

2018-19: A YEAR IN NUMBERS



654 women & **421** children stayed in refuge



6,308 women & **5,966** children accessed outreach support, allowing them to stay in their own homes



10 babies born to women in refuge



381 women couldn't access refuge as it was full



Pregnant women who accessed our support services:

Refuge: **49** women

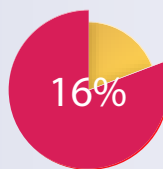
Outreach: **159** women

1.6%

In 2018-19, only **1.6% of rapes** where charges were brought resulted in a conviction of rape



Police responded to a domestic incident every **17 minutes** of every day



Domestic violence crime accounted for **16% of all crime** reported to the PSNI



Women murdered with domestic motivation: **4**

“I think all children should get the chance to do Helping Hands because it goes through everything you need to know and it helps you talk about things better.”

“I have better knowledge of domestic abuse and how to carry out the ambassador role. Training facilitators were excellent and extremely knowledgeable. The course helped me to develop an awareness of domestic abuse and how to help survivors find the correct support.”

“Women's Aid has shown me that it wasn't my fault the relationship broke down and I wasn't the only person this was happening to. It can happen to anybody, young, middle aged or old. I am glad to be free and I have a voice. I met new friends and I can do anything I want and I feel like a new woman.”

Breaking Free: Support for all Women

Anyone can experience domestic violence, regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or background. Women's Aid works to support all women.

Black & Minority Ethnic Women

134 women stayed in refuge
374 women received outreach support
24 women from the Travelling community supported in refuge
42 women & **44** children with no recourse to public funds supported in refuge

Disability & Complex Needs

406 women in refuge and **2, 151** women in our outreach services identified as having a disability or additional support needs

Support at every stage of life

7% of women in our services were over 55
18% of women in our services were under 25

Who are the abusers?

Women in refuge

45% male current partner
40% male ex-partner
1% same-sex partner
6% family member
2% Child/Adult Child
6% other

Women in Outreach

31% male current partner
62% male ex-partner
0% same-sex partner
2% family member
3% Child/Adult Child
2% other

Children & Domestic Violence

Domestic violence impacts on all areas of children's lives, including their health, education, social activities and relationships. Women's Aid recognises that domestic violence is an adverse childhood experience and every child/young person's experience is different. Children and young people who experience domestic violence are experts by experience and we must therefore listen to their experiences and take action to safeguard them from harm.



In 2018-19...

421 children stayed in our refuges
5,966 children benefited from our outreach support
We held **4,495** one-to-one support sessions with children in Women's Aid refuges, centres and in the community
11,294 children were engaged in Women's Aid Programmes delivered in schools and in the community

We ran **963** childcare and play sessions for **496** children, to support mothers in getting their lives back on track after abuse

We trained **671** external agency staff on the impact of domestic violence on children

Our staff attended **782** case conferences, core and case planning meetings, and other inter-agency meetings with a focus on children

Keeping Children & Young People Safe

Preventative education

Our innovative *Helping Hands* programme helps children understand the warning signs of abuse, and know who to turn to for support. We are in our **ninth** year of the *Developing Social Guardians to Deliver Helping Hands* Teacher Training programme, training teachers to deliver the *Helping Hands* programme in their classrooms and build their capacity to manage safeguarding issues that arise.



Teachers trained this year:

161 teachers from
102 primary schools

Teachers trained to date:

1,445 teachers from
582 primary schools

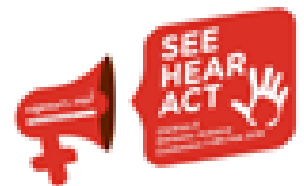
Training spaces for 2019-20:

160 teachers

See, Hear, Act!

This was an exciting and progressive year for children and young people's services across Women's Aid NI as we launched our innovative 10-year strategy for children and young people, **See, Hear, Act.** The strategy is the result of extensive consultation with 60 children and young people engaged in Women's Aid services across Northern Ireland and children's services staff from all Women's Aid groups.

The **See, Hear, Act** strategy was officially launched on 7th February 2019 in the Long Gallery, Stormont Parliament Buildings and formed part of our ongoing efforts to create a movement of change for children and young people affected by domestic violence and abuse. The strategy sets out a strategic vision and includes children and young people's ideas for service development and delivery. It highlights the important role Women's Aid plays in building resilience and helping families to recover and move on from abuse in the home.



The launch was attended by over 100 representatives from the voluntary, community, statutory and public sectors and speakers included Koulla Yiasouma, NI Commissioner for Children and Young People and Luke and Ryan Hart (Authors of Remembered Forever). The event shone a light on children's voices and children and young people's services staff (our Women's Aid superheroes!) from across Women's Aid NI delivered a powerful drama performance, **999**, which showcased **9 Women's Aid groups, 9 Children's Services Staff and 9 children's voices.**

The 3-year regional Children in Need funding which made all these wonderful developments (and many more) possible, came to an end in this year. WAFNI would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Children in Need for this wonderful opportunity, which allowed us to develop and celebrate our services for children and young people.



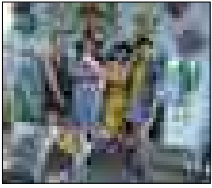
Women's Aid's Work Across Northern Ireland

The 9 local Women's Aid groups have done incredible work across Northern Ireland this year. Here are a few of their highlights.



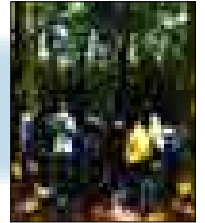
Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey Women's Aid **Family First Project** provides early intervention to address the consequences of domestic abuse. The project builds on mums' strengths and enables them to keep their children safe within their care. To date the project has prevented 150 children from going into care.

Women's Aid Armagh Down achieved an **Investors in People Silver Award**. Our award shows the high level of investment WAAD make in the professional and personal development of staff



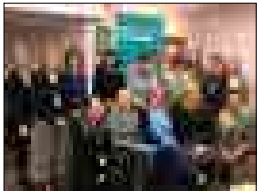
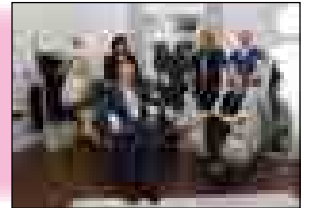
This summer we saw the opening of Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid's **Nurture Garden** with thanks to Grow Wild NI and with the help of The Conservation Volunteers. The project was titled 'They didn't know we were seeds'.

Causeway Women's Aid took their Causeway Women's Aid **Youth Forum** to Garvagh Forest School.



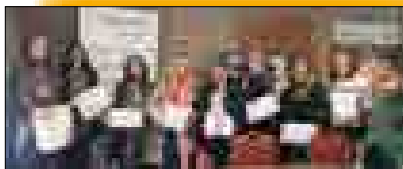
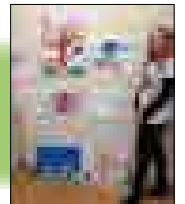
Fermanagh Women's Aid delivered OCN Level 2 in Domestic Violence Awareness to **67 PSNI Officers** in Co. Fermanagh. Since this training, we have seen an increase in positive interactions and engagement from our service users with the police and an increase in referrals from the police to FWA (48% increase from 2017/2018).

Foyle Women's Aid established **Dress for Success™ Foyle** supported by retailer Marks & Spencer through donation of professional attire, stylist training and the set-up of the boutique. "Dress for Success changes lives; it's as simple as that. We are about much more than just suits – we empower women to thrive in work and in life," says Joi Gordon, CEO of Dress for Success Worldwide.



The staff and volunteers at Mid-Ulster Women's Aid celebrated **International Women's Day** with a lunch in their resource centre.

North Down & Ards Women's Aid received a request to deliver an **awareness raising session** to the Radiography Department at the Ulster Hospital. The session was so well received that the same awareness raising sessions were subsequently requested for the Emergency Department staff.



