

## **A Patchwork on Provision: Mapping Data Reveals a 'Postcode Lottery' for Victim-Survivors of Domestic Abuse**

A report issued by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales has highlighted substantial inequalities for victim-survivors of domestic abuse who are trying to access services across England and Wales.

The report, *A Patchwork of Provision: how to meet the needs of victims and survivors across England and Wales*, came out in November 2022, and reveals that who you are and where you live determines what access to services are available to you. Because of the disparity in geographical area and service provision, many victim-survivors bear the brunt of a 'post code lottery' in response to domestic abuse.

Here are some key takeaways from the report:

- Black and minoritised victim-survivors have found it particularly challenging to access the support that they need to feel safe. They were more than twice as likely to say they felt safer having accessed an organisation run specifically 'by and for' their community, compared to those who hadn't accessed any support whatsoever (78% and 30% respectively).
- The report found that there is a grave lack of specialised 'by and for' provision available. These services are six times less likely to get statutory funding, which puts minoritised groups at a disadvantage when they try to access help.
- Only 51% of Black and minoritised victim-survivors were able to access specialist 'by and for' support when they wanted it. Often, it was only when they engaged with 'by and for' organisations that they were able to identify and get the support they needed.
- Only 19% of LGBTQ+ victim-survivors who wanted specialist 'by and for support' received it, and only 14 of the 190 disabled victim-survivors who wanted access to a specialist organisation were able to get it. For Deaf victim-survivors, that figure stood at only 2 out of 30 people.
- There are barriers to accessing support among victim-survivors with learning disabilities, and a lack of understanding of the needs of victim-survivors of abuse by service providers.
- There are gaps in the ability of services to provide support to migrant survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).
- Only 29% of victim-survivors said that they were able to get support for their children, with organisations unable to meet the demand for support.
- More than half of survivors wanted their perpetrator to receive support to change their behaviour, but just 7% of them received that support.
- Despite being what survivors wanted most, access to counselling showed the biggest geographic disparity between different parts of England and Wales, with a 21-percentage point difference between the highest area (where 58% of survivors in the Northeast of England could access it) to the lowest (37% in Wales).

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- There were significant variations in accessing mental healthcare. 47% of victim-survivors were able to access mental health support in the Northeast of England compared to just 31% in the Southwest of England.
- While 75% of the organisations surveyed said that they offered some sort of service that was accessible to men, many male victim-survivor respondents to the report said that services in their area appear to be only for women.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has challenged the government to deliver improvements for victims that would save lives. She has set out 26 recommendations for change. The government has responded to these recommendations in a variety of different ways, citing its own initiatives and future plans, as well as its willingness to engage further on some of the issues.

You can find the Domestic Abuse Commissioners report here: [\*A Patchwork On Provision\*](#)

You can find the government's response here: [\*Government's Reponse To A Patchwork on Provision\*](#)

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