

Refugee Women



Digital Empowerment and Connect Project

Session 5 – Women, children and rights to protection



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Welcome!

Today we will:

- Discuss the meaning of 'personal safety'
- Discuss the meaning of 'community safety'
- Provide information about rights to protection and how to report crime
- Discuss child rights

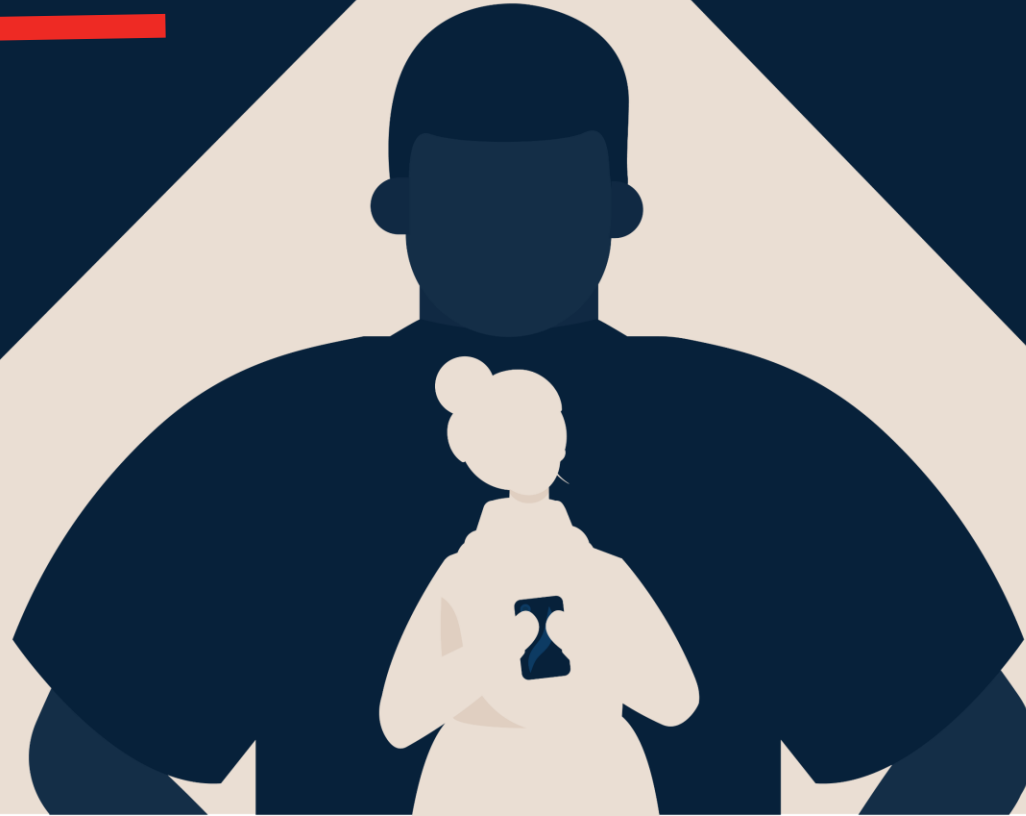


Ground Rules

- Confidential space
- Safe space
- Women's only space
- Phones on silent
- Be respectful
- Non-judgemental
- Talk one at a time
- Keep Zoom on mute if not talking
- **Do ask if you need something to be repeated!**
- **It is okay not to know**



What is meant by personal safety?



“an **individual's** ability to go about their everyday life free from the threat or fear of psychological, emotional or physical harm from others”

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What is Gender-Based Violence (GBV)?

- Do Violence and abuse mean the same?
- What is the relationship between abuse and power?
- Do Survivor and Victim mean the same thing?
- Who are the abusers? Who are the victims/survivors?
- What are the causes and contributing factors of GBV?

Do you agree or disagree?

All people are equally likely to become a victim of **abuse**?

Rape within marriage isn't as serious as rape by a stranger

Abusers grow in violent homes

Alcohol and drugs make people more violent

What behaviours can amount to a criminal offence?



What is Domestic Abuse?

- an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.
- It is very common. In the vast majority of cases it is experienced by women and is perpetrated by men.

Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence)
- Psychological and/or emotional abuse
- Physical or sexual abuse
- Financial or economic abuse
- Harassment and stalking
- Online or digital abuse

What is financial abuse?

Financial abuse from a family member, friend, partner, or carer can look like:

- someone taking out money or getting credit in your name without knowledge or permission
- someone making you hand over control of your accounts
- someone cashing in your pension or other cheques without your authorisation
- they have added their name to your account
- they have asked you to change your will
- someone has offered to buy shopping or pay bills for you, but you don't see this happening
- you are being stopped from seeing other friends and family.

Financial abuse from a partner can look like:

- they are stopping you from working or going to work
- they are stopping you from going to college or university
- being asked to account for every single thing you spend
- you're no longer able to get access to your financial services provider accounts
- your partner has stopped you from spending on essential items
- they have taken out credit cards and/or loans in your name
- they have spent your household budget on things without telling you
- your partner has put all the bills in your name.

