

How to make a referral to the MIA Service

Referrals will be accepted from any agency and victims of domestic abuse may also self-refer via:

• info@miadundee.co.uk

• **01382 596100** (out of office hours please leave a message)

Please leave your name and a contact telephone number and a MIA worker will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

Helpful Numbers

Dundee Women's Aid – (open 9.30-4.30pm Mon-Fri) 01382 207099

Dundee City Council Homelessness Team (24 hours) – 01382 432001

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 Hours) – 0800 027 1234

Breathing Space (anyone feeling low, anxious or depressed) – 0800 838587

Scottish Women's Rights Centre (helpline Monday 2-5pm, Tuesday 6-8pm, Wednesday 11am-2pm, Friday 10am-1pm - 08088 010789)

Samaritans – 116 123

Police Scotland – 101

NHS 24 - 111

Believe in children
Barnardo's
Scotland

Barnados Registered Charity
Nos. 216250 and SC0037605



Dundee Women's Aid Registered Charity
Nos. SC124795 and SC0006691

We acknowledge the support of
Dundee City Council, Police Scotland
and the Scottish Government

MIA
Independent
Advocacy

*Multi-Agency
Independent Advocacy*

**Information for
assisting those
affected by
domestic abuse**



LOTTERY FUNDED

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic Abuse is a pattern of behaviour which can be; threatening, intimidating, controlling, coercive, degrading and/or violent behaviour, including sexual violence by a partner or ex-partner. Domestic abuse may be physical, emotional, psychological, financial or sexual. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, it does not discriminate. No one should be living in fear of another person. There is help available.

Victims may live with domestic abuse over many years, or may return to the abusive partner after leaving the relationship. Some victims may not realise that their relationship is abusive. Domestic abuse is a very complex issue and MIA accept moving on from an abusive relationship may often be a very distressing and difficult experience.

What is MIA?

MIA (Multi-Agency Independent Advocacy) is an independent domestic abuse advocacy service in Dundee which is a partnership between Barnardo's and Dundee Women's Aid. The service is funded by The Big Lottery Fund, Scottish Government and Dundee City Council.

We are committed to providing a high quality service if you have or are experiencing domestic abuse regardless of your gender, age, religion, marital status, responsibility for dependants, race, class, sexual orientation, disability or health issues.

Our work involves assessment of risk, safety planning and short term support to access services such as accompanying victims to speak with the police, housing, social work, health and other voluntary organisations.

What is Advocacy?

MIA's Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates will support victims to navigate the criminal justice system and assist with appropriate referral pathways.

- We listen to service users views and concerns and ensure that their voices are heard
- We help service users to explore their options and rights
- We give service users information to help them make informed decisions
- We help service users to contact relevant people and agencies or contact them on their behalf
- We accompany and assist service users in appointments and meetings
- We signpost to relevant support agencies where appropriate to do so.

MIA take a 'risk-led' approach – those most at risk of serious harm, due to domestic abuse should get urgent help.

MIA can:

- Complete a risk assessment
- Discuss relevant safety planning
- Explore options and choices
- Signpost and refer to relevant agencies
- Liaise with agencies on your behalf
- Attend MARAC to provide a voice on your behalf
- Provide short to medium term advocacy
- Securely store information in confidence within the limits of confidentiality

If MIA are working with a service user who we assess as high risk we may refer the person into MARAC. This stands for 'Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference'.

This is a confidential meeting where representatives from various agencies discuss the safety, health and well-being of high risk victims of domestic abuse. As a result of this meeting a co-ordinated plan may be implemented.

Representatives share and discuss relevant and proportionate information about the victim, including details about the perpetrator and any children who may be involved or connected to the situation. The purpose of MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim.