



Department of  
**Health**

# **LEAVING PROSTITUTION A PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT**

**Developed under Section 19 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation  
(Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015**

**July 2016**

## Introduction

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 ('the Act') came into operation in Northern Ireland on 14 January 2015. The objective of the Act is to provide Northern Ireland with a more robust legal framework in relation to:

- the prosecution of traffickers and those subjecting people in Northern Ireland to conditions of slavery;
- the provision of improved support for victims; and
- tackling the demand for the services of trafficked victims.

Section 19 of the Act requires the Department of Health, DoH, along with other Northern Ireland Government departments, to prepare and publish a Strategy that will outline the actions to be taken by departments to ensure that a Programme of Assistance and Support ('PAS') is in place for people who want to leave prostitution.

The Leaving Prostitution Strategy was published on 7 December 2015 and can be accessed on the Department's website.

<https://www.Health-ni.gov.uk/publications/leaving-prostitution-strategy-help-and-support>

The needs of those wishing to leave prostitution may be complex and require the services of a range of providers in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.

While some voluntary and community groups may have a role in signposting to other agencies, others will have a significant role in assisting and supporting those involved in prostitution to overcome the barriers they face in leaving prostitution.

The aim of this initial PAS is to connect those wishing to leave prostitution with the advice services and support they may require to allow them to do so.

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# HEALTH

People involved in prostitution may suffer from a range of health problems and the needs of every individual will differ. There may be concerns about how to access the appropriate health care services and, in order to address this, a range of contact details for these services are given below.



## **Health and Wellbeing**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/health-and-well-being>

## **People with Disabilities**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/people-disabilities>

## **Drug and Alcohol Directories of Services**

<http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/drug-and-alcohol-directories-services>

## **Mental Health Services**

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/health-and-well-being/mental-health/mental-health-services.htm>

## **Doctors, Dentists and other Health Services**

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/health-and-well-being/health-services/doctors-dentists-and-other-health-services.htm>

## **Sexual Health Contacts**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/genitourinary-medicine-gum-clinics>

## **Belfast Sex Workers Service**

- Tel: 07786338020

A Nurse led drop-in service every Thursday 6-10pm  
in Bryson House, Bedford St, Belfast, BT12 7FE

## **Sexual Reproductive Health Clinics**

### **Family Planning Association**

<http://www.fpa.org.uk>

- Tel: 0345 122 8687

### **Brook Centre (Under 25s)**

9-13 Waring Street, Belfast

- Tel: 028 9032 8866

20B Abbey Street, Coleraine

- Tel: 028 7034 2178

# FINANCE

It is understood that one of the main reasons for entering and remaining in prostitution is financial, such as: financing day to day living, education and debts. People wishing to leave prostitution need to be aware of the benefits available and how to access those benefits. A range of contact details for organisations offering financial support are given below.



## **Money, Tax and Benefits**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/money-tax-and-benefits>

## **Benefit Enquiry Line**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/node/628>

# HOUSING

The reduced income due to leaving prostitution could have a detrimental impact on an ability to pay mortgage or rent. In some circumstances, accommodation may be linked to prostitution and, therefore, if an individual decides to leave they may risk becoming homeless. If an individual requires access to housing services, the organisations listed below may be able to assist you.



## **Property and Housing**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/property-and-housing>

## **Homelessness**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/homelessness>

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Northern Ireland Housing Executive</b>       | - Tel: 0344 892 0900 |
| <b>First Housing Aid and Support Services</b>   | - Tel: 028 7126 6115 |
| <b>Multi-Disciplinary Homeless Support Team</b> | - Tel: 028 9033 0433 |
| <b>Simon Community</b>                          | - Tel: 0800 171 2222 |
| <b>Housing Rights</b>                           | - Tel: 028 9024 5640 |
| <b>Welcome Organisation</b>                     | - Tel: 028 9024 0424 |
| <b>Citrah Foundation</b>                        | - Tel: 028 9336 3188 |

# EMPLOYMENT / TRAINING

There are a number of ways people seek employment however getting back into learning and developing new skills may widen opportunities. If an individual requires assistance in gaining employment or training, the organisations listed below may assist.



## **Employment and Learning**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/returning-learning>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/education-learning-and-skills>

## **Jobs and Benefits**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/jobs-and-benefits-offices>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/finding-job>

# JUSTICE SYSTEM

Prostitution is not in itself a crime however, a small number of people involved in prostitution may become involved in the criminal justice system as a result of their chosen lifestyle.

