



JEWISH WOMEN'S AID

DOMESTIC ABUSE



What we all need to know
and start talking about...



0808 801 0500



[jwa.org.uk/webchat](https://www.jwa.org.uk/webchat)



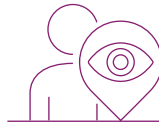
advice@jwa.org.uk

WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Domestic abuse can take many different forms and usually happens as part of a pattern of incidents in which someone with more power controls, demeans and harms their partner or former partner. Here are some examples of what abusive behaviour might look like:



Insults, criticism, mocking, humiliation



Being checked up on, followed, or stalked



Having money taken or controlled



Isolation from family and friends



Threats, intimidation, or violence



Throwing or breaking possessions



Pressure to engage in sexual activity



Lying, blame and denial of the abuse

WHAT ABOUT IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY?

Jewish Women's Aid supports about 150 women experiencing domestic abuse every month and has been providing a wide range of services to women for nearly 30 years, so there is no doubt that this problem exists in our community. Here are some additional ways which Jewish women are affected and why they might be more hesitant to report abuse:

Fear of not being believed, especially if the abuser is respected in the community

Fear of losing their children

Fear of bringing shame on the family

Fear that community leaders will side with the abuser

Threat of ostracism from schools and social circles

Fear of being known in the community and talked about

Immigration – language, visas – some Jewish women might not have a secure status

Refusal to provide a Get (Jewish divorce) or the fear of being refused the Get

Fear that children won't be able to make good marriages (Shidduchim)

KEY FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC ABUSE

Studies show that while domestic abuse can happen to anyone, women are significantly more likely to experience it.

Women of any class, religion, nationality, socio-economic status, or level of education can be affected. It is the same in the Jewish community, and Jewish Women's Aid supports secular, traditional and orthodox Jewish women on a daily basis.

1 in 4

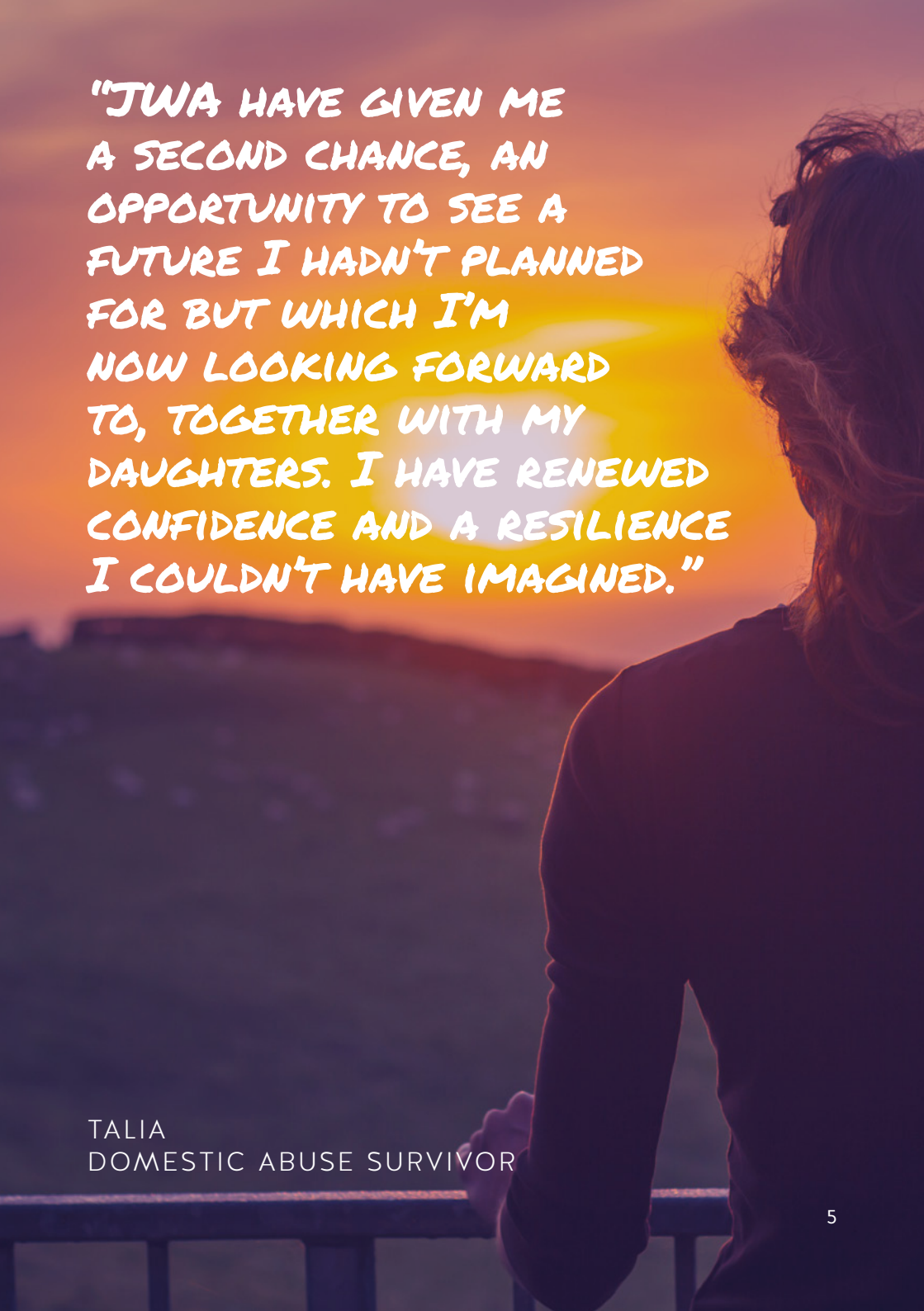
women in England and Wales will experience domestic violence in their lifetime

