

**GRYLLS & PAIGE**

**-----Solicitors-----**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Everyone has the right to live without fear for their safety. No one has the right to cause you harm or threaten you. You have the right to complain to the police, as such behaviour may constitute a criminal offence.

Domestic abuse occurs across society. Although government figures show that domestic abuse consists mainly of violence by men against women, it is not restricted to these circumstances. Men too are abused by their partners and children can also be caught up in domestic violence.

Domestic violence is any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (be it physical or emotional) between adults who are or have been in a relationship together, or between family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.

Although domestic violence is chronically under reported, research estimates it:

- will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime
- 77% of victims of domestic violence are women
- has more repeat victims than any other crime (on average there will have been 35 assaults before a victim calls the police)
- on average, two women are killed every week by a current or former male partner
- one incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every minute

We can help you in a number of ways:

- We can help you to apply for an injunction - an injunction is a court order which you can use to help keep you safe. It places legal restrictions on your partner to try to prevent or limit any further violence. It contains provision for the arrest of your partner by the police should the order be broken by him.
- We can help you to apply for orders to do with children – for example; residence orders, contact orders, prohibited steps or specific steps orders.
- Where there is an emergency situation we can often obtain court orders immediately so as to offer you protection from further abuse.