



Domestic Abuse

Guidance for Students

This guidance applies to:

- All students on the University of the Built Environment taught programmes
- London School of Architecture students
- Postgraduate research students

Reference:

Version: 2.00

Status: Final

Date: 26/01/2026

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1. Introduction

The University of the Built Environment is committed to creating and sustaining an inclusive and accessible learning environment, which is free from all forms of abuse, including domestic abuse and gender based violence. This approach will aim to ensure that the behaviour stops, that the victim/survivor is kept safe, and that the University enforces their view that domestic abuse is never acceptable.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 7.8% of adults aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending June 2025 (Office for National Statistics, 2025).

The University strongly condemns domestic abuse and gender-based violence. Domestic abuse has a prevailing and widespread destructive impact on all involved and the wider community. The University seeks to encourage those affected to feel comfortable and able to disclose incidents and receive support which, where possible, will be treated confidentially. Any information you provide to us about your health will be processed in accordance with our [Data Protection Policy \(opens new window\)](#).

The University recognises that moving on from domestic abuse is frequently extremely difficult and challenging and is likely to be managed over a period of time.

Personal safety and the safety of any dependants is of greatest importance. In an emergency and, or where you, or others nearby are at risk of harm, the emergency services should be contacted.

The aim of this guidance document is to:

- Raise awareness of the issue of domestic abuse.
- Improve support and recognition for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- Outline the support that victims/survivors of domestic abuse can access (both as a student of the University and externally).
- Provide information on the steps that perpetrators of domestic abuse can take should they inclined to change their behaviour.

For the purpose of this guidance, we use the terms 'victim' and 'survivor' to describe someone who has personally experienced domestic abuse.

To support a positive working environment that is free from any form of domestic abuse, the behavioural expectations that students are required to comply with are set out in the following: [Student Disciplinary Procedure \(opens new window\)](#).

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2. What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any single incident, course of conduct or pattern of abusive behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are personally connected to each other. This could be as a result of being, or having been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.

Children who see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse are also considered victims/survivors of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse takes many forms, it can include, but is not limited to:

- **Physical abuse:** abuse involving physical violence, such as hitting, punching, pushing, kicking, biting, choking, use of weapons and making threats of violence.
- **Sexual abuse:** behaviour (physical, emotional, verbal, online) of a sexual nature which may be controlling, coercive, harmful, exploitative, or unwanted that is inflicted on a person, and may include taking advantage of their ability to give informed consent.
- **Economic or financial abuse:** any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on someone's ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services.
- **Coercive behaviour:** an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.
- **Controlling behaviour:** a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.
- **Stalking:** a pattern of unwanted, fixated, or obsessive behaviour that is intrusive and causes fear of violence or serious harm.
- **Digital and online abuse:** abuse facilitated by technology. This may include controlling or coercive behaviours, cyber stalking, threatening/nuisance phone calls or emails, location tracking, online harassment, dissemination of intimate images (revenge porn).

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- **'Honour' based abuse (including forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)):** an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion, or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.
- **Spiritual abuse:** any attempt to exert power and control over someone using faith, religion, or beliefs.
- **Pet abuse:** pets may be abused or used in an attempt to control a victim. Many victims/survivors are unwilling to leave their homes if they knew that their pet was unsafe and/or at risk of harm.

3. Disclosing abuse

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, there are several options available to you should you wish to make a disclosure and seek advice and support. When you make a disclosure; wherever possible, ensure that you have a private space away from your abuser.

Women can disclose abuse to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline by calling 0808 2000 247. This is a freephone number and offers 24-hour support and advice. You can also access live chat from their website www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk ([opens new window](#))

Specific advice and support for men by phone, email or webchat can be accessed from www.mensadvice.org.uk ([opens new window](#)) or their freephone number 0808 8010 327.

For students based internationally you can find further information on relevant international support helplines [here](#) ([opens new window](#)).

If, as a student you are not at immediate risk of harm and wish to report a concern regarding domestic abuse and/or to access support from the University you can do so by calling +44 (0)1184672400 or by emailing safeguarding@ube.ac.uk. If preferable you can communicate your concern to any member of the University staff or student representative and ask them to escalate the concern on your behalf. The Safeguarding Team will acknowledge receipt of the concern within one working day. Please be aware, this is not an emergency service.

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4. Support available

4.1 Victims and survivors of domestic abuse

We recognise that whether or not you choose to report domestic abuse, you may wish to access additional support and information. If you are experiencing domestic abuse, support is available to you both as a student of the University, and more generally.

Support is available from the services outlined in [Section 3](#) of this document. In addition, the [NHS \(opens new window\)](#) details services which provide support for victims/survivors of domestic abuse, and includes information on specific services available for women, men, the LGBTQ+ community and victims of honour based abuse, forced marriage or female genital mutilation (FGM).

International students may benefit from sourcing support in their local area; students from Europe can find international helplines [here \(opens new window\)](#), and students from other areas of the world can access information via the [Safeguarding in HE website \(opens new window\)](#) or can contact safeguarding@ube.ac.uk for help in sourcing support in their area.

The University's Safeguarding Team can also help to guide students to access specific support relevant to their individual circumstances, as well as providing advice and guidance on support available to students internally at the University (such as applications for mitigating circumstances or study support). The Safeguarding Team are also trained as Mental Health First Aiders, and can act as a listening ear. You can contact the Safeguarding Team by emailing safeguarding@ube.ac.uk or by calling +44 (0)118 4672400.

4.2 Perpetrators of domestic abuse

The University recognises that perpetrators of domestic abuse may be inclined to access support to change their behaviour. The charity [Respect \(opens new window\)](#) provides support to perpetrators of abuse, and perpetrators may wish to contact them for support.

Students can also get in touch with the University's Safeguarding Team by emailing safeguarding@ube.ac.uk.

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As outlined above, the University's Safeguarding Team can also help to guide students to access specific support relevant to their individual circumstances, as well as providing advice and guidance on support available to students internally at the University (such as applications for mitigating circumstances or study support). The Safeguarding Team are also trained as Mental Health First Aiders, and can act as a listening ear.

5. Confidentiality

All University staff have a responsibility to report concerns about the welfare of a student to the Safeguarding Team. Where a member of staff is notified of a concern of domestic abuse, this will always be forwarded to the Safeguarding Team to assess the situation.

For more information on how the University manages confidentiality regarding safeguarding concerns, please review the University's [Safeguarding Procedure \(opens new window\)](#).

The University acknowledges that students require privacy when discussing domestic abuse with University staff. The Safeguarding Team will endeavour, wherever possible, to offer students appointments in advance to discuss their concerns to ensure that the student and staff member can arrange a private space to talk.

5.1 Multi-agency working

To ensure that you receive the best and most appropriate support, it is often appropriate for the University to work with partners from relevant external organisations.

Wherever possible, your wishes around privacy will be respected and the University will not share information with any agencies without your consent. There are some exceptions to this, and on occasion the University may be required to make referrals on your behalf to statutory agencies without your consent- for more information, please view the University's [Safeguarding Procedure \(opens new window\)](#).

There are many other organisations which offer support to victims/survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse. These include organisations which offer support specific to domestic abuse, but also more general services (e.g., support with finances, housing). The Safeguarding Team can discuss these options with students, and support students in accessing these services where appropriate, with their consent.

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6. Related documents

[Code of Practice: Safeguarding and Prevent \(opens new window\)](#).

[Safeguarding Procedure \(opens new window\)](#).

[Prevent Procedure \(opens new window\)](#).

[Anti-Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Procedure \(opens new window\)](#).

[Data Protection Policy \(opens new window\)](#).