

Domestic abuse in later life

solace

About Solace Women's Aid

Solace exists to end the harm caused by gender-based violence and to support women and girls to live free from violence and abuse. Across the UK, survivors continue to experience domestic and sexual violence and abuse, often in circumstances where seeking help or disclosing abuse can be extraordinarily difficult.

For more than 50 years, Solace has stood alongside women and girls affected by abuse, providing specialist support while working towards lasting change. Our work is rooted in the belief that everyone has the right to live with safety, dignity and freedom from abuse.

About Solace training

The Solace Training Programme supports our statutory, community, and corporate partners to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to deliver effective and survivor-centred services. Our work is underpinned by 50 years of specialist experience in the field, feeding in insights from our frontline staff and expert advisors to ensure our training packages draw on cutting-edge best practices and research and address emerging issues.

The proceeds from our training and consultancy directly fund Solace's frontline services for survivors of abuse. By taking part in our programmes, you are equipping your team with essential skills and knowledge on supporting survivors, while also helping to sustain vital services such as refuges, domestic and sexual abuse helplines, and specialist support for children and young people, so they can reach those who need them most. Our training is informed by the perspectives of people who use our services. We are grateful to members of our Service User Involvement Training Advisory Group whose lived experience and feedback have helped shape the content of these sessions.

About Solace's Trainings on Domestic Abuse in Later Life

In England and Wales, an estimated 550,000 people aged 60–74 and approximately 195,000 people aged 75 and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2025, based on ONS prevalence rates applied to the latest population estimates.

Older survivors often experience a unique set of risks and needs, including the impact of long-term relationships, care dynamics, health challenges and complex family circumstances, that often remain hidden despite the high prevalence of abuse.

These considerations become even more complex when dementia is involved, whether the survivor is living with dementia or the person causing harm has a diagnosis of dementia. The relationship between dementia and domestic abuse is an emerging area of practice, bringing together expertise from both domestic abuse and dementia services and highlighting the importance of informed, nuanced responses.



Solace's training responds to these challenges, drawing on our specialist experience supporting survivors of domestic abuse and the extensive expertise of our Silver Project, which has worked with older survivors for more than a decade. Our training programmes combine specialist knowledge with practical, survivor-centred approaches to help professionals recognise abuse, address risks and needs effectively and respond with confidence in this complex field of practice.

Our trainings on domestic abuse in later life and dementia include:

Working with Older Survivors of Domestic Abuse (5-hours)

This session will provide learners with an understanding of the unique needs of older survivors of domestic abuse and help them better understand why it is crucial to develop specialist knowledge and pathways to meet older survivors' needs.

The session will cover exploring the current picture for older survivors in the UK, gaps in research and provisions, indicators of abuse and barriers to disclosure, key considerations around risk and safety planning with older survivors, housing options and sources of support, signposting and referrals.

Domestic Abuse and Dementia – For all Audiences (5-hours)

This session is designed for health, social care, and other practitioners who work with, or may come into contact with, survivors living with dementia and who do not already have extensive knowledge of supporting survivors with dementia. Building on the Working with Older Survivors of Domestic Abuse training, this session will deepen participants' understanding of dementia and explore approaches to supporting and working with survivors who are living with dementia.

The session will provide participants with an understanding of dementia and its impact on a person and wider familial and social circle. It will cover working with a person who has been diagnosed with dementia including understanding risk and safety planning, the principles of working with an alleged perpetrator who has been diagnosed with dementia, understanding carer abuse and its intersection with dementia and domestic abuse, and best practice for multi-agency working with cases involving dementia.

Domestic Abuse and Dementia – For Medical & Specialist Staff (5-hours)

This session is designed for medical and specialist staff who already have knowledge and experience around working with individuals who have dementia. It is designed to follow on from the Working with Older Survivors of Domestic Abuse training and further embed learning and best practice within medical and specialist settings and teams.

The session will provide learners with an in-depth understanding of the intersection of dementia, carer abuse, and domestic abuse, and cover the definitions and dynamics of domestic and carer abuse, its impact on older survivors, effective multi-agency working with cases involving dementia, the principles of working with an alleged perpetrator who has been diagnosed with dementia, understanding risk assessment in domestic abuse and how it may apply to cases involving dementia, and working with professionals to develop safety plans for survivors.



Our team has often felt the complexity and challenges in working with survivors and perpetrators with dementia. The training addressed so many of the questions and issues we encounter and I liked that the trainer covered both theory and practical application/risk assessment in practice.

Consultancy

Our Training and Consultancy team is pleased to offer tailored guidance for your organisation. From reviewing policies to running focus groups, we'll help you strengthen your approach and embed safer practices around domestic abuse in later life and effective support for older survivors.

We have worked closely with local authorities to develop best practice procedures and resources such as practitioners' toolkits. To explore our work in this field: [SOS Toolkit: Supporting Older Survivors - Solace Womens Aid](#)

Pricing

Pricing depends on session length and group size. Discounts are available for charities, local authorities and for full team training.

Get in Touch

To learn more about any of our programmes or to book a training session, contact: training@solacewomensaid.org



I now feel more confident in safety planning. I will share this learning with others in our organisation and think about how we can better safety plan in this area. It has given me lots to reflect on.

