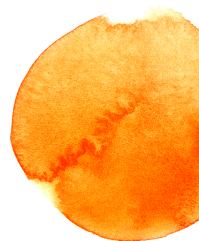




Violence against women affects women across all national, cultural, economic, social and political boundaries. Whilst recognising the common experience of violation shared by all women who experience violence, it is also necessary that we examine the experience and needs of particular groups of women, to ensure that our responses are inclusive, appropriate and effective.

This booklet is based on dialogue between organisations working to address violence against women and activists and organisations working for disability equality for women and men. Some elements may inform a good practice response to men with disabilities who experience violence.

Overarching principle: Women with disabilities must at all times be central to the development of responses to violence and abuse and must be supported to take leadership on this issue.





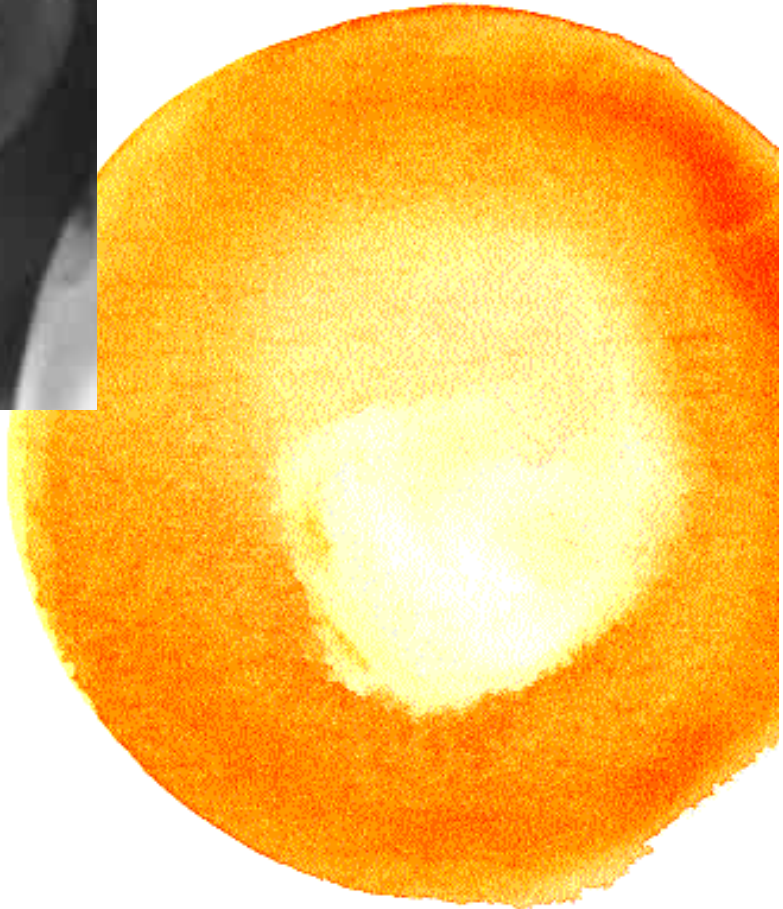
Steps to developing a good practice response for organisations addressing violence against women

- Raise awareness around the issue of violence against women with disabilities in frontline services to create visibility.
- Begin or continue dialogue with women with disabilities about disability equality issues and consult with them as to how services could be made accessible to women with different disabilities.
- Include women with disabilities in your organisations by recruiting disabled women as staff and volunteers.
- Access resources to provide disability equality training for all staff and volunteers.
- Recognise the commonality amongst all women who experience violence, whilst also being aware and knowledgeable about the specific experience of women with disabilities who have been subjected to violence and abuse.
- Recognise and value the diversity amongst women with disabilities and do not treat them as a homogenous group.
- Ensure equal access and equal outcomes for women with disabilities. This includes:
 - carrying out a disability equality proofing process
 - producing information that is easily understood by women who may have literacy difficulties
 - producing materials in Braille, large print and on audio tape
 - developing helplines for women who are deaf and hearing impaired by using fax, texting, email and minicom where appropriate and safe for the woman.
- Recognise the importance of outreach services to women with disabilities.
- Start to make changes with the resources you already have.

