

FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATE THIS ELECTION

1 I want my MP to make addressing domestic abuse their priority. How will your party do this? What key policies do you have in this area?

A woman's right to live safely and free from violence is under threat. The needs of women and domestic abuse survivors must not be forgotten or deprioritised by the next government. We want to hear specific policies from parties, not vague statements of support and concern.

2 Domestic abuse services are chronically underfunded. If elected, how will your party fund them? What level of investment could we expect?

Domestic abuse services have a long history of poor funding and gaps in service provision. Refuge and our allies have costed what is required to adequately fund services and are calling for £427m per year* in funding.

3 Many domestic abuse survivors are tragically let down by the criminal justice system, how will you improve the system for survivors?

There needs to be a drastic improvement in how VAWG is prioritised and how seriously it is taken across the system – from the moment a survivor reports a crime. We're calling for an improved police response, specialist training for professionals in the system, quicker court trials and decisions, stronger sentencing and the exemption of VAWG perpetrators from early release prison schemes.

4 Women's trust in police is at an all-time low. What measures will you take to reform the police and root out abusers?

There should be a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and abusers within policing starting with mandatory suspension of officers and staff while under investigation for allegations of abuse and better vetting processes.