The Inspire Women's Project provides a range of programmes tailored to meet the individual needs of female offenders, including those who may have also been involved in prostitution. The Inspire Women's Project has successfully developed this collaborative programme which links up with a range of other organisations such as the Women's Support Network and the Northern Ireland Association for Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (NIACRO).

## **Inspire Women's Project**

<http://www.pbni.org.uk/what-we-do/video-gallery/inspire-womens-project/>

## **Women's Support Network**

- Tel: 028 9023 6923

<http://www.wsn.org.uk>

## **NIACRO**

<http://www.niacro.co.uk/women%E2%80%99s-project>

## **PSNI**

PSNI Domestic Violence Officer

- Tel: Non-emergency 101

## **Victim Support NI**

Belfast Hub

[belfast@victimsupportni.org.uk](mailto:belfast@victimsupportni.org.uk)

- Tel: 028 9024 3133

<http://www.victimsupportni.co.uk/>

Foyle Hub

[foyle@victimsupportni.org.uk](mailto:foyle@victimsupportni.org.uk)

- Tel: 028 7137 0086



# DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

There are known links between prostitution and domestic and sexual violence e.g. where men and women control their partner and force them to engage in prostitution.

Victims of domestic violence and or sexual violence can access help and support through the contacts listed below.

## **Domestic Violence Contacts**

**Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline**  
(24 hour)

- Tel: 0808 802 1414

**PSNI Domestic Violence Officer**

- Tel: Non-emergency 101  
(Option 3)

## **Local Women's Aid Groups**

**Armagh-Down Women's Aid**

7 Downshire Place, Belfast Road  
Newry, BT34 1 DZ

[newrywomensaid@btconnect.com](mailto:newrywomensaid@btconnect.com)

- Tel: 028 3025 0765

**Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid**

30 Adelaide Park  
Belfast  
BT9 6FY

[admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk)

<http://www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk>

- Tel: 028 9066 6049

**Causeway Women's Aid**

23 Abbey Street  
Coleraine  
BT52 1DU

[communityservicesmanager@causewaywomensaid.org](mailto:communityservicesmanager@causewaywomensaid.org)

- Tel: 028 7035 6573

# DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## **Mid-Ulster Women's Aid**

27 Old Coagh Road

Cookstown

BT80 8QG

[admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk)

<http://www.midulsterwomensaid.org.uk>

- Tel: 028 8676 9300

## **Fermanagh Women's Aid**

Safe Hands Centre

19 Darling Street

Enniskillen

BT74 7DP

[womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com](mailto:womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com)

<http://www.fermanaghwomensaid.com>

- Tel: 028 6632 8898

## **Foyle Women's Aid**

Aftercare & Outreach Centre

Pathways, 24 Pump Street

Londonderry

BT48 6JG

[info@foylewomensaid.org](mailto:info@foylewomensaid.org)

<http://www.foylewomensaid.org>

- Tel: 028 7141 6800

## **North Down & Ards Women's Aid**

Bangor Resource Centre

18 Bingham Street

Bangor

BT20 5DW

[info@ndawomensaid.org](mailto:info@ndawomensaid.org)

<http://www.ndawomensaid.org>

- Tel: 028 9127 3196

## **Omagh Women's Aid**

27 Market Street

Omagh

BT78 1EL

[info@omaghwomensaid.org](mailto:info@omaghwomensaid.org)

<http://www.omaghwomensaid.org>

- Tel: 028 8224 1414

# DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus,  
Larne & Newtownabbey Women's Aid**

Naomi Centre  
2 Cullybackey Road  
Ballymena  
BT43 5DF

[womensaidadmin@btconnect.com](mailto:womensaidadmin@btconnect.com)  
<http://www.womens-aid.org.uk>

- Tel: 028 2563 2136

**Mens Advisory Project**

Belfast Office  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Glendinning House  
6 Murray Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 6DN

-Tel: 028 9024 1929

Foyle Office

- Tel: 028 7116 0001

[info@mapni.co.uk](mailto:info@mapni.co.uk)  
<http://www.mapni.co.uk>

**Sexual Violence Contacts**

**The Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

Antrim Area Hospital  
45 Bush Road  
Antrim  
BT41 2RL

- Tel: 028 9442 4340

[therowan@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:therowan@northerntrust.hscni.net)

The Rowan 24 hour Freephone Helpline  
(from landlines only)

- Tel: 0800 389 4424

**Directory of Services**

<http://therowan.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/nexus-directory.pdf>

# DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Nexus NI** -  
University Street  
Belfast  
BT7 1HP

- Tel: 028 9032 6803

Londonderry

- Tel: 028 7126 0566

Enniskillen

- Tel: 028 6632 0046

[info@nexusni.org](mailto:info@nexusni.org)

<http://www.nexusni.org>

# OUTREACH & DROP-IN SERVICES

Outreach and drop-in services can provide support to those who wish to leave prostitution, particularly street prostitution.

