s made in the last twelve months related to the case.
- A recent payslip (if you work); a recent social welfare receipt (or letter from social welfare department if you don't receive a receipt) or if you are self-employed, you will need to provide your most recent Notice of Assessment from Revenue.
- Photo ID will be required in the form of a photocopy of a passport, driving license or social services card.
- Proof of address will be required - usually a copy of a household bill.

The Legal Aid service is NOT free. Once you have been assessed and if granted legal aid, you will be asked to submit a minimum contribution of €130. This figure can vary depending on your financial status. The Legal Aid Board has a panel of solicitors and may offer you a solicitor who is available or may send you a list of private solicitors who are on their panel and ask that you choose from two on the list. You will then be allocated one of these solicitors.

West Cork Women can assist you in completing the application for Legal Aid and you can contact one of our support workers at short notice. We also provide court preparation and court accompaniment.

Legal Aid Board, North Quay House, Popes Quay, Cork T23 HV26 Tel: 021 455 1686

South Mall Law Centre, 1A South Mall, Cork T12 R7WC Tel: (021) 4275 998

The Caha Family Resource Centre

will host a Coffee Morning and workshop

in Adrigole, on Wednesday 8th March at 11am

to celebrate International Women's day.

This gathering will offer refreshments, and the Happier workshop, details below. Booking is essential on 02760909

Want to be happier?

Change your life and be happier workshop

This is a practical, empowering session, incorporating a number of happiness strategies and exercises in new ways of thinking that will help you take your happiness into your own hands

On March 8th - International Women's Day, **STRIKE FOR REPEAL** is calling for all those who want to see the Eighth Amendment repealed, to go on strike.

The Eighth Amendment, inserted into the Irish Constitution in 1983, equates the life of a pregnant woman with the life of a foetus, and limits abortion in Ireland solely to circumstances where a *'real and substantial risk'* to the life of the mother exists. The impact of Ireland's abortion laws and the Eighth Amendment have been far-reaching. The Eighth Amendment affects maternal and pregnancy rights. It prevents those carrying fetuses with fatal abnormalities from accessing

terminations. It has resulted in the deaths of women like Savita Halappanavar in Ireland despite the very real medical emergency she faced as a pregnant woman because a hospital did not wish to break a law that erases women's bodily integrity.

It forces those who wish to access abortions to travel overseas (if they have the financial means and ability) or face a 14 year jail sentence for importing and taking medical abortion pills in Ireland.

Despite the fact that opinion polls indicate that a significant majority of the Irish population are in favour of repealing the Eighth Amendment, current and previous Governments appear unwilling to touch the issue. This government has set up a Citizens Assembly of 99 people

to discuss and recommend on the issue as a means of deferring action. The Repeal Campaign's response is *"why ask 99 people their views when you could ask the whole country"*. The Campaign has been calling for a referendum to **Repeal the 8th**.

On March 8th- International Women's Day, **STRIKE FOR REPEAL** is calling for all those who want to see the Eighth Amendment repealed, to go on strike. This is a non-traditional form of strike, people are being asked to do what they can; take the day off if it's possible, wear black to support the campaign, forego doing domestic chores.



For more information on the Repeal campaign: <http://www.repeal.ie/> and on Strike for Repeal <http://www.abortionrightscampaign.ie/2017/01/30/strike-4-repeal/>

a Woman knows by Intuition or Instinct what is best for Herself"

Because we're Women by Joyce Stevens, 1975

Because women's work is never done and is underpaid or unpaid or boring or repetitious 🍷 and we're the first to get the sack 🍷 and what we look like is more important than what we do 🍷 and if we get raped it's our fault 🍷 and if we get bashed we must have provoked it 🍷 and if we raise our voices we're nagging bitches 🍷 and if we enjoy sex we're nymphos 🍷 and if we don't we're frigid 🍷 and if we love women it's because we can't get a 'real' man 🍷 and if we ask our doctor too many questions we're neurotic and pushy 🍷 and if we expect community care for children we're selfish • and if we stand up for our rights we're aggressive and 'unfeminine' 🍷 and if we don't we're typical weak females 🍷 and if we want to get married we're out to trap a man 🍷 and if we don't we're unnatural 🍷 and because we still can't get an adequate safe contraceptive but men can walk on the moon 🍷 and if we can't cope or don't want a pregnancy we're made to feel guilty about abortion 🍷 and for lots and lots of other reasons we are part of the women's liberation movement.

cork

West Cork Women Against Violence
Freephone 1800 203 136

Cuanlee Refuge, Cork
021 427 7698

Free Legal Aid Clinic
Locall 1890 350 259
Information and referral

IRD Duhallow Domestic Violence Support
Helpline 087 7733 337
from Monday to Saturday 10am - 10 pm or
office at 029 60633

Legal Aid Board, Cork
021 455 1686 / 021 427 5998

Mná Feasa (Domestic Violence Project)
021 421 1757

OSS, Cork Freephone 1800 497 497
(Domestic Violence Resource Centre for men
and women)

S.A.T.U. 021 492 6100

Sexual Violence Centre
Freephone 1800 496 496

Domestic Violence Social Work
021 492 1728

Y.A.N.A. North Cork
022 53915

kerry

**Kerry's Women's refuge and Support
Services (Adapt)** 066 712 9100

Kerry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre
Freephone 1800 633 333

Legal Aid Board 066 712 6900

Tralee Women's Resource Centre
066 712 0622

national

Women's Aid Freephone 1800 341 900

West Cork Citizens' Information Service

West Cork Citizens' Information Service can provide you with information, advocacy and advice on all your rights and entitlements. The service is free, confidential and independent. Open daily, please call for times.

Bantry The Square, 076 107 8390
Daily from 10am - 5pm
(Fridays until 4pm, closed 1pm-2pm Mon,
Tues & Thurs)

Macroom South Square Macroom,
0761 078 430
Mon, Tues, Weds, Thursday (Closed Friday)

Bandon, c/o St Michael Centre,
South Main Street, Bandon
Every Thursday from
10am - 1pm & 2pm- 4pm

Dunmanway, Ross House, The Square,
Dunmanway Every Monday 10am-1pm

Clonakilty, c/o Employability Service,
16 Rossa Street, Clonakilty
Every Wednesday from
10am - 1pm & 2pm- 4pm

Free Legal Aid Clinic Monthly
on 1st Tuesday 6pm - 7pm
For an appointment please contact West
Cork Citizens' Information Service by either
dropping in or phoning 076 107 8390.

FREEPHONE:
1800 203 136

Tuesday: from 10am to 4pm

Other weekdays: Helpline
is covered 10am to 4pm
whenever possible

Office: 027 53847 -
Mon to Fri: 9 am to 5.30 pm

CONFIDENTIALITY West Cork Women's Project assures all women contacting us that four core values underpin our service:

- Confidentiality
- To be listened to
- To be believed
- Respect for her choice

Speaking to someone, perhaps for the first time, about experiencing violence or abuse in the home is never easy. Placing your trust in a stranger on the end of a phone or meeting someone for the first time face to face takes courage. These first stages of seeking support can be a time of stress and fear for women. It

is important that women understand that they have the right to remain anonymous when contacting the service. If a woman is comfortable with giving identifying details, these details are not passed on to any other agency except at her request.

There are two exceptions to confidentiality:

- If a disclosure raises concerns with regard to Child Protection issues
- If a woman discloses that she intends to harm another person.

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