

Dear [NAME OF YOUR MP]

As a constituent and a Women's Aid Campaign Champion, I am writing to you to ask for your support for the 'Bill for Survivors'. Ahead of the imminent publication of the government's draft Domestic Abuse Bill, which is expected before the end of the year, Women's Aid has published a shadow bill to set out the reforms survivors need.

A domestic abuse crime is recorded every single minute in England and Wales. When it is considered that only one in five victims will ever report to the police, the scale of harm is staggering. It is therefore crucial that new legislation delivers a real transformation in the response to domestic abuse. There remain serious concerns, however, that the government's proposals are narrowly criminal justice focused, fail to reflect that women and girls are disproportionately the victims of this crime, and will not be underpinned by the resources required. As the cross-party Home Affairs Select Committee recently concluded, the government must 'go further'.

After over a year of consultation with survivors and specialist services, Women's Aid is proposing a bill that recognises the gendered nature of domestic abuse, upholds international obligations, and puts the protection and support of all survivors - including children - central to the response.

The 'Bill for Survivors' sets out: action to prevent domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) from happening in the first place; a sustainable future for the national network of refuges and support services; reforms to ensure the safety of the family court process; action to pursue and deter perpetrators; and measures to improve the response of all sectors, from health to housing, schools and the welfare system, that survivors need to escape and recover. Women's Aid's also set out safeguards to ensure the views and voices of survivors are central to the design and implementation of this landmark new law.

As my MP, I hope you will support the "Bill for Survivors" by sharing your support on social media - for example: *"I support the #BillForSurvivors which sets out the transformation we need to tackle domestic abuse across society @womensaid"*

It is crucial that all departments are pressed on the need for a truly transformative new law, which goes beyond the criminal justice system alone.

If you need more information, or have any questions, you can contact Women's Aid directly at [campaignchampions@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:campaignchampions@womensaid.org.uk).

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[YOUR NAME]