

MAKE A STAND

Our homes, our people,
our problem.

THE PLEDGE

About the Make a Stand pledge

The **Make a Stand** pledge was launched in Ireland in partnership with [Women's Aid Ireland](#). The pledge was developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in 2018 to encourage housing organisations to commit to supporting people experiencing domestic abuse. Since then, over 500 housing organisations across the United Kingdom and Ireland have signed the pledge.

Domestic abuse is one of the biggest issues in society today. The true scale of the problem is difficult to determine because a large proportion of domestic abuse goes unreported. Studies suggest hundreds of thousands of people are affected every year. Tragically, over half of women who have died violently in Ireland are killed by their male partners or ex-partners (Source: [Women's Aid Femicide Watch 2025](#)).

Who does domestic abuse affect

Over one in three (35 per cent) women in Ireland have experienced psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse from an intimate partner (Source: [Fundamental Rights Agency, 2024](#)). In 2024, there were 32,144 contacts with Women's Aid during which they heard 46,765 disclosures of abuse against women and children. One

in four (25 per cent) women in Ireland have experienced sexual violence as an adult (Source: [CSO Sexual Violence Survey 2023](#)). In 2024, An Garda Síochána responded to over 65,000 domestic abuse incidents, which translates to an average of 1,250 incidents every week (Source: [Women's Aid, 2025](#)).

So where do you come in?

The answer is simple; everyone lives in a home and housing organisations provide and maintain homes for tens of thousands of people. A home should provide safety and security, but for many people, home is anything but safe because they are one of many victims of domestic abuse in Ireland.

This pledge gives housing organisations the opportunity to sign up to make four focused commitments to provide support for people experiencing domestic abuse. It is a way for you to publicly commit to take action to support victims of domestic abuse. Once you have done so, the onus is on you to ensure that you complete the commitments and we will supply information to support this. If you have already delivered the commitments you can still sign the pledge.

The pledge

By signing up to the **Make a Stand** pledge you are committing to make sure your organisation does the following:

1

Put in place and embed a policy to support residents who are affected by domestic abuse

2

Make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available on your website and in other appropriate places so that they are easily accessible for residents and staff

3

Put in place a HR policy, or amend an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse

4

Appoint a champion at a senior level in your organisation to own the activity you are doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse



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How can I sign up?

You can sign up to the pledge by filling in our simple online form which is available [here](#).

We will contact you to check some details, and you will then receive a support pack to help you meet the pledge commitments. You will also receive your pledge certificate and some other items to help you promote the fact that you have signed the pledge and demonstrated your commitment to **Make a Stand** against domestic abuse.

What next?

Once you have signed the pledge the onus is on you to make sure that you take action which reflects the commitments you have made.

The government's new Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness, 2025-2030 explicitly acknowledges domestic violence as a driver of family homelessness. The plan includes a commitment to developing a protocol with local authorities to provide that survivor-victims of domestic violence and abuse can transfer time spent on a social housing waiting list to another local authority. (Source: [Gov.ie, 2025](#))

The action plan references the intention to amend the Housing Act to consider the best interests of the child, and also to include domestic violence and abuse in the new Homeless Prevention Framework, both of which are vital steps. Additionally, the government of Ireland has introduced domestic violence leave under the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023. This is a legal requirement for employers to offer up to five days of paid leave over a period of 12 months to employees affected by domestic violence.

To implement domestic violence leave effectively, it is recommended that employers embed this support measure

within a wider organisational response to domestic abuse, outlined in a workplace domestic violence policy. The policy offers clarity and support to both employers and co-workers in responding to the needs of an employee subjected to domestic violence. (Source: [dvatwork.ie](#)).

Promoting your pledge

We want to encourage as many housing organisations to sign up to the **Make a Stand** pledge as possible. That's why we're asking people who sign up to promote the fact they have made the pledge.

Our form allows you to confirm whether you are happy for us to add your organisation to the official list of signatories. And when you make your pledge, we would encourage you to publicise it on your website, in social media or any other way that you can.

We have developed some materials to help you do this - including a pledge banner that you can post on your website and social media and in your email signature. You will receive these once you sign the pledge.

When you are promoting that you have signed the pledge on social media we would encourage you to use the official **Make a Stand** hashtag which is **#MakeAStand**

For more information about the **Make a Stand** pledge visit [cih.org/makeastand](#) or email policyandpractice@cih.org

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