

Respect

**Stopping the Harm:
A Strategy for Change**

2023–2028

Our vision

We want a world where everyone is free from domestic abuse. Where it is never ok to control, harm or cause fear. Where those who perpetrate domestic abuse are stopped, held to account and given the chance to change.

Our focus

Respect was founded to focus on perpetrators of domestic abuse and this, including our vital work with young people who cause harm, remains our key priority. Our work with male victims will continue as an important, distinct, project.

Our mission

We work with our members, partners and allies to stop the harms done by those who perpetrate domestic abuse. With innovative practice, robust research and quality data, we build evidence of what works, promote safe, effective practice and drive high standards. We use our voice, in collaboration with others, to call for a response to domestic abuse that matches the scale of the problem. We will not stop, until domestic abuse stops.

Our values

Pioneering

We explore innovative ideas and develop new approaches with curiosity and rigour.

Collaborative

We work in partnership with our members, partners and allies to bring about individual, societal and systems change.

Accountable

We listen to survivors and centre their needs in our work. We hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour and hold ourselves and our members accountable for ours.

Respectful

We live up to our name. We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. We are honest, compassionate and boldly challenge injustice.

Background

Despite a welcome recent increase in focus, the current government response to the perpetration of domestic abuse falls considerably short. The Home Office perpetrator fund of £36 million over two years (2023-2025) is an important step, but in the face of a problem which costs £78 billion a year in England and Wales, it barely scratches the surface.

Despite our longstanding commitment, specialist responses to perpetrators across the UK are alarmingly piecemeal with some areas of the country with no or scant provision and hardly any services tailored to meet the needs of those from marginalised or minoritised groups. There is also a particular gap in meeting the needs of children and young people who cause harm.

All statutory agencies – from policing, probation and the courts, to health services, children’s social care and housing and many others too – have a responsibility to respond to perpetrators to prevent them causing further harm as part of a comprehensive multi-agency approach. However, most statutory agency responses are insufficient, un-strategic, ineffective and frequently dangerous. Systems change is desperately needed.

Social tolerance of domestic abuse remains persistently high. A large-scale shift in social attitudes and behaviours is required alongside changes in funding, systems and service provision. This a huge undertaking, and there is currently very little social change work happening regarding perpetration of domestic abuse, or men’s violence against women.

To get anywhere close to the goal of ending domestic abuse, there needs to be a radical transformation in ambition and scale, with funding and action which matches the size of the problem. All government departments and statutory agencies must fully play their part to ensure that every perpetrator is stopped, held to account and given the chance to change.

We are proud to lead a sector that learns, develops and breaks new ground. There are huge opportunities ahead, to harness collective learning, to bring projects to scale, to build beyond traditional partnerships, and to use our voice alongside the voices of others to call for a radical shift in political will and approach, towards an end to the perpetration of domestic abuse.



Outcomes

To end the perpetration of domestic abuse we need:

1

A comprehensive range of specialist perpetrator responses in every local area

The specialist sector is supported to develop and deliver models, programmes and responses which:

- prioritise the safety, needs and wellbeing of survivors (adults and children)
- address all perpetrators, accounting for the different levels of risk they pose, their willingness to change, their intersecting characteristics and needs
- adhere to rigorous quality assurance standards to ensure they are safe and effective
- are both underpinned by, and inform and influence, a robust and universally accepted evidence base with comprehensive data collection and analysis
- have a well-supported, well-resourced expert workforce
- run alongside specialist services for survivors (adults and children)
- are part of a coordinated whole system approach

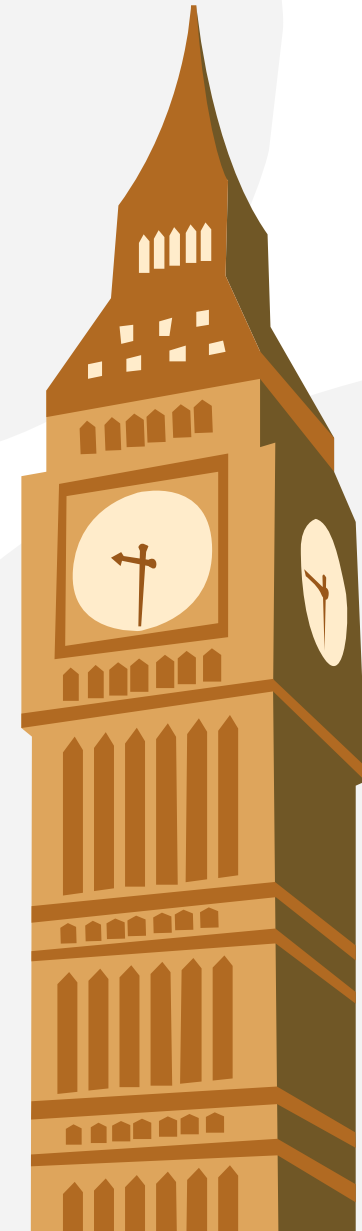


2

A state response to the perpetration of domestic abuse which reflects the scale, nature and urgency of the problem

