

## Domestic Abuse Progress in Ireland in 2022

The **Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill 2020** is now in operation Northern Ireland. Justice Minister Naomi Long also

- announced the first ever Adult Restorative Justice Strategy for Northern Ireland.
- commenced a waiver of the legal aid financial eligibility test for victims of domestic abuse who need to respond to an application by their abuser.

**Summer 2022** The **Istanbul Treaty** was ratified by the UK, disappointingly migrant women were not catered for and still have no recourse to public funding.

### A New Single Ministry in Rol

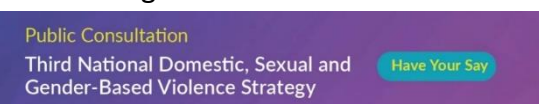
Following the death of Ashling Murphy, Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, made the welcome announcement that **policy and services** for Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence **will now reside within one single ministry**, with oversight from the Department of the Taoiseach. The government is also pushing ahead to introduce legislation to make **stalking** an offence.

### February 2022

**Consultation on the development of a new NI Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy and the new Equally Safe Strategy – a Strategy to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls.**

A document was prepared and forwarded to All-Ireland Trustees and to CASC, who looked at the MU response with a view to submitting an endorsement of it, as a Church of Ireland response.

Overall, the group recommended one overarching inclusive strategy under the remit of one government department to take overall charge of domestic abuse, including the particular issue of violence against women.



(Republic of Ireland)

### ROI New Domestic Sexual & Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) Strategy 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

MU responded to this online consultation in June 2021. In June 2022 the Irish government launched a *Zero Tolerance strategy to tackle domestic, sexual and gender-based violence*. It is a 5 year plan drawing on the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention, ratified by Ireland in 2019 – **protection, prevention, prosecution and policy coordination**. The plan includes tougher penalties, a doubling of refuge places, and will take a 'zero tolerance' approach.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2022/0628/1307208-domestic-violence/>

### Safe Space Initiative in Republic of Ireland 1st July 2022

Pharmacies launched a 'Safe Space' initiative in partnership with Safe Ireland, which allows domestic abuse victims a private space to access free, confidential support and advice, and to contact specialist domestic abuse services across the country.

A similar *Ask for ANI* scheme operates in pharmacies in Northern Ireland allowing those at risk or suffering from abuse to discreetly signal that they need help and access support.

### Parental Alienation Rol

[Women's Aid raises concern about lack of understanding about impact of coercive control on children \(irishexaminer.com\)](#) Article written WA concerns in the wake of the Department of Justice consultation process on [parental alienation](#). 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### The cost of living is preventing women from fleeing domestic abuse

[The cost of living - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](#)

1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

**Rape cases reported to Gardaí up 23% on 2021** - *The latest figures also showed an 11 per cent increase on 2019 figures.* 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

[Rape cases reported to Gardaí up 23% on 2021 \(breakingnews.ie\)](https://www.breakingnews.ie)

**Safe Ireland Welcomes New Legislation to Address Violence against Women** 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
Safe Ireland welcomed the announcement by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee, to introduce new legislation which will criminalise stalking and non-fatal strangulation and increase sentencing for assault causing harm. [Press Releases Archives - Safe Ireland](#)

**Roi Urgent action needed to tackle crisis in the private rental sector** 8th August 2022  
At the end of July, the Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien released the June homeless figures. In June 10,492 people, including 3,071 children, were in the Dept. of Housing-funded emergency accommodation.

**DDVS Barring orders advised for domestic abuse victims** 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
*Donegal Domestic Abuse Services* are urging women to seek barring orders against their abusers instead of fleeing their home because of the accommodation crisis. Like other domestic abuse services, it has seen a year on year rise in the number of families it is supporting.

**PSNI - first Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Action Plan.** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
During lockdown, a dozen women in Northern Ireland were murdered in domestic incidents. Between 2017 and 2021, 34 women and girls across Northern Ireland were killed by men. From April 2021 to March 2022, in Nol, women/girls made up 78% of all victims of sexual crimes, 68% of domestic abuse, 64% of harassment and, as of April 2022, 95% of stalking crimes.

*The PSNI strategy centres on three key pillars:*

- Building trust and confidence in policing to tackling violence against women and girls
- Relentlessly pursuing perpetrators of violence and supporting victims
- Creating safer spaces for women and girls

[PSNI launches first action plan to tackle violence against women and girls - BelfastTelegraph.co.uk](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk)

The '**Dublin Declaration**' on domestic violence, targets the systemic causes of gender-based violence. Ministers and representatives from nations across the Council of Europe met in Dublin (October 2022) to discuss changing social norms to tackle violence against women, changing the behaviour of men who have been violent and training professionals to work with victims or perpetrators. ***The Dublin Declaration on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence*** was adopted at the end of the conference, with ***38 countries of the 46 in attendance supporting the Declaration.***

**Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

*1 John 3:18*