

# Foreword

For over 35 years, **Women's Aid's** has been working to prevent domestic and sexual violence, and to ensure the safety of abused women and children. There are three key aims to our strategy: **protection, prevention and provision.**

As well as meeting the needs of women and children survivors of abuse through the **provision** of high quality specialist services, and improving the **protection** available to abused women and children by ensuring that their needs inform developments in law, policy and practice, we have also been dedicated to the **prevention** of domestic violence through public awareness and education.

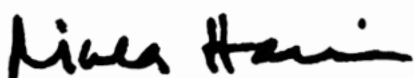
In partnership with our national network of over 370 local domestic violence services, we have significantly raised public awareness of the needs and experiences of women and children who experience domestic violence in many areas of public life, by communicating the message that domestic and sexual violence is unacceptable, and by promoting education and action to prevent it.

A key element of this work has been to engage directly with children and young people through our service provision and through partnership work, to promote safe, violence-free family relationships. The education of children and young people is an important arena for work on domestic abuse – unless we change the attitudes of children and young people, as well as their parents and wider society, domestic abuse will continue to feature in the lives of future generations.

Many local Women's Aid services not only provide specialist help and support for children and young people in refuge and outreach services, but also have for many years worked with schools and young people's services to address the issue. However this work has often been ad-hoc and, like many domestic violence services and resources, part of a postcode lottery.

Women's Aid was therefore delighted to have the opportunity to work with teachers to develop resources for work with children and young people in schools that would expand the existing resources and services currently offered across the country. With funding from The Body Shop, we seized the opportunity therefore, to provide a comprehensive resource that would enable domestic abuse to be addressed easily and regularly by schools throughout a child or young person's school life.

Specifically designed to be an easy-to-use resource and with additional online support provided by Women's Aid, we hope that teachers will make full use of the Education Toolkit in their work with children and young people, to improve responses to those affected now and to prevent domestic abuse in the future.



**Nicola Harwin, CBE**

Chief Executive

Women's Aid Federation of England

# Acknowledgements

Women's Aid would like to thank the following people and organisations without whom the Expect Respect Education Toolkit would not have been possible:

- Toby Morgan and all the team at The Body Shop for providing the funding for this project and allowing us the freedom to develop it in response to need;
- Denise Harding and Kate Humphreys, the expert teacher consultants and primary writers of the lesson plans;
- The creators and publishers of various materials that have informed the development of some of the activities within the lesson plans. In particular, we acknowledge the *Spiralling Toolkit for Safer, Healthier Relationships* – Bristol Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme (Domestic Violence Responses for Safer Bristol); and *Heartstrings: A PSHCE pack for secondary schools to challenge domestic abuse and build healthy relationships* – Cheshire County Council Community and Education Service Secondary Schools Project (with thanks to Chris Greenwood);
- Domestic Violence Responses, National Youth Theatre and yeastCulture for Safer Bristol, who jointly created *Spiralling – the movie* (used in Years 12 and 13 lesson plans), which is part of the *Spiralling Toolkit for Safer, Healthier Relationships* (above);
- Thangam Debbonnaire from Domestic Violence Responses for all her help in the initial stages and, with Kevin Walton, for their comments on the final draft of this Toolkit;
- Mandy McKenzie (from the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre, in Victoria, Australia, [www.dvinc.org.au](http://www.dvinc.org.au)), the creator of the original 'Expect Respect' characters;
- Women's Aid staff for their time and input to the development and production of the Toolkit: in particular, Amandeep Hothi, Jackie Kilburn, Catherine Bond, Teresa Parker, Rachel Harrison and Katie Ross;
- The teachers, children and young people from the following schools that took part in the pilot and gave valuable feedback on the lesson plans:

*Priestnall, Stockport, Cheshire*

*The Kingsway School, Cheadle, Cheshire*

*St Bernadette's RC Primary, Brinnington, Stockport*

*Fairfield High School for Girls (Specialist Science College), Tameside*

*St Thomas More RC Maths and Computing College, Tameside*

*Westbury Park, Bristol*

*Fairfield High School, Bristol*

*Pupils from North Bristol Post-16 College*

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