To get anywhere close to the goal of ending domestic abuse, all government departments and statutory agencies must fully play their part:

- Decision-makers in national and local government recognise that the perpetration of domestic abuse is a key issue of social justice, public health, human rights and equalities, and make it a central priority for public policy, strategy and planning
- There is a radical shift in ambition and scale, with funding which matches the size of the problem both for the specialist voluntary sector and statutory service responses
- Statutory services understand domestic abuse, have a well-trained, well-supported workforce and the systems, programmes and quality assurance processes to deliver nuanced approaches that understand the needs of local diverse communities.
- Policy, funding and practice is informed by robust evidence, data and analysis, and by the experiences of survivors and specialist organisations



3

A wholesale shift in social attitudes leading to a reduction in domestic abuse

Alongside services and state response, a shift in the public's attitudes and behaviours is vital to address the underlying causes of domestic abuse.

- People (the general public) understand who is responsible for domestic abuse, what underpins its perpetration and what they can do to stop it
- Systems of oppression and the power imbalances that underpin domestic abuse are dismantled
- Attitude change and widespread intolerance of domestic abuse leads to a shift in behaviour



Our new strategic priorities

1

A Centre for Excellence

We will create a Centre for Excellence, which brings together practice and research evidence and expertise to create a step-change in understanding what works to end the perpetration of domestic abuse.

The Centre for Excellence will be a high-profile, flagship project, developing partnerships in research and practice with a wide community of stakeholders – from employers to universities and thinktanks to local authorities and government departments. It will build on our position as the go-to organisation on the perpetration of domestic abuse and will lead to improved practice in innovation, development and provision of high-quality perpetrator responses across the UK.

2

Influence for Systemic Change

We will build an ambitious influence programme that will push for radical change in policy-making, commissioning and the funding of specialist and statutory services. We are committed to improving the state response, and growing the political will to bring about profound and lasting change.

Bringing together evidence and best practice from our Centre for Excellence together with the policy analysis and expertise of our Influence team, we will speak out clearly and boldly, using our voice and amplifying that of our members, partners and allies, until the response to the perpetration of domestic abuse matches the scale of the problem.

Working in collaboration with those who share our passion and convictions, we will be ambitious as we call for an end to domestic abuse, and the systems change needed to stop its perpetration. We will ensure that the voices of survivors are central to our call for change.

Our approach

How we work is as important as what we do. The following fundamental ways of working will guide our delivery of this strategy.



Fundraising, business development and sustainability

Respect has seen rapid and sizeable growth over the last 5 years, particularly in the development and implementation of projects and services. The sustainability of our central work, including our influencing work, and our work to support the sector, has been more difficult to secure. We have struggled with this for years, and it's holding us back. We know that to address it we need a different approach with a laser-sharp focus on income generation.



Equity, diversity and inclusion

We are ambitious about actively embedding the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion in all areas of our work. We were founded to address the injustice of domestic abuse, and the deep inequalities that underpin it. The impacts of inequality intersect, shaping how individuals experience abuse, how they perpetrate abuse and their experience of accessing appropriate services. It is a fundamental requirement of us, as a domestic abuse organisation, that we recognise and address power and privilege, both within our work and our staff and trustee groups. We are committed to listening, learning, challenging ourselves and improving our practice to bring about genuine change.



People and culture

We are fortunate to have a brilliant team of talented, experienced, passionate people who work incredibly hard. They make Respect what it is, through all that they do and how they do it.

We are committed to nurturing a happy, healthy and productive workforce, building a culture rooted in our values, which attracts the best people and enables everyone to flourish and thrive.



Membership at the heart of our approach

As a membership organisation we are driven by our members and we also lead and support them. At the heart of our role is the knowledge that collectively we're stronger. We speak with and on behalf of our members. We challenge them and hold them to account, and they also challenge us and hold us to account.

We are aware of the complexity of our role and relationship to our members. This hasn't changed since Respect was formed and we continue to hold these multiple facets of our reciprocal role in balance, consciously and carefully. We strive to be ethical, transparent and accountable in our approach. We seek opportunities to collaborate with members in all that we do, and in particular as we develop and deliver this new strategy.



Coordinated action built on solid relationships

We know that we cannot achieve our vision on our own – the scale of the problem is too great for one organisation alone to solve. It requires coordinated action across society, with everyone – specialist service providers, statutory agencies, policy makers, funders and commissioners, community groups and many others – working together. We will build on our relationships and networks, forging new partnerships with a wider range of stakeholders within and beyond the domestic abuse sector, working together to create a world where everyone is free from domestic abuse.

Respect

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www.respect.uk.net

info@respect.org.uk

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Registered address: VAI Second Floor, 200a Pentonville Road, London N1 9JP