Omagh Women's Aid delivered **Effective Communication Skills for Developing Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands** to 18 teachers in the local area. The project assists teachers to develop preventative and early intervention strategies in relation to children who do not feel safe, enables teachers to deliver the Helping Hands Programme linked to the curriculum and gives them an understanding of the context and impact of domestic violence in the lives of children and their families.

Empowering Women, Rebuilding Lives

Domestic violence robs women of their liberty, self-esteem and control over their lives. Women's Aid supports women in their recovery from abuse through a wide range of personal development programmes, covering topics like self-care, mental health, trauma recovery, safety, parenting, and employment and life skills

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Journey to Freedom is a personal development group process for women who have experienced (or who continue to experience) domestic violence.

This year **645 women** took part in the programme.



YOU & ME, MUM

The You & Me Mum programme is designed to empower and support mothers to address the needs of their children who have lived with domestic violence.

This year, **59 women** took part in the programme.



1,476 women took part in programmes run by Women's Aid across Northern Ireland

Change that Lasts – Ask Me Community Ambassador Programme

WAFNI is developing the **Change That Lasts - Ask Me** Community Ambassador Programme in partnership with Mid- Ulster Women's Aid. Ask Me is a joint Federation project between the national Women's Aid organisations, developed and piloted in England and Wales, and it has now been rolled out to Scotland and Northern Ireland. The project involves training members of the community who will break the silence around domestic violence, raise awareness and sign-post survivors to specialist services. A significant part of

training and overall purpose of ambassadors is to reduce victim blaming within community and share the information that they have learned. We are excited to be part of a UK wide programme of change, breaking the silence about domestic abuse engaging ambassadors from a variety of backgrounds committed to creating a society where violence against women is no longer tolerated.



Policy, Campaigns & Lobbying

This year WAFNI has continued to lobby on a range of issues related to domestic violence, including **welfare reform**, cross-examination of victims in **family courts** and **coercive control**. We were part of the very successful representatives from Northern Ireland's women's sector who gave evidence to the **CEDAW committee** which influenced their concluding observations for the United Kingdom. Their success can be measured by how focused the concluding observations are on women's rights in NI. It was announced earlier in the year that, given that we are without a sitting assembly, part of the **Domestic Abuse Bill** would be extended to NI to legislate for coercive control. Incidents of domestic violence recorded by the PSNI are the highest since records began, it is imperative that NI has robust laws in place to protect victims of domestic violence. In absence of a functioning assembly, WAFNI will continue to lobby for these laws, however, we stress the importance of having a functioning government to facilitate this.

24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

This year, the 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline, which WAFNI had managed for the past 24 years was put out to tender which was subsequently secured by Nexus NI. The last five months of the year were dedicated to the transfer of this vital service. Engagement was put in place with funders and the new service provider to ensure all operational knowledge and aspects of the extensive service were shared. This also involved the transfer of the freephone number, to ensure continuity of service for all victims of domestic and sexual violence. The culmination of all this work resulted in the transfer of the service on Sunday 31st March 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

Women's Aid information

Women's Aid has 9 local groups and one regional umbrella body covering the whole of Northern Ireland. Find a Women's Aid group in your area:



1. Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey Women's Aid	reception@womensaidabcln.org	028 2563 2136
2. Armaghdown Women's Aid	admin@womensaidargmaghdown.org	028 3025 0765
3. Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid	admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk	028 9066 6049
4. Causeway Women's Aid	womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com	028 7035 6573
5. Fermanagh Women's Aid	womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com	028 6632 8898
6. Foyle Women's Aid	info@foylewomensaid.org	028 7141 6800
7. Mid-Ulster Women's Aid	admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk	028 8676 9300
8. North Down & Ards Women's Aid	info@ndawomensaid.org	028 9127 3196
9. Omagh Women's Aid	info@omaghwomensaid.org	028 8224 1414
10. Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	info@womensaidni.org	028 9024 9041

With thanks to our funders:

