

Domestic violence

If you are experiencing domestic violence, find out about services that could provide practical support and help find accommodation.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence includes any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between romantic partners (past or present) or family members. The abuse can be psychological, physical, social, financial, or emotional. It can also involve:

- sexual harassment and bullying
- stalking
- trafficking and forced prostitution
- female genital mutilation
- forced marriage
- crime committed in the name of 'honour'

If you are unsafe in your home

Call **999** if you are in immediate danger.

Call **0808 200 0247** for the National Domestic Violence Helpline. They may be able to help you find a place in a women's refuge.

Call **0203 874 5003** for Solace Women's Aid Barnet. The service is available to women over 16 years old. They offer advocacy, support, counselling, and family services. They also coordinate refuge accommodation.

Attend Barnet Homes' One Stop Shop, a free drop-in advice service for men and women who are victims of domestic violence. The One Stop Shop runs every Thursday from 9:30 to 12:30 on the first floor of Barnet House at 1255 High Road N20 0EJ. Call **020 8610 3539** for more information.

Applying to Barnet Homes for assistance

You can approach our Housing Options service for assistance if you can no longer stay in your home. We will give you advice about finding somewhere to live and we can refer you to a refuge. We will open a homelessness application for you, and if you are eligible for assistance and are homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days you will be helped by one of our frontline teams. If you qualify for assistance with rehousing, we may provide emergency accommodation and we can help you move to a property in the private rented sector. Phone Housing Options on **0208 359 4797** for advice and assistance.

Sanctuary Scheme

Barnet Homes' Sanctuary Scheme helps victims of domestic violence who live in Barnet to remain in their own home, if it is safe to do so, by increasing the security at their home. The Sanctuary Scheme is free to victims of domestic violence. You can apply through Barnet Homes, Barnet Children's Service, health professionals, and other support services. You are still eligible to apply even if you have no recourse to public funds.

Claim Dual Housing Benefit

If you claim housing benefit and need to leave your home because of domestic violence, you may be able to get housing benefit on two properties for a short period of time if you intend to return to your main home.

Move to another London Borough if you are a secure tenant

If you qualify for Barnet Homes' assistance you can apply for help in another borough where you feel safer. If you have a secure tenancy and are fleeing high-risk domestic violence, we may support you to move to another London Borough through the Pan-London Housing Reciprocal Agreement. Call **0208 359 4797** for more information.

Other services that can help

Victim Support | 0808 168 9111

Support services for victims of crime.

Online: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/request-support>

Outreach Barnet | 0203 115 1185

Short-term support for housing-related support needs.

Email: duty@outreachbarnet.org.uk

Referral form: <https://www.outreachbarnet.org.uk/referrals/>

Shelter Advice Line | 0808 800 4444

General advice service with specialised advice on domestic violence.

Rise Mutual | 0749 509 9694

Intervention programmes for perpetrators and support for victims of domestic violence.

Email: info@risemutual.org

Homestart Barnet | 0208 371 0674

Family support services.

Email: admin@homestartbarnet.org

Homeless Action Barnet | 0208 446 8400

Day shelter services, advice and information, and links to night shelters.

Address: 36B Woodhouse Road N12 0RG

Hours: 9:00-15:00 Monday to Friday

Helplines

Solace Women's Aid | 0808 802 5565

Rape Crisis National Helpline | 0808 802 9999

Men's Advice Line | 0808 801 0327 (9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday)