



Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse & DAHA respond to the Prime Minister's Announcement on removing the local connection test for survivors.

We welcome the Prime Minister's announcement at the Labour Party Conference this week that domestic abuse victims will now have the right to apply for social housing in any local authority across the country for life.

A home isn't always a safe place. For many survivors escaping abuse means leaving their local authority area to be safe. We have long highlighted the inconsistency between local authorities across England in meeting their obligations to house women fleeing domestic abuse from another local area.

Guidance alone is not sufficient to address this issue. We have been advocating for a statutory bar on local authorities imposing local connection restrictions or 'residency requirements' within their homelessness duties and housing allocations policies for survivors. These frequently and disproportionately harm those escaping domestic abuse, often forcing them to remain in unsafe situations. By eliminating these barriers, we can ensure that survivors have choices and greater access to the vital resources they need to rebuild their lives.

Our [response](#) to the previous government's consultation on local connection submitted in May 2022, highlighted how these requirements limit the choices and opportunities available to survivors. The announcement from the Prime Minister yesterday aligns with our vision for a more compassionate and effective housing policy. It is a significant step for survivors face when they seek safe and stable housing.

We call on Government to implement this swiftly. Local authorities must be equipped to support survivors to access the housing they need. Standing Together, we can and must create safer, supportive environments for those who experience domestic abuse.

Cherryl Henry-Leach

Chief Executive Officer,

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse