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SOLICITORS

**ASK FOR
ASSISTANCE -
ASK FOR ANI**

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In the year ending March 2019, an estimated 2.4 million adults experienced domestic abuse. Sadly, a further implication of the COVID pandemic has been an increase in the number of men and women who have been forced to remain in difficult situations in a place they should feel safe, at home. Lockdown has meant they have been unable to seek reprieve from those everyday activities they once relied on like attending work or getting out to see others.

Domestic abuse does not have to be physical; it takes on many forms and impacts men and women. It does not discriminate. It can be perpetrated by a partner, but it can also come from a family member or carer. It is not restricted to certain ethnicities, ages or dependent on a persons socio-economic status. It can be physical, emotional, or psychological, verbal, sexual or financial. It can be harassment or stalking. It can be online or digital.

While there are people to assist those who suffer from Domestic Abuse and resources are available it is not always easy for them to access . **“Ask for ANI”** is a government backed initiative to provide victims of domestic abuse with a safe space to gain help, especially during the current pandemic.

From Thursday 14th January 2021 those pharmacies who have signed up to the codeword scheme will be able to offer immediate help. By asking for 'Ani' you can ask for assistance in a discreet way and be given the opportunity to go into a private, quiet consultation room at the pharmacy to call the police or a domestic abuse helpline to access support.

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