

the pandemic and the removal of access to emergency funds. Having supported the women during lockdown they will not be able to remove the support due to the risk she will have to return to her abuser or face destitution. If the women are to be supported in refuge rent and support costs will need to be covered. A long-term commitment to supporting women with NRPF is the only way we can ensure *every survivor* will have access to safety and support.

- *Invest in early intervention and prevention.* It is vital that we do not lose sight of prevention of VAWDASV and enabling early access to support during and post COVID 19. VAWDASV is preventable. This means we can take action to stopping VAWDASV happening in the first place, whilst also take earlier action to ensure we are preventing further harm for those already impacted. In Wales there is a prevention agenda across a number of remits VAWDASV, ACEs, Future Generations, Violence prevention Unit, housing, safeguarding – particularly creating join up on legislative and policy agendas that would build on the synergy developed during COVID 19. We have seen a move to recognise the VAWDASV as a public health pandemic during COVID-19 in Wales and this prioritisation must not be lost post COVID-19. The World Health Organisation has produced briefings on VAWG and COVID-19, with evidence based on global information and previous pandemic research, available [here](#).
- *Create communities that are aware of the prevalence of VAWDASV, take action to challenge it and provide supportive responses to survivors.* During the COVID-19 pandemic Welsh Women's Aid have focused on ensuring that support networks remain available to survivors and that communities are aware of how to take supportive action. Learning from our Ask Me programme, we have developed our Bystander Toolkit that provided a range of information to get the message out there on how different community actors could still be active bystanders during COVID-19 in safe and supportive manner.

Any comments or questions regarding this briefing can be directed to:

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