Steps to developing a good practice response for disability organisations

- Prioritise the safety and well being of a woman who discloses experience of violence or abuse.
- Recognise the importance of free and confidential access to an independent advocate of the woman's choice.
- Recognise the right of women with disabilities to access mainstream services addressing violence and abuse and facilitate this when requested.
- Provide accessible information about services that are available to women who experience violence and abuse.
- Develop gender equality policies and practice.
- Consult with women with disabilities as to what response is needed from your organisation.
- Consult with frontline organisations addressing violence against women about developing good practice guidelines.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers receive training on the issue of violence against women.
- Empower women with disabilities of all ages to make safe and informed choices about their relationships and sexuality.







National organisations responding to violence against women

Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline 1800-341 900

Support and information for women experiencing violence and abuse from intimate partners and other known men. Open 10am–10pm, seven days a week. This helpline service is also accessible to deaf women by minicom.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre National Freephone Helpline 1800-778 888

Support and information for women who have experienced rape or sexual assault. Open 24 hours, seven days a week.

Both helplines can provide information and contact details about local and regional services to women experiencing violence.

- National Network of Women's Refuges and Support Services, Phone: 0902-79078
Email: admin@nnwrss.com
- National Women's Council of Ireland, Phone: 01-661 5268 Fax: 01-676 0860
Email: info@nwci.ie Website: www.nwci.ie
- Rape Crisis Network Ireland, Phone: 091-563676 Fax: 091-563677
Email: rcni@eircom.net Website: www.rcni.com
- Women's Aid, Phone: 01-868 4721 Fax: 01-868 4722 Email: info@womensaid.ie
Website: www.womensaid.ie
- Outhouse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community and Resource Centre,
Phone: 01-873 4932 Email: info@outhouse.ie Website: www.outhouse.ie (Signer available)

National disability advocacy / policy organisations

- Centre for Independent Living (CIL), Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.
Phone: 01-873 0986 Email: cildub@iol.ie Website: www.dublincil.org
- Disability Federation of Ireland, Fumbally Court, Fumbally lane, Dublin 8. Phone: 01-454 7978
Fax: 01-454 7981 Email: info@disability-federation.ie Website: www.disability-federation.ie
- Disabled Women's Working Group, meet in Forum of People with Disabilities.
Address: C/O 17 Greenlawns, Macroom Avenue, Bonnybrook, Dublin 17.
Phone 01-848 9919 Email: mgovern@eircom.net
- Forum of People with Disabilities, First Floor, 21 Hill Street, Dublin 1. Phone: 01-878 6077
Fax: 01-878 6170 Email: inforum@indigo.ie Website: www.inforum.ie
- Irish Advocacy Network, Old Roosky House, Roosky, Monaghan. Phone: 047-38918
Fax: 047-38682 Email: irishadvocacynetwork@eircom.net
- Irish Deaf Society, 30 Blessington Street, Dublin 7. Phone: 01-860 1878 Fax: 01-860 1960
Women's group 01-860 1878, Minicom: 01-860 1910 Email: ids@indigo.ie
Website: www.irishdeafsociety.org
- Mental Health Ireland, Mensana House, 6 Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire Co Dublin.
Phone: 01-284 1166 Fax: 01-284 1736 Email: mentalhealthireland@iol.ie
Website: www.mentalhealthireland.ie
- National Association for the Deaf, 35, North Frederick St., Dublin 1.
Phone: 01-872 3800 Fax: 01-872 3816 Email: nad@iol.ie Website: www.nadp.ie
- National Association for the Mentally Handicapped of Ireland, 5 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.
Phone: 01-676 6035 Fax: 01-676 0517 Email: info@namhi.ie Website: www.namhi.ie
- National Council for the Blind, Whitworth Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.
Phone: 01-830 7033 Fax: 01-830 7787 Email: info@ncbi.ie Website: www.ncbi.ie
- National Disability Authority, 25 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Phone: 01-608 0400
Fax: 01-660 9935 Email: nda@nda.ie Website: www.nda.ie
- People with Disabilities in Ireland Ltd, Richmond Square, Morning Star Avenue, Dublin 7.
Phone: 01-872 1744 Fax: 01-872 1771 Email: Info@pwdi.ie

For further copies of this publication, please contact:

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Email: nda@nda.ie

Website: www.nda.ie

This publication can be downloaded from the following websites:

WOMEN'S AID: www.womensaid.ie

NATIONAL DISABILITY AUTHORITY: www.nda.ie