

Donating to the Fund

If you would like to donate to the fund, please fill in this form and return it to:
Sheffield Women's No Recourse Fund
c/o Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum
Knowle House, 4 Norfolk Park Road,
Sheffield S2 3QE

Your details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Amount of any one-off donation to 'SWNRF':

You can either make a one-off donation by writing a cheque made payable to:
Sheffield Women's No Recourse Fund (SWNRF),

~ or you could help more women and children by setting up a regular Standing Order ~ just fill out your bank details on the reverse of this form and return it to us.

Applying to the Fund

The No Recourse Fund is administered through Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum. It is for women, and their children, who are living in Sheffield, and who are receiving support from one of the local specialist domestic abuse services (the women's refuges or community based projects).

Applications to the fund can only be made through one of those projects, and the fund can provide financial support at a rate of: £30 per week for the woman
£10 per week for each child living with her ~ up to a maximum of 8 weeks, buying some time to look for other sources of support and to apply under the 'Domestic Violence Concession' for her own right to remain, and access to public funds in the longer term.

What else can you do ?

If you are concerned about this issue, you can also find out about the national campaign to abolish the 'no recourse' requirement for abused women who have insecure immigration status:

Campaign To Abolish No Recourse To Public Funds hosted via this website:
www.southallblacksisters.org.uk

Individuals and organisations can affiliate to the campaign, and they are keen for supporters to tell local MPs what you think about the no recourse requirement, and ask them to support the campaign, which aims to get the Home Office to work with the Dept for Work & Pensions to find ways of providing benefits to women in this position.

SDAF is a registered Charity No: 1092661
Find out more about us at: **www.sdaf.org.uk**

Sheffield Women's No Recourse Fund

The specialist domestic abuse services in Sheffield have set up this fund to help them to provide short term financial support and safe accommodation to some of their most destitute service users.

Under current immigration rules, a woman who comes to the UK on a Spouse Visa, but has to leave him because of domestic abuse, is subject to the 2 Year Rule.

Her abuser will usually have threatened that if she leaves him she will be deported, and she won't be allowed to take her children.
She thinks she faces a stark choice: deportation or continuing abuse.

The first challenge is to inform women that they can now apply under a **Domestic Violence Concession** for indefinite leave to remain in this country, in their own right.

But the application can take up to a year, during which they have '**no recourse to public funds**' such as benefits and public housing, making it even harder to leave.
This No Recourse Fund is a very practical way to support those women to make safe choices for themselves and their children.

The '2 Year Rule'

If a woman comes to the UK on a Spouse Visa, she is dependant on her spouse for her right to remain in the UK. She is reliant on him as her 'sponsor', to apply within 2 years for her own right to remain. As she has 'no recourse to public funds' at this time, she is also financially dependant on him.

If she is subjected to domestic abuse, she can be trapped in a very dangerous situation, with all the resulting impacts for herself and her children.

In addition to the violence and abuse, a woman will often face isolation, language barriers, no access to information, no independent funds, no family other than her husband's relatives, and often no friends ~ many women live in fear, thinking they have nowhere to go for help.

If they return to their country of origin, they face leaving their children, and may fear persecution and the stigma of a failed marriage.

Some local councils use their discretion to provide financial support to help safeguard the children of women in this position. But the women themselves have no recourse to public funds, so cannot claim benefits or apply for rehousing.

Most women's refuges aim to provide safe housing to one woman at a time with no recourse, and fundraise to provide for her essential needs. But the demand for safe accommodation and living costs is far higher than the bedspaces and funding available.

What your money will pay for

Funds raised for the *Sheffield Women's No Recourse Fund* will help ease the pressure on scarce local resources, by providing support with essential living costs for some of the most vulnerable and destitute women fleeing domestic abuse in Sheffield.

Once a woman succeeds in leaving, she will often need support from specialist domestic abuse projects and other services to:

- explore her options and consider what she might do next, with the aid of an interpreter where needed
- access accurate legal information about family law and her immigration status
- make her own application to change her status by applying for 'indefinite leave to remain' in this country, in her own right
- re-settle into a new home and community, and begin to feel safe again
- deal with the impact of domestic abuse on herself and her children, in order to re-build confidence and self-esteem.

The fund provides women with money for essentials such as food, toiletries, children's clothes, public transport and so on.

A donation of:

- £5 would buy a weekly bus pass for a child to attend school
- £10 would buy essential toiletries
- £20 would buy nappies and baby clothes

Any amount donated, as a one-off or a regular standing order, will make a difference ~ ***just complete the tear-off slip.***

Standing Order Form

Name of your bank/building society: _____

Address of your bank/building society: _____

Postcode: _____

Name(s) of account holders: _____

Branch Sort Code: _____

Account Number: _____

Instruction to your bank or building society:

*Please pay The Co-operative Bank plc
PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street
Manchester M60 4EP*

(sort code: 08-92-50)

*for the account of Sheffield Women's No
Recourse Fund (SWNRF)*

(account number: 50043761)

the sum of:

£ 3 / 5 / 10 / 15 * monthly/ annually

(*please fill in amount)

starting on:

(dd/mm/yyyy) _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please turn over to fill in your name and address and ***return the form to us (not your bank).***