



Press Release

We call on the Government to protect survivors of domestic abuse and all vulnerable tenants in the upcoming Renters' Rights Bill

The National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group ("the Group" brings together experts from the housing, domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls' (VAWG) sectors from commissioning, charity, and policy perspectives. We support statutory agencies, government departments, and the private sector to deliver safe and suitable housing for survivors of domestic abuse.

As the UK Government prepares to introduce the Renters' Rights Bill later today, there is so much to welcome, we await to see the details and the Group is urging the Government to ensure that any new legislation considers and adequately protects survivors of domestic abuse. While the proposed Bill includes important measures to strengthen tenant protections, we highlight the critical need for specific provisions to address the unique challenges faced by domestic abuse survivors.

We support the ending of all unfair evictions, making renting safer, and ensuring affordability. However, we stress that tackling rising rents, scrapping Section 21 'no-fault' evictions, and enforcing stronger standards must also include specific safeguards for survivors of domestic abuse. This includes preventing the misuse of ASB complaints as a tool to evict those fleeing abuse.

In our [submission](#) to the previous government's Renters (Reform) Public Bill Committee, we emphasised that domestic abuse survivors are three times more likely to have an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) complaint lodged against them. Misidentifying domestic abuse as ASB can lead to unjust evictions, further endangering survivors. We call on the government to adequately address this issue within the new legislative framework.

DAHA with the Group also welcomes the government's proposals to strengthen local authorities' enforcement powers and establish a new ombudsman service. However, we urge that these measures be complemented by increased support for survivors, including better access to legal aid and resources for local authorities to uphold tenants' rights effectively.

As the Renters' Rights Bill progresses, DAHA will continue to advocate for the protection and empowerment of domestic abuse survivors, ensuring they are not left vulnerable within the private rented sector. The Government must grab this opportunity to create a fair, safe, and supportive housing environment for all renters, particularly the most vulnerable.

We very much look forward to seeing the details of the new Bill and to working with the Government on the details so that the Group can be confident that every victim/survivor of domestic abuse can access safe and secure housing.



For media enquiries, please contact:

Judith Vickress
Head of Housing
Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse
j.vickress@standingtogether.org.uk

About Standing Together and DAHA:

The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) is part of the Housing Team programmes within Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse, a national charity bringing communities together to end domestic abuse. The DAHA Programme is dedicated to improving the housing sector's response to domestic abuse. Through accreditation, training, and advocacy, DAHA works to ensure that every survivor of domestic abuse can access safe and secure housing.
