



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

## Summary

This Act aims to improve the public sector response to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) through prevention, protection and support. It does not create new criminal offences; instead, it places duties on Welsh Ministers, Local Authorities and local health boards to take proactive steps, including preparing national and local strategies, appointing a National Adviser and improving arrangements for education, awareness, commissioning and specialist services.

The Act underpins the current national VAWDASV Strategy (2022–2026), which explicitly recognises all victims, including men and older people, while maintaining a gender-informed understanding of violence and abuse.

### How does this relate to Older Victim-Survivors?

The statutory duties and strategies apply to all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, regardless of age, and explicitly reference broader groups.

The requirement on relevant authorities to plan, commission and coordinate services means older people's specific needs (accessibility, disability, cognitive impairment, caring roles etc) should be considered in local VAWDASV strategies and commissioning.

“Ask and Act” duties and training requirements for professionals create opportunities to embed age-sensitive identification and response to abuse of older people.