

# MAKE A STAND

Our homes, our people,  
our problem.

## THE PLEDGE

### About the Make a Stand pledge

The **Make a Stand** pledge was developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. It was created to encourage housing organisations to make a commitment to support people experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is one of the biggest issues in society today. The true scale of the problem is difficult to determine because a large proportion of domestic abuse goes unreported, but studies suggest many millions of people are affected every year. Tragically, latest data shows that at least one woman a week is killed by a male partner/ex-partner (source: [Women's Aid](#)).

### Who does domestic abuse affect

The statutory definition of domestic abuse, as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, outlines that domestic abuse can affect anyone and that it applies to 'personally connected' relationships, including children (source: [legislation.gov.uk](#)).

Latest data tells us that one in four women (27%) have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 and one in seven men (13.9%) (source: [ONS](#)). Whilst domestic abuse can affect anyone, evidence shows that the vast majority of abuse involves a

male perpetrator and a female victim. For example, 93% of defendants in domestic abuse cases are male; 84% of victims are female" (source: [Refuge](#)).

### So where do you come in?

The answer is simple; everyone lives in a home and housing organisations provide and maintain homes for millions of people. A home should provide safety and security, but for many people home is anything but safe because they are one of many victims of domestic abuse across the UK.

In 2017, Chartered Institute of Housing president Alison Inman chose to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support Women's Aid. This was followed by Jim Strang when he took on the presidency in 2018/19.

This pledge gives housing organisations the opportunity to sign up to make four focused commitments to provide support for people experiencing domestic abuse.

It is a way for you to publicly commit to take action to support victims of domestic abuse. Once you have done so the onus is on you to ensure that you complete the commitments and we will supply information to support this.

If you have already delivered the commitments you can still sign the pledge.

# The pledge

By signing up to the **Make a Stand** pledge you are committing to make sure your organisation does the following:

1

Put in place and embed a policy to support residents who are affected by domestic abuse

2

Make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available on your website and in other appropriate places so that they are easily accessible for residents and staff

3

Put in place a HR policy, or amend an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse

4

Appoint a champion at a senior level in your organisation to own the activity you are doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse



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## How can I sign up?

You can sign up to the pledge by filling in our simple online form which is available [here](#).

We will contact you to check some details and you will then receive a support pack to help you meet the pledge commitments.

You will also receive your pledge certificate and some other items to help you promote the fact you have signed the pledge and demonstrated your commitment to **Make a Stand** against domestic abuse.

## What next?

Once you have signed the pledge the onus is on you to make sure that you take action which reflects the commitments you have made.

Please note that under the Social Housing (Regulation) Act, social housing providers in England must have a policy for how they respond to cases of domestic abuse and co-operate with appropriate local authority (LA) departments to support the LA in meeting its duty to provide victims of domestic abuse and their children with safe accommodation.

## Promoting your pledge

We want to encourage as many housing organisations to sign up to the **Make a Stand** pledge as possible. That's why we're asking people who sign up to promote the fact they have made the pledge.

Our form allows you to confirm whether you are happy for us to add your organisation to the official list of signatories.

And when you make your pledge we would encourage you to publicise it on your website, in social media or any other way that you can.

We have developed some materials to help you do this - including a pledge banner that you can post on your website and social media and in your email signature. You will receive these once you sign the pledge.

When you are promoting that you have signed the pledge on social media we would encourage you to use the official **Make a Stand** hashtag which is **#makeastand**

For more information about the **Make a Stand** pledge visit [cih.org/makeastand](http://cih.org/makeastand) or email [policyandpractice@cih.org](mailto:policyandpractice@cih.org)

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