



# KEY UK DOMESTIC ABUSE LEGISLATION & DEFINITIONS 2020

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## ENGLAND AND WALES

### Domestic Abuse Bill (In Process)

**Behaviour of a person (A) towards another person (B) is domestic abuse if –**

(A)&(B) are each aged 16 or over and are “personally connected” to each other, and The behaviour is abusive

**Behaviour is abusive if, it consists of any of the following,**

- Physical or sexual abuse.
- Violent or threatening behaviour,
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse,
- Psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

**It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct. “Economic**

**abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on (Bs) ability to**

- Acquire, use, or maintain money or other property.
- Obtain goods or services.

**“Personally connected” means,**

- They are, or have been, married to each other;
- They are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- They have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- They have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);

- They are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
- They each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child
- They are relatives.



## KEY UK DOMESTIC ABUSE LEGISLATION AND DEFINITIONS - 2020

### SCOTLAND Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

**A person commits an offence, if,**

- The person (A) engages in a course of behaviour which is abusive of A's partner or ex-partner (B), and
- Both further conditions are met.

**The further conditions are,**

- That a reasonable person would consider the course of behaviour to be likely to cause (B) to suffer physical or psychological harm,

**That either,**

- (A) intends by the course of behaviour to cause B to suffer physical or psychological harm, or
- (A) is reckless as to whether the course of behaviour causes (B) to suffer physical or psychological harm.

**Behaviour which is abusive to (B) includes (In particular),**

- Behaviour directed at (B) that is violent, threatening, and intimidating
- Behaviour directed at (B), at a child of (B), or at another person that either – has as its purpose one or more of the following relevant effects,
  - Making (B) dependant on, or subordinate to (A)
  - Isolating (B) from friends, relatives, or other forms of support.
- Controlling, regulating, or monitoring (B)s day to day activities
- Depriving (B) of, or restricting (Bs), freedom of action,
- Frightening, humiliating, degrading, or punishing (B)

## KEY UK DOMESTIC ABUSE LEGISLATION AND DEFINITIONS - 2020

### WALES Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

**Abuse,**  
means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, or financial abuse

**Domestic Abuse,**  
means abuse where the victim of it is or has been associated with the abuser.

**Sexual Violence,**  
means sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, or threats of violence of a sexual nature

**A person is associated with another person for the definition of "domestic abuse" if,**

- They are or have been married to each other
- They are or have been civil partners to each other
- They live or have lived together in an enduring family relationship

- They live or have lived in the same household
- They are relatives
- They have agreed to marry one another (whether or not that agreement has been terminated)
- They have entered into a civil partnership with one another (whether or not that agreement has been terminated)
- They have or have had an intimate personal relationship with one another

# KEY UK DOMESTIC ABUSE LEGISLATION AND DEFINITIONS - 2020

## NORTHERN IRELAND Domestic Abuse and Family Proceeding Bill (In Progress)

### A person (A) commits an offence if,

- (A) engages in a course of behaviour that is abusive of another person (B)
- (A) and (B) are personally connected to each other at the time,
- Both of the further conditions are left

### The further conditions are,

- That a reasonable person would consider the course of behaviour to be likely to cause (B) to suffer physical or psychological harm. and That (A),
- Intends the course of behaviour to cause (B) to suffer physical or psychological harm, or
- Is reckless to whether the course of behaviour causes (B) to suffer physical or psychological harm,

- The references to psychological harm include, fear, alarm, and distress.

### What amounts to abusive behaviour,

- Behaviour directed at (B) that is violent
- Behaviour directed at (B) that is threatening
- Behaviour directed at (B), at a child of (B), or at someone else that, Has as its purpose (or among its purposes) one or more of the relevant effects, or would be considered by a reasonable person to be likely to have one or more of the relevant effects.

### The relevant effects are,

- Making (B) dependant on, or subordinate to (A)
- Isolating (B) from friends, family members, and other sources of social interaction or support
- Controlling, regulating, or monitoring (B)s day to day activities,
- Depriving (B) or restricting (Bs) freedom of action
- Making (B) feel frightened, humiliated, degraded, punished, or intimidated.

### Personally connected means,

- They are, or have been, married to each other,
- They are, or have been, civil partners of each other,
- They are living together, or have lived together, as if spouses of each other,
- They are, or have been, otherwise in an intimate personal relationship with each other, or
- They are members of the same family.
- They are members of the same family-

- if (B) is A's parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister, or if-
- One of them is in a relevant relationship with someone else ("C"), and
- The other of them is (C's) parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister.
- One person is in a relevant relationship with someone else if-
- They are married to, or are civil partners of, each other, or
- They are living together as if spouses of each other.





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