The Belfast Drop-in Service for Commercial Sex Workers at Bryson House provides specialist support for those involved in prostitution. The Service is staffed by an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and a Public Health Nurse and can help with a range of health protection and promotion needs, including sexual health. The service is confidential and includes sexual health advice, some testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and signposting to other services that may help anyone involved in prostitution.

Contact details for this service and local Women's Aid groups, which also provide outreach services, are detailed below.

## **Belfast Sex Workers Service**

A Nurse- led Drop in service.

- Tel: 07786338020

Every Thursday 6-10pm in Bryson House,  
Bedford St, Belfast

<http://www.setrust.hscni.net/services/3191.htm>

## **Armagh-Down Women's Aid**

- Tel: 028 3025 0765

[newrywomensaid@btconnect.com](mailto:newrywomensaid@btconnect.com)

## **Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid**

- Tel: 028 9066 6049

[admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk)

<http://www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk>

## **Causeway Women's Aid**

- Tel: 028 7035 6573

[communityservicesmanager@causewaywomensaid.org](mailto:communityservicesmanager@causewaywomensaid.org)

# OUTREACH & DROP-IN SERVICES

**Mid-Ulster Women's Aid -**

- Tel: 028 8676 9300

[admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk)

<http://www.midulsterwomensaid.org.uk>

**Fermanagh Women's Aid -**

- Tel: 028 6632 8898

[womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com](mailto:womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com)

<http://www.fermanaghwomensaid.com>

**Foyle Women's Aid -**

- Tel: 028 7141 6800

[info@foylewomensaid.org](mailto:info@foylewomensaid.org)

<http://www.foylewomensaid.org>

**North Down & Ards Women's Aid -**

- Tel: 028 9127 3196

[info@ndawomensaid.org](mailto:info@ndawomensaid.org)

<http://www.ndawomensaid.org>

**Omagh Women's Aid -**

- Tel: 028 8224 1414

[info@omaghwomensaid.org](mailto:info@omaghwomensaid.org)

<http://www.omaghwomensaid.org>

**Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus,  
Larne & Newtownabbey Women's Aid**

- Tel: 028 2563 2136

[womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com)

<http://www.womens-aid.org.uk>

# CRISIS SUPPORT / COUNSELLING

These organisations offer a crisis response or counselling service for people who are experiencing distress or despair.

## **Crisis Support**

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Samaritans</b>           | - Tel: Freephone 116123 |
| <b>Lifeline</b>             | - Tel: 0808 800 8000    |
| <b>Aware</b>                | - Tel: 0845 120 2961    |
| <b>Action Mental Health</b> | - Tel: 028 9182 8494    |

## **Counselling**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Nexus NI -</b><br>University Street, Belfast BT7 1HP | - Tel: 028 9032 6803 |
| Nexus NI – Londonderry                                  | - Tel: 028 7126 0566 |
| Nexus NI – Enniskillen                                  | - Tel: 028 6632 0046 |

[info@nexusni.org](mailto:info@nexusni.org)  
<http://www.nexusni.org>

## **Rainbow Project (LGB&T Support)**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 9-13 Waring Street, Belfast   | - Tel: 028 9031 9030 |
| <a href="http://www.rainbow-project.org">http://www.rainbow-project.org</a> |                      |
| 20 Strand Road, Londonderry   | - Tel: 028 7128 3030 |

# OTHER

**Women's Support Network**

- Tel: 028 9023 6923

<http://www.wsn.org.uk>

**Citizens Advice Bureau**

- Tel: 0300 1233 233

The central NI Citizens Advice Bureau website will provide you with the contact details of your local CAB advice centre. Alternatively, you can telephone the central NI CAB Administrative office and they can signpost you to your nearest advice centre.

<http://www.citizensadvice.co.uk/pages/bureaux/>



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