

REFERRAL

We work with Deaf people of all ages, gender, race and sexualities.

To refer someone to our service, please use the contact details on the back of this leaflet.

We are funded by grants from councils and other organisations.

ADVICE FOR CLIENTS

We have videos available for British Sign Language users to learn more about accessing our service. To watch, go to: www.signhealth.org.uk/domesticabuse



**THE DEAF HEALTH
CHARITY
SIGNHEALTH**

www.signhealth.org.uk

CONTACT AND REFERRALS

To make a referral, ask advice or request further information, please get in touch:

TELEPHONE:
(voice/textphone)
0203 9472600

SMS/TEXT:
07970 350366

EMAIL:
da@signhealth.org.uk

ADDRESS:
SignHealth, Falcon Mews
46 Oakmead Road, Balham
London SW12 9SJ

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CHARITY
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www.signhealth.org.uk/domesticabuse

SignHealth, Registered Charity no. 1011056.
We rely entirely upon voluntary contributions to fund this important work and are grateful to all our generous funders.

SIGNHEALTH

**A specialist domestic
abuse support service for
Deaf adults and children**

LIVE WITHOUT FEAR



**THE DEAF HEALTH
CHARITY
SIGNHEALTH**

SignHealth Domestic Abuse Service is a specialist service for Deaf adults and children who have experienced abuse.

We are the only domestic abuse service in the UK that communicates with Deaf people directly, using a variety of communication methods, predominantly British Sign Language (BSL). Communicating in sign language means we are able to offer Deaf people the support and advice they need, in a language they can understand.

Deaf people are often isolated from hearing people, as most people do not know sign language.

HALF OF ALL DEAF WOMEN ARE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Information and guidance services are mostly provided in written or spoken languages. It is rare for an organisation to make their service available in sign language; this means that Deaf people are unaware of how to recognise domestic abuse or where to get help to stop it.

WHAT SUPPORT DOES SIGNHEALTH OFFER?

We give Deaf people the tools to rebuild their lives and regain their confidence. Support can include one-to-one advice from our qualified Deaf IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates) and our Children & Families Worker.

From point of contact, our team creates a support plan, developing coping strategies until the client feels ready to move on with their lives independently. Throughout this process, we ensure our clients are able to navigate statutory services such as immigration, the police and courts, housing, and social services.

We also offer survivor workshops and support in obtaining referral for therapy delivered in British Sign Language.

We offer prevention workshops in schools, colleges and youth clubs to young Deaf people aged 11-25. Topics covered include healthy relationships, sexting, cyber bullying, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence and much more. We also offer one-to-one support for Deaf children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse within the home.

WORKING WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

As our IDVAs are Deaf, we have a more in-depth understanding of our client's needs. Our IDVAs carry out risk assessments and liaise with all other mainstream support agencies, to ensure a person centred approach. The IDVAs also attend MARACs (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) with a Sign Language Interpreter, to ensure the client and professionals involved can share information appropriately.

We support Deaf people to make informed choices about relationships and how to stay safe.

SignHealth works to keep Deaf adults and children safe through provision, protection and prevention.

- Allocation of qualified Deaf IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate)
- Allocation of a Deaf Children & Family Worker
- Working with refuges to provide support to Deaf women
- Referral where necessary to SignHealth's one-to-one therapy in British Sign Language
- Survivor Workshops for Deaf women
- Work in partnership with key national and local agencies, to develop guidelines for best practice
- Guidance on laws, policy and practice to ensure the needs of vulnerable Deaf people and children are recognised and fully met