

Mims Davies MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London, SW1H 9NA

14th August 2023

Dear Minister,

I am writing to invite you to meet with Women's Aid at Conservative Party Conference. Your participation at our event at last year's Conference was greatly valued and we hope that we can continue our work together to tackle domestic abuse.

With 1.7 million women that we know of, experiencing domestic abuse every year and the domestic abuse sector having the potential to save the public purse as much as £23 billion a year if adequately funded, the urgent need to tackle domestic abuse is clear.

As we approach the 2024 General Election, Women's Aid is calling for the national prioritisation of domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). We need to see a seismic shift towards a whole-system approach that can better understand and address the needs of survivors, as well as recognise the value – to survivors and society – that specialist women's and 'by and for' domestic abuse services deliver. Our [General Election manifesto](#), and our ['Come Together' campaign](#), show how we can make a difference if we step up together across society and communities to do what we can to end abuse.

The welfare response to domestic abuse plays a critical role in supporting survivors and is especially important in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, which is preventing many women from escaping abuse. Women's Aid would welcome the opportunity to discuss our manifesto, and the wider work of the organisation with you in more detail and explore how we can work together to ensure survivors of domestic abuse are able to access the welfare support they need. We would also value a discussion on how we may support you and your ministerial team.

Women's Aid will be at Conservative Party Conference on Monday 2nd October and Tuesday 3rd October and hope to meet with you during this time. If this is of interest, I

Patrons: Dame Julie Walters and Melanie Brown

Women's Aid is the national federation for local domestic abuse services supporting women and children across England.

would be grateful if your office could liaise with Sophie Francis-Cansfield, Head of External Affairs, at s.francis-cansfield@womensaid.org.uk.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name.

Farah Nazeer

Chief Executive

Women's Aid Federation of England