Changing Culture and Transforming the Response to Domestic Violence in Ireland

A Vision Strategy & Strategic Priorities

2015-2020

SUMMARY
SAFE Ireland believes that Ireland can be the safest country in the world for women and children.

SAFE Ireland understands that men experience domestic violence as children and as adults. We are directly linked to men through our Man Up campaign. Through expanding Man Up, we intend to deepen our knowledge on what is needed in these areas.

We understand that it is a human right of every single individual, women, children and men, to live free from violence.

However, it is well recognised by the UN and EU that a gender specific approach is needed in order to address the significantly larger prevalence of male partner violence against women.

We want to change dramatically the way we listen to, think about, acknowledge, support and respond to the thousands of women and children who are living every day with violence and abuse in their homes.

Over the next five years we want to inspire new leadership and new champions to work with us to prevent and eliminate Domestic Violence (DV) in Ireland.

SAFE Ireland is the National Social Change Agency working on Domestic Violence in Ireland. We are working innovatively and strategically to transform culture and the response to gender based violence (GBV) in Ireland. We are working in close collaboration with 40 frontline domestic violence services across communities in Ireland.

We are directly linked to women and children who experience Domestic Violence. We respond to thousands of women and children affected by Domestic Violence in Ireland annually.

We work to bring voice and understanding to the causes and impact of Domestic Violence.

We strive to understand Domestic Violence at a deeper level, the complexities, the impact and the pervasiveness of the issue in Ireland.

We want society to take responsibility for the eradication of violence against women.

We know that it is only by working together and developing key strategic partnerships that we can transform the response to violence against women in this country.

SAFE Ireland is accountable, value for money with strong governance structures and procedures in place within the organisation.
SAFE Ireland’s goal is to achieve a total transformation of culture and the response to Domestic Violence so that Ireland can become the safest country in the world for women and children.

We are a small country with huge potential. We thrive on connections. We pride ourselves on community. We face challenges with innovation, intelligence and resourcefulness. We can use these enormous national strengths to stand together against domestic violence.
12,500 women and children access frontline domestic violence services annually.

In Just One Day in 2014, 475 women and 301 children sought support from a domestic violence service in Ireland.

1 in every 3 women experienced severe Psychological violence from a male partner...

= 580,000 women living in Ireland.

1 in 4 women experienced Physical & Sexual violence from a partner or non partner......

= 440,000 women living in Ireland.

79% of women in Ireland never disclosed serious Physical or Sexual violence by a partner to anyone...

= 347,000 women living in Ireland.

Extent of Domestic Violence in Ireland

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(EU FRA 2014)
Social Impact of Domestic Violence

Women and Girls experiencing violence utilise health services more frequently

Lasting Physical and Mental Effects of Complex Trauma

Estimated that Domestic Violence is costing Irish Economy €2.2billion annually

Multi Generational – Cycles of Violence

Health and Well Being Destroyed

Workplace – loss of productivity and potential

DV results in Poverty and Homelessness

79% non reporting – what impact on society?
What We Want to Transform

1. Culture – Social Behaviour and Attitudes
2. Whole System Response to Women and Children
3. Leadership
4. Understanding & Capacity

Key Deliverables in 5 Years

- Scale up of the MAN UP campaign as a leading global public prevention programme.
- National research of social behaviour and attitudes to measure the impact of prevention programmes.
- Host 2 Leader Summits in Ireland to engage Ireland’s leaders to support prevention and innovation. We hope in 5 years to be showcasing Ireland as a Global Leader in preventing and responding to domestic violence.
- Establish a National Legal Advocacy Unit to transform the response from the Irish legal system, to support women and to achieve implementation of key legislative provisions to address existing shortcomings.
- Establish a Truth Commission to create a safe place where women and adult children of DV can come forward, be heard and have access to healing and recovery supports. Their voices will provide evidence to inform our extensive research and social change programmes.
- A robust Irish cost of violence study which makes the case for significant investment to Irish government.
- An extensive prevalence study in year 5 to measure the impact of our transformation programme.
- Scale up our national advocacy role to increase social and statutory understanding and cultivate champions and investment for the issue.
Impact in 5 Years

- Women and children will have been heard, believed and understood.
- Social attitudes and behaviors will have changed – change in public conversation.
- Increase in prevention strategies.
- Increase in reporting by women.
- There will be new dynamic leadership and champions for this issue.
- Significant increase in government and philanthropic investment in the issue.
- Ireland will be a leading light globally on this issue.
- Women’s satisfaction with the states response to her will have increased significantly.
- There will be communities for change mobilised across the country.
- Visibility and hope will replace silence and shame and women and children will know that there is support.
- Solutions will be available to end lifetime cycles of abuse and trauma.
Where Your Philanthropy Can Make a Difference

It will assist us to scale up the ‘Man Up’ Campaign and devise other campaigns to bring about cultural and structural change in relation to domestic violence in Ireland.

It will enable us to tackle the root causes that lead to women and children ending up in refuges with multiple and complex social, economic and health problems.

It will help us to transform attitudes and behaviour so that domestic violence has zero tolerance in Irish society and tackling the problem becomes ‘everybody’s business’.

It will resource us to carry out cutting edge, evidence based research that shows the cost of domestic violence to the Irish economy as well as research on trauma and its effects on women and children seeking help.

It will assist front line Domestic Violence services through SAFE Ireland to make a compelling case for investment in the services.

It will enable us to establish a Legal Advocacy Unit to drive legal reform and improve outcomes for women in the legal system.

It will resource us to deliver custom designed training for frontline domestic violence staff and professionals.

It will help us to host two Leaders Summits – in 2016 and 2019 – which will bring best thinking and devise innovative, brave solutions to the eradication of domestic violence in Ireland.