



Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office – NRPF Research Grant

Statement of Outcomes

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1. Background

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office is seeking to award grant funding to an independent researcher to conduct a one-time piece of research on migrant victims and survivors of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). This research will support the Domestic Abuse Commissioner in her work to improve the protection and provision of support to people affected by domestic abuse.

In the year ending March 2020, an estimated 2.3 million adults experienced domestic abuse. Estimates suggest that those with insecure immigration status face higher rates of domestic abuse than across the population. The NRPF status means many non-British national victims and survivors of domestic abuse are prevented from accessing housing benefit which is used to fund most refuge bed spaces. This often leaves people in this situation facing the prospect of destitution and homelessness or staying with their abuser. According to Women's Aid, only 4.0% of all vacancies posted on Routes to Support in 2019-20 could consider victims and survivors of domestic abuse who had NRPF.¹

The Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) gives victims and survivors of domestic abuse on spousal visas 3 months temporary leave and the right to access limited state benefits and temporary housing whilst their applications for indefinite leave under the DV Rule are considered. The DV Rule and the DDVC do not extend to those with non-spousal visas who are subject to NRPF. This includes people on student or other types of visas such as work permit holders and domestic workers, as well as people without immigration status such as those who have overstayed visas or have no visa at all.

2. Purpose of the Funding

Throughout passage of the Domestic Abuse Act through parliament, a number of parliamentarians, experts and specialist organisations, as well as the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, highlighted the need for improved support and provision for victims and survivors of domestic abuse with NRPF.

To address these concerns the Home Office undertook the Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Review, which concluded that further evidence was needed to justify the policy changes necessary to provide all victims with NRPF with adequate housing and support. It stated that it was unclear which groups are likely to be most in need of support, how well existing arrangements may address their needs, how long they might need support for, and how they could be supported to move on from safe accommodation.

On 15th April, the Home Office announced that Southall Black Sisters and partner organisations were awarded funding for the Support for Migrant Victims pilot scheme. The pilot will support 300-500 women over the next year for 12 weeks. The fund covers the whole of the UK with partners taking responsibility for certain regions. There is no funding for therapeutic intervention such as counselling, interpretation costs, children's costs, medical and travel costs, and SBS and other organisations in the partnership will use their own funding to the total value of £300,000 to fill the gaps in providing the wrap-around holistic services. The Home Office has also commissioned an independent evaluation of the pilot scheme, which will help to address some gaps in the evidence.

¹ Women's Aid (2021), The Annual Audit 2021: [The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2021-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/publications/our-publications/the-domestic-abuse-report-2021-the-annual-audit/) (womensaid.org.uk)

This grant will fund research to address the gaps in evidence available to the Home Office on support for Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse, by establishing the number of victims and survivors of domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds, the cost of supporting those who need support, and the cost benefit of such interventions. It will also provide key recommendations to Government to influence policy and decision making following the Support for Migrant Victims Fund in 2022. The Home Office recognise that it is necessary to understand the number of victims and survivors of domestic abuse with No Recourse to Public Funds, but through their own Support for Migrant Victims Fund will not be able to determine this.

3. The Funding

We have a maximum budget of £50,000 but would expect organisations to provide quotations based on the cost of completing the work set out here and how their existing expertise and/or networks would enable them to deliver the work at a lower cost. VAT will not be chargeable for this work.

The grant period is January 2021 to June 2022. As a condition of the grant, successful bidders will be required to engage with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office and key stakeholders including through:

- Fortnightly meetings with Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office policy team;
- Monthly meetings to consult and engage with other stakeholders such as Home Office officials and sector organisations;
- Engagement in a final launch event;
- A final conclusion and evaluation meeting reflecting on the impact of the research and considering any next steps.

Ahead of signing the grant agreement, we would ask the successful bidder to attend a start-up meeting on **17th December 2021** or week commencing 20th December 2021 – we would be grateful if you could hold 17th December in your diaries if you are likely to be unavailable during week commencing 20th December.

4. Planned payment dates

The model of payment would be subject to final agreement with the successful bidder. We anticipate that the organisation would be paid in 2 monthly or 3 monthly intervals, with the final payment on completion of the project at the end of the June 2022.

5. Key deliverables

The primary impact of the fund will be to **improve and help build the evidence base of what interventions are needed to improve support for migrant victims and survivors of domestic abuse with NRPF.**

Key outputs include:

1. A written report which sets out the analysis, methodology, primary research findings and recommendations, as well as an executive summary of findings and recommendations.
2. The data tables and calculations underpinning the findings to be provided to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office.

3. Meetings with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office, key sector experts and the Home Office and the Treasury throughout the drafting process.
4. Presentation and discussion of report findings and recommendations at a launch event.

It is important that the findings and recommendations are presented in a way that is easily understood by a wide audience, and that reflects the tone and principles of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office. A style guide will be provided to the successful applicants and publication of research will be dependent on the sign off from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

Bids will be expected to set out what primary and secondary research methods may be used to conduct this research, including to provide the following:

1. An estimate of the number of migrant victims of domestic abuse in the UK* who have No Recourse to Public Funds.² The estimate should include:
 - a. The 'current figure' at the time of conducting the research as well as the flow figure running for the next 5 years. This figure should include consideration of the impact of recent policy decisions such as the EU Settlement Scheme and the new Nationality and Borders Bill;
 - b. A breakdown of the figure by various immigration status, including but not limited to: different visa types; visa 'overstayers'; failed asylum seekers; and other undocumented or insecure migrants. This should also include the number of EEA nationals who have missed the deadline to apply for Settled Status in July 2021 and are without recourse to public funds.
 - c. An assessment of the number of people who are currently eligible for the DDVC, and within these, how many are in receipt of the DDVC.
 - d. A breakdown of the number of these survivors that are in need of support via the DDVC, and who are facing destitution as defined by the Home Office for the purposes of the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession.
2. Providing an estimate of the length of time support would be needed for victims on average, the level of support needed, and the cost of providing this support on a national scale. This should include the development of 2-3 possible appropriate costing scenarios.
3. A cost benefit analysis of providing this support using Green Book methodology, including outlining the financial impact on various different public services of not supporting this group.

* While Nicole Jacobs is the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, this report will inform Home Office policy decision making across the four nations and therefore the evidence will need to reflect and break down the number and cost across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

² The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office will work with researchers to provide an appropriate definition of domestic abuse for the purposes of this research.

6. Eligibility

Bids are only permitted from Not for Profit organisations, academic researchers, and social research organisations.

Bids can be either singular or in collaboration but must be put forward by a lead who can be the accountable body on the behalf of the partnership. A bidder can be the lead in only one bid but could participate in a second bid as a delivery partner.

We intend to assess bids against the following criteria:

- Outline of the primary / secondary research methods bidders intend to use;
- Evidence of experience and qualification for this work;
- Clarity and achievability of outlined project plan;
- Clear timeframe for delivery.
- Demonstration of how research plans will achieve the desired outcome of informing decision making on support for migrant victims of domestic abuse with NRPF
- Demonstration of how value for money will be achieved.
- Outline of how General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will be met.

7. Indicative Timetable

Indicative Timetable	Provisional Dates
Competition OPENS for bidding	18 November 2021
Deadline for Clarification Questions	3pm, Thursday 2 December 2021
Competition CLOSES	4pm, Thursday 9 December 2021
Home Office Panel reviews bids	By 16 December 2021
Bidders informed of outcomes	By 16 December 2021
Start-up Meeting	17 December 2021 Or week commencing 20th December