Community Safety – Antisocial behaviour

Antisocial behaviour:

- aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life.
- You might think that an incident is small or unimportant to start with, but antisocial behaviour can go on for a long time, and become very serious. Not all antisocial behaviour is classed as crime but a lot is, or can become a crime.

You can report to:

- your landlord, who has a duty to make sure that tenants don't behave in a way that breaks their tenancy agreement
- the right department in your local council, e.g. housing, environmental health or an antisocial behaviour team
- the police, if you think a crime has been committed.

If you experience antisocial behaviour, you may have to help provide evidence before action can be taken, e.g. keeping a diary of things that happen. You might be asked to have recording equipment in your property for noise nuisance. You may have to call the police on 101 or even 999 if it's an emergency.

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Discrimination – what is it?

Treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality, etc.

- age
- gender reassignment
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or on maternity leave
- Disability
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Equality Act 2010



- The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society.
- It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, making the law easier to understand and strengthening protection in some situations. It sets out the different ways in which it's unlawful to treat someone.
- Find out more about who is protected from discrimination, the types of discrimination under the law and what action you can take if you feel you've been unfairly discriminated against.

Community Safety – Hate Crime

What is Hate Crime?

an incident or crime against someone based on a part of their identity.

There are five categories of 'identity' when a person is targeted because of a hostility or prejudice towards their:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief (which includes non-belief)
- sexual orientation
- gender identity.

Hate Crime or Hate Incident?

  report-it.org.uk/your_police_force

Report a hate crime

Reporting a crime to police

Report a crime or incident

Is it an emergency?

Does it feel like the situation could get heated or violent very soon? Is someone in immediate danger? If so, please call **999** now.

- Call 999 if you're reporting a crime that's in progress or if someone is in immediate danger.
- If the crime isn't an emergency, call 101 or contact your local police.
- You can also call 101 to give information to the police or make an enquiry.

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What happens when someone reports an offence to the police?

Protecting children from child abuse

Four types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- sexual child abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse

Social Services

Do you know what children social services do?

Do you know the difference between adult and children's social services?

Do you know the difference between "child in need" and "child protection"?

Do you think children social services have the power to remove children from their parents' care easily?

Social Services

Social services have a statutory obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk

Adult Social Services

1. Care and support needs as a result of a physical or a mental condition. (e.g. dementia, substance abuse, dependant on others due to age or illness etc.)
2. Is at risk of abuse or harm
3. There is a significant impact on their wellbeing or safety

Children Social Services

1. Any child who is at risk of abuse or harm.
2. Children may be supported through:
 - Early Help
 - Child in need
 - Child protection

What is the role of Children's Social Services

- Statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Can offer a wide range of care services to children and their families, following an “Assessment of Needs”.
- Will work in partnership with many professionals, charities and organisations to ensure families receive the help they need

How do families become involved with children social services?

- Family directly asks children social services for help
- Referral by other professionals (police, teachers, other member of the public) . The referral will be made because there are safeguarding or welfare concerns about the child(ren).

Children's services duty to safeguard and protect

Child in Need

Section 17 of the Children Act
1989

- > S/he is unlikely to have a reasonable standard of health or development, or
- > Her/his health or development is likely to suffer, or
- > s/he is disabled.

Child protection

Section 47 of the Children
Act 1989

There is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering, or; likely to suffer **significant harm**.

Types of Law

- What do you know about the UK legal system?
- Do you know the difference between civil and criminal law?
- Give an example of crime.
- Give an examples of a type of court in the UK



Types of Law

CIVIL AND FAMILY LAW

- Disagreements between private individuals, between individuals and public bodies.
- You ask a lawyer to prepare your case and represent you at court.
- The decision of the court in a civil case is liable or not liable.
- Compensation or an agreement or judgement relating to finances
- Family Court, Employment Court and County Court

Examples:

- Road traffic accidents, medical and clinical negligence
- Breach of contract
- Debt and Housing
- An employee suffers discrimination

Family Court

- Divorce, dissolution of civil partnerships, children's issues, childcare arrangement and domestic violence

CRIMINAL LAW

- Criminal offence which affected the whole society
- Police's involvement & Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- The decision of the court in a criminal case is guilty or not guilty.
- Conviction and punishment in the form of a custodial sentence, fine or community service for someone found guilty
- Magistrates' Court or the Crown Court.

Examples:

- Burglary, theft, arson and criminal damage
- Murder, Assault, sexual assault and battery
- Harassment and controlling behaviour
- Forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation; Human Trafficking
- Fraud, money laundering and Drug dealing

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Key words

Abuse - is the misuse of power. It can include physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse.

Consent - is agreeing to something by choice. It cannot be assumed not to change and can be withdrawn.

Criminal Offence - an action which is punishable under the law.

Hate Crime – a criminal act, perpetrated because of the victim's protected characteristics.

Protection – a measure, including legal measures, which upholds a person's freedom and equality.

Violence - an act of physical force which causes or is intended to cause harm. Damage caused by violence can be both physical and psychological.