850,000

domestic abuse related crimes were reported in the year to March 2021

In 73%

of cases, the victim of domestic abuse-related crimes was female



"JWA HAVE GIVEN ME
A SECOND CHANCE, AN
OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A
FUTURE I HADN'T PLANNED
FOR BUT WHICH I'M
NOW LOOKING FORWARD
TO, TOGETHER WITH MY
DAUGHTERS. I HAVE RENEWED
CONFIDENCE AND A RESILIENCE
I COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED."

TALIA
DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVOR

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY?

The good news is that we can all play an active role in preventing domestic abuse, and challenging it when it does happen.



LEARN MORE

Using the resources in our Toolkit, increase your understanding of domestic abuse in the Jewish community:

jwa.org.uk/community-toolkit



START A CONVERSATION

One of the reasons some women find it hard to speak out about abuse is because of the social taboo. Start a conversation about domestic abuse with your friends, family or in your community spaces to raise awareness and break the taboo.

Use our conversation starter cards in the Toolkit to get started.



HELP MAKE SAFER SPACES

Find out what's in place in your local community spaces; are there places or people women can go to in order to report abuse? Does your Shul or community group do anything to raise awareness of the issue or have an anti-domestic violence message?

Please contact us if you would like free Jewish Women's Aid posters to place in your setting or an educational session from one of our trainers: outreach@jwa.org.uk



CHALLENGE SEXISM

Abuse becomes permissible when we have a culture that allows casual sexism. Prejudiced attitudes, ideas, 'jokes' and insults pave the way for harmful behaviour such as unwanted touching unless they are challenged.

Speaking up about early signs of sexist attitudes, ideas and behaviours is a key way in which we can start to change our culture and prevent abuse and violence against women and girls.



REACH OUT

If you are concerned about a friend or someone in your community, it is always better to say something, even if you think you may be overreacting. If you feel nervous about bringing it up directly with them, you can contact Jewish Women's Aid and we can offer you advice and support.

Men experiencing abuse can contact Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 327 or mensadvice.org.uk.



JEWISH WOMEN'S AID

We support and empower Jewish women and girls who are experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence, in a culturally sensitive way.



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advice@jwa.org.uk

PO Box 65550, London, N3 9EG • 020 8445 8060 • www.jwa.org.uk

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