



## Our Response to Covid-19

Updated 17 May 2021

Women and children suffering violence and abuse continue to face risks and barriers to access help. We are committed to our mission of saving and changing lives, by supporting women and girls who experience domestic abuse to be safe and change their lives, and those involved in or at risk of offending to break the cycle of harm to them and their families. Last year, over 6,000 women and their children were referred to our services for support.

With social distancing and government restrictions in place, as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak, many women and children faced increased risk of abuse and found accessing support even harder. In line with government advice and in response to this public health emergency, Advance and our partners across services have had to adapt the way we work, to ensure help continues to be available to every woman and child that need support.

### Do you need help?

Our **Domestic Abuse Helpline**, for those experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of gender violence are open and can be accessed as before. Our staff are now able to support you in person in our Women Centres and community settings, or online and by phone.

Find out how to get help at <http://advancecharity.org.uk/get-help/>

Open: Mon – Fri 10am-6pm  
Tel: 020 8741 7008  
Email: [angelou@advancecharity.org.uk](mailto:angelou@advancecharity.org.uk)

Our **Minerva Helpline** for women and girls involved in the criminal justice system is also open. We offer support to those who, recently or in the past, have had a conviction or caution, and need to access practical and emotional support. Our staff are now able to support you in person in our Women Centres and community settings, or online and by phone.

Find out how to get help at <http://advancecharity.org.uk/get-help/>

Open: Mon – Fri 9am-5pm  
Tel: 020 8563 2225  
Email: [minerva\\_admin@advancecharity.org.uk](mailto:minerva_admin@advancecharity.org.uk)



## **Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline**

Tel: 0808 2000 247

Email [www.NationalDomesticViolenceHelpline.org.uk](http://www.NationalDomesticViolenceHelpline.org.uk)

**In an emergency, call 999**

### **Our Women Centres and Groups**

Visit our three Women's Centres in West, North and East London; find out details by calling our Domestic Abuse Service at **020 8741 7008** and our Minerva Service at **020 8563 2225**.

We have had to adapt our Women Centres and Groups to ensure help continues to be available and women remain connected during this time, following Covid-safe protocols. We are holding a number of sessions in our Women's Centres and others are virtual sessions conducted in a safe, respectful, and confidential way, creating accessible service for women, both for the current circumstances and potentially the future.

For information please find our programme of activities here: <https://www.advancecharity.org.uk/womens-centres/>

### **Are you referring someone?**

If you are a professional, including the Police, Social Care, Housing, Health, Probation and other partner agencies, and are referring someone to our services, you can find details on how to contact us here <http://advancecharity.org.uk/get-help/>

### **Join us and support our work**

Do you believe in a world in which women and children lead safe, equal, violence-free lives so that they can flourish and actively contribute to society?

Please join us to help women and children to be safe; find out more about how your support will make change lives and make a donation here: <https://www.advancecharity.org.uk/donate/>

**For more information, please call our Head Office 020 3953 3111 Monday to Friday between 9am – 5pm** (closed on weekends and bank holidays).