



Hourglass

Safer ageing · Stopping abuse
Scotland

**WE'RE CALLING TIME ON
THE HARM, ABUSE AND
EXPLOITATION OF OLDER
PEOPLE IN THE UK.**

THIS IS OUR MANIFESTO.



Scotland

Hourglass

www.wearehourglass.org

**We are Hourglass-
the voice for older people at risk.**

**We are committed to an urgent public
review of the abuse of older people, and
to ending the abuse, harm and
exploitation of older people.**

**We are striving to create an
environment where safer ageing is
guaranteed for all.**



Every year, more than a million older people are physically, emotionally, financially or sexually abused in the UK. This is a truly damning indictment of how our society views and values older people. Sadly, the abuse of older people is not a new issue, but one that has now reached a critical threshold that can no longer be ignored, nor tolerated.

In Scotland, we're leading the way in safeguarding vulnerable older people; with Scotland the only nation in the UK with dedicated adult safeguarding legislation. However, we cannot become complacent. While our safeguarding legislation puts in place a framework for support and protection, it does not tackle the criminal aspects of abuse. We cannot continue with a scenario where the abuse of older people is primarily 'social worked' rather than prosecuted – without an effective deterrent, the scourge of the abuse of older people will sadly continue. We therefore need to push for a tougher criminal prosecution framework, as well as ensuring that support and protection is the same for all victims, regardless of who the perpetrator is.

Time is running out for the very people whose remaining years are so precious. Someone has to take a stand and fight for those whose voices are so often ignored or stifled.

“We are Hourglass – the only UK-wide charity that’s calling time on the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people”

Driven by our values, we're invested in - and investing in - making a difference. It takes honesty to face up to these challenging issues. It takes a special kind of courage to bear witness to the heart-breaking stories of abuse and neglect we hear every single day. And it takes a dedicated team with nearly 30-years of experience and unique expertise to fight for our most vulnerable, day in and day out.

This will not be an easy journey. Yet with your support, we will work tirelessly to influence, challenge and educate; listen, advise and support; and will commit to working in partnership to deliver positive change for vulnerable older people and all those affected throughout Scotland and across the UK. We will create an environment where safer ageing is guaranteed for all. Now is the time to join us on this journey to end the abuse, harm and exploitation of older people. In doing so, you are helping us build the fairer and safer society that we all want and deserve.

Lesley Carcary
Director of Hourglass Scotland

Definitions

The Abuse of Older People

A single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.



Safer Ageing

Older people face physical and attitudinal barriers that create circumstances of actual or presumed age-related vulnerability – an environment which puts older adults at risk. Our campaign for safer ageing seeks to remove these barriers to empower older people to age securely and live free from abuse.



These are our aims

Hourglass will campaign and advocate tirelessly to put the abuse of older people and the urgent need for a safer ageing agenda at the fore of all strategic thinking on exploitation, abuse and neglect.

We will tackle financial abuse of older people, working within the financial and third sectors to share knowledge, good practice and expertise to better understand and prevent exploitation.

We will seek to raise the profile of the risks associated with ageing by commissioning in-depth research that highlights the voices and stories of those we support. We will demand greater transparency and access to data concerning adult safeguarding and crimes against older people – across all societal groups.

We will collaborate with other frontline organisations to develop a robust knowledge bank, such that all our work is sensitive to the diversity amongst the older people we support.

We will take these insights, alongside our expert network of influencers, patrons and practitioners, to the heart of decision-making and illuminate the seriousness of abuse of older people.

We seek to establish authority as the leading expert on the abuse, harm and exploitation of older people. Hourglass is the first port of call for media and policy shaping.

Scotland



Hourglass will continue to be a major collaborator with the Scottish Government to push forward legislative change to enable safer ageing

We will seek the expansion of The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 to include domestic relationships beyond partner or ex-partner.

We will campaign for new statutory protections, codifying an aggravation based on vulnerability, to achieve greater prevention of and protection from crimes against older people.



How Hourglass can support you

Hourglass is the only UK-wide charity dedicated to stopping the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people and promote safer ageing.

The Hourglass confidential helpline provides information and support to anyone concerned about harm, abuse or exploitation of an older person. This might include physical, financial, psychological, sexual or neglect.

The helpline is available in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to provide a tailored service to callers from across the UK. Our trained Information Officers can provide information, advice and support and put you in touch with appropriate local agencies.

Our Helpline is available from 9am to 5pm every Monday to Friday, offering:

- support for older people who have experienced, or are at risk of, any kind of harm, abuse or exploitation.
- support for anyone concerned about an older person, e.g family, friends, neighbours, carers or health professionals, etc.
- information and advice relating to safer ageing and prevention.

The Hourglass helpline is entirely confidential, free to call from a landline or mobile, and the number won't appear on the phone bill.

0808 808 8141





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