



Gender Based Violence

Information for people (adults) from abroad who have experienced human trafficking and/or exploitation, on your rights and support in Scotland.

Have you experienced human trafficking or exploitation?

Being trafficked or exploited can have a long-term impact on you and affect many parts of your life. You may also find it difficult to adjust to living in a new country or place. But you are not alone. There is help for you to start recovering from your experiences and help you settle into your new life.

JustRight Scotland can give you advice and information on any of the issues discussed in this factsheet connected to your trafficking and/or exploitation.

You can find us at:

bit.ly/JustRightScotland

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

'Gender based violence' is used to describe crimes such as trafficking, rape, domestic abuse, stalking, and forced marriage that are mostly carried out by men against women, or because of women's position in society. It is a sign of the past and present inequalities of power between men and women.

There are many ways in which gender based violence can cause harm. It can be physical, financial, emotional, sexual, or cause harm and suffering in other ways.

This factsheet gives general information on some of the crimes described as gender based violence and who you can contact for information and help.

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Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a crime in Scotland. This means that a person who carries out a pattern of abusive behaviour toward a partner or ex-partner can be prosecuted and punished by the law.

Domestic abuse can include physical, sexual, emotional or psychological (mental) abuse carried out by a partner or ex-partner.

It does not matter if you live together or not. A partner can be a boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife, civil partner or anyone in an intimate relationship. They can be living in the same house/flat or in a separate house.

Domestic abuse can include 'coercive controlling behaviour' for example, isolating you from family and friends, monitoring what you do, controlling your money and/or activities, frightening, humiliating or degrading you.

The law can also protect victims even if all or part of the abuse happened abroad. You can report the abuse to the police and the abuser can face prosecution in Scotland.

Rape and Sexual Crimes

Any sexual activity you did not consent to is a crime. The law in Scotland covers a range of crimes that are considered to be sexual crimes, including rape, attempted rape, child sexual abuse, communicating indecently, and sexual exposure.

Stalking

Stalking is a crime in Scotland. Stalking is where any person engages in a course of conduct that puts another person in a state of fear or alarm. There is a whole range of behaviours that can be seen as stalking and can include sending unwanted phone, text or email messages; cyber bullying on social media; following or loitering and verbal abuse.

Image-based Abuse

Image-based abuse is a crime in Scotland. This means that if someone shares, or threatens to share, photographs or videos which show, or appear to show, you in an intimate situation, without your consent, they are committing a crime.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation or FGM is a procedure where female genitals are deliberately cut, injured, or changed without any medical reason. It is also known by other names such as female circumcision, cutting, initiation or rites of passage.

FGM is a crime in the UK including Scotland. It is very painful and can seriously harm the health of women and girls. It can also cause long-term problems with physical and mental health. All women and girls have the right to control what happens to their bodies including the right to say no to FGM.

If you have had FGM and need help and advice, you can get help from specialist doctors. Ask your GP, midwife or other healthcare professionals about help where you live.

Forced Marriage

Forcing someone into marriage is a crime in Scotland. Forced marriage is one in which one or both parties do not consent to the marriage (or cannot consent due to their age or because they do not have mental capacity to consent) and where coercion is involved. Coercion can include pressure, deception, threats, blackmail and harassment. Forced marriages can take place in the UK, but sometimes people are taken abroad for the marriage ceremony. Forced marriage is different from arranged marriage where both parties are happy to get married.



Forced marriage can be a form of trafficking and exploitation.

Everyone in Scotland who can marry or enter into a civil partnership has the right to do so freely and without physical, financial, sexual or emotional pressure.

OTHER ISSUES

You may have or may be experiencing abuse or harassment from your family, your partner or ex-partner's family, friends, or even your community. The law in Scotland may protect you from this behaviour. It is important to get specialist advice on what your options are.

WHO CAN HELP?

- ▶ **Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline:**
0808 2000 247
www.sdafmh.org.uk
- ▶ **Scottish Women's Aid:**
0800 027 1234
www.womensaid.scot
- ▶ **Rape Crisis Scotland:**
0808 801 0302
www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk
- ▶ **Scottish Women's Rights Centre:**
0808 801 0789
www.scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk
- ▶ **ASSIST:**
0141 276 7710
www.assistScotland.org.uk
- ▶ **Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre:**
0808 801 0301
www.mwrc.org.uk
- ▶ **Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid:**
0141 353 0859
(Specialising in support for Black and Minority Ethnic Women)
www.hematgryffe.org.uk/
- ▶ **Saheliya:**
0131 556 9302
www.saheliya.co.uk
- ▶ **Shakti Women's Aid:**
0131 475 2399
(Specialising in support for Black and Minority Ethnic women, children, and young people)
www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk
- ▶ **Galop – LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline:**
0800 999 5428
(For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans+ individuals)
www.galop.org.uk
- ▶ **National Stalking Helpline:**
0808 802 0300
www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/Category/national-stalking-helpline
- ▶ **Forced Marriage Unit:**
020 7008 0151
www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage
- ▶ **The NSPCC Female Genital Mutilation Helpline:**
0800 028 3550
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>
- ▶ **Aditi:**
0131 603 4865
(For Black and Asian women in Edinburgh affected by domestic abuse, FGM or 'honour' based violence)
www.sacro.org.uk/aditi



- ▶ **Women's Support Project:
Rights & Choices:**
0141 418 0748/ 07718493185
(For migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women in Glasgow who are socially isolated and/or have experienced violence)
www.womenssupportproject.co.uk
- ▶ **Ubuntu Women's Shelter:**
(For migrant women with No Recourse to Public Funds. Based in Glasgow)
Emergency Housing:
07570 877 817
Information/Support:
07543 491 900
www.ubuntu-glasgow.org.uk
- ▶ **Karma Nirvana:**
0800 5999 247
(For people at risk of, or affected by, honour-based violence and forced marriage)
www.karmanirvana.org.uk
- ▶ **Modern slavery helpline:**
08000 121 700
www.modernslaveryhelpline.org
- ▶ **Trauma Counselling Line Scotland:**
08088 02 04 06
(For people over 16 who have experienced childhood abuse)
- ▶ **Police Scotland:**
999 if it is an emergency.
If it is not an emergency, call 101

SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN SCOTLAND

Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA)

If you are a woman over 18 years old, who has been trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation you can get help and advice from:

- ▶ **TARA**
(Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance)
0141 276 7724
www.tarascotland.org.uk

Migrant Help

If you are a man over the age of 18 who has been trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation

or

if you are a man or woman over the age of 18 who has been trafficked and exploited through other forms of exploitation (e.g., forced labour, domestic servitude, forced criminality) you can get help and advice from:

- ▶ **Migrant Help**
0141 8847900
www.migranthehelpuk.org

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