



In November 2022, our church was the setting for the launch of the Mothers Union 16 Days of Activism campaign. During the launch, we heard about the practical support Mothers Union members give to local organisations who support victims of domestic abuse. It was during this talk that we first heard about the Safe Church initiative. The Safe Church Initiative was developed by Onus to empower churches to recognise and respond to Domestic Violence and Abuse both within the church and wider community context.

In April 2023, four members of our Mothers Union branch along with our Curate Andy Hay completed the Safe Place webinar training by Onus and we registered as a Safe Church.

As a Safe Church we are committed to:

- Supporting the Safe Place Campaign: never to commit, condone or stay silent about domestic abuse or violence.
- Provide a Safe Place to confidentially access information on external agencies who are equipped to helping victims of domestic abuse or violence.
- Acknowledge that domestic abuse or violence is a problem that impacts in every area society. We are prepared to play are part in supporting victims and we state clearly to perpetrators that we will not tolerate abuse in our community.

Domestic Abuse can take many forms; physical abuse, coercive control, financial control. On the island of Ireland, the number of people reporting domestic abuse has reached epidemic proportions. It is estimated that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men will experience domestic abuse during their lifetime. Between April 2022 and March 2023 there were 32,875 domestic abuse incidents recorded in Northern Ireland.

Our Safe Church Volunteers here to sign post anyone affected by domestic violence to the relevant agencies where they can access professional help and assistance.

Below are links to external agencies in Northern Ireland that help victims' of domestic abuse.

<p>Women's Aid Belfast & Lisburn 30 Adelaide Park Belfast BT9 6FY United Kingdom Phone 028 9066 6049 Email admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk Website: https://belfastwomensaid.org.uk/</p>	<p>Women's Aid North Down and Ards 18 Bingham Street Bangor BT20 5DW United Kingdom Phone 028 9127 3196 Email info@ndawomensaid.org Website: https://www.ndawomensaid.org/</p>
<p>24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline The Domestic and Sexual Abuse helpline is open to women and men affected by domestic abuse or violence. This free telephone service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Freephone 0808 802 1414 Email help@dsahelpline.org</p>	<p>PSNI 65 Knock Road Belfast BT5 6LE United Kingdom Phone In an emergency. Non-emergency calls and general enquiries dial 101 999 Phone if you are a Tesco mobile or giffgaff user 028 9065 0222</p>
<p>Victim Support NI 73 / 75 Great Victoria Street Belfast BT2 7AF United Kingdom Phone 028 9024 3133 Email belfast@victimsupportni.org.uk Website: https://www.victimsupportni.com/</p>	<p>Nexus NI 59 Malone Road Belfast BT9 6SA United Kingdom Phone 028 9032 6803 Email Info@nexusni.org Website: https://nexusni.org/</p>
<p>Men's Advisory Project (MAP) 5th Floor, Glendinning House 6 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN United Kingdom Phone Belfast 028 9024 1929 Phone Foyle 028 7116 0001 Email info@mapni.co.uk Website: https://mapni.co.uk/</p>	

