



BUDGET 2020: INVESTING IN OUR NATIONAL AMBITION FOR A SAFE IRELAND

A Budget 2020 Submission by Safe
Ireland, the national social change
agency working to eradicate domestic
violence in Ireland

September 2019

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1. Working together for a safe Ireland

This is the Budget 2020 submission from Safe Ireland, a national social change agency working to create safety for women and children and to prevent domestic violence in Ireland.

We collaborate in our work with 36 specialist frontline domestic violence services throughout Ireland, who are all members of Safe Ireland.

Together, we support the development and provision of critical services and responses to an average of 13,700 women and children annually and respond to over 50,000 helpline calls to all of our services, throughout the country (DV Services National Statistics 2016).

Working with services across Ireland, together we have the reach, research, understanding, expertise and vital frontline connection to the experiences and needs of women and children living with violence and abuse.

2. Ambitious foundations

In January of this year, the new Domestic Violence Act 2018 was commenced, positioning Ireland as a progressive world leader in ensuring safety for women, men and children living with violence.

We now have, for the first time, robust and ground-breaking legislation that recognises and responds to the control and inequality that is at the heart of intimate partner violence.

Significantly, with this Act, women can be confident that coercive control – a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour - is now recognised as a criminal offence in this country. The Act recognises that violence between intimate partners is an aggravating offence that can no longer be dismissed as “just a domestic.”

Critically, the Act also ensures greater transparency and consistency for women reliant on a functioning and responsive judicial system, with visionary and ambitious provisions to increase access to court and to introduce new statutory guidance for court orders.

Ireland Does not Tolerate Violence

Rights for victims of crime were recognised with the enactment of the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017.

It transposed the EU Victims of Crime Directive into Irish law, with progressive and welcome implications for the way our judicial and policing systems would respond to domestic violence. Significantly, the Directive also set out guidelines on the minimum

legal requirement for the provision of adequate and family appropriate emergency accommodation for survivors, which is an essential part of services needed for women and children looking for safety from violence.

Then, in 2019, on International Women's Day (March 8) Ireland formally ratified the Istanbul Convention.¹

In Strasbourg, it was great to hear Minister for Justice & Equality Charlie Flanagan TD state that:

"Protecting and supporting victims has been a key priority for this Government. Domestic and sexual violence can have devastating consequences for victims as well as society as a whole. Ratifying the Convention delivers on a Government commitment and sends an important message that Ireland does not tolerate such violence."

3. Prevention of gender-based violence

The government's commitment to the Istanbul convention includes a commitment to the prevention of violence against women. Best practice models² to help prevent gender-based violence are supported by cohesive national actions plans³ which focus on both primary and secondary prevention. Effective prevention requires a range of strategies which include: **1) Appropriate Responses** being in place to secure safety for victims; **2) Targeted Early Intervention Programmes** to educate those at risk of perpetrating violence; **3) Recovery programmes** which support survivors to restore their lives, address the impacts of abuse on children and work to stop abusers from reoffending and **4) Primary Prevention Programmes** which stop the violence from happening in the first place through establishing social norms, awareness, regulations and social practices which promote safe and equal relationships and tackle behaviours and beliefs which feed violence.

In Ireland we now have ambitious legal foundations firmly in place to help strengthen responses and that provide a societal regulation framework that also will help prevent violence.

But this legal ambition needs to be supported by all the components of prevention and has to be matched with adequate and smart resourcing commitments if it is to have real and lasting impact on the lives of women and children.

¹ Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

² Heise, L. L. (2011). *What works to prevent partner violence? An evidence overview*. London: Centre for Gender Violence and Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

³ Our Watch, ANROWS, & VicHealth. (2015). *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia*. Melbourne: Our Watch.

During the last recession, funding to domestic violence services was significantly cut while demand for services continued to increase. Despite some increases in funding to Tusla since 2016, there is still a fragile infrastructure that has never fully recovered, and has never been properly resourced to recover, from eight years of austerity.

We know that our services, as they are working currently, can respond to only a fraction of the women experiencing violence. We also know that the progressive new legislation and requirements under the EU Directive and the Istanbul Convention are supporting more women to come forward.

Services must be restored to be able to meet this immediate growing awareness and demand.

Across all agencies there needs to be a greater investment in capacity and available personnel to establish a strong response infrastructure in Ireland. This includes having a robust policing response, an efficient and well-informed courts service, strong legal advocacy and information services for victims and access to safe and stable housing.

In addition, there must be investment in the development of a comprehensive national primary prevention strategy in order to stop violence against women before it starts. To establish an evidence based national prevention strategy there needs to be investment in research and pilot programmes which can be evaluated and scaled up in an Irish context.

In Budget 2020, we can take constructive steps towards this by prioritising investment that will:

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- 1.1. Strengthen specialist services for women and children
 - 1.2. Prevent homelessness
 - 1.3. Develop a world class justice response
 - 1.4. Invest in evidence based primary prevention programmes
 - 1.5. Create an enabling environment for philanthropy

4. Domestic violence is costing us money and lives

Domestic violence has a profound impact on the physical and psychological health of women.⁴ Moreover, there is a ripple effect for children, the family as a unit, communities, the workplace and society in general.⁵ Domestic violence is a direct and indirect risk factor for a variety of health problems. Research has established that women and children experiencing violence utilise health services more frequently, including the emergency department, outpatient care, primary care services, and counselling services, and are more likely to report a worse health status and quality of life than those who do not experience violence.⁶

The full costs of domestic violence go way beyond health. There is growing awareness that the economic and social costs can be enormous, not just for individuals and families, but for the national economy. There are the direct costs of services to treat and support abused women and their children and to bring perpetrators to justice. But then there are the indirect, and often invisible costs, like lost employment and productivity.⁷

In Ireland, an oft-cited figure on the economic costs of domestic violence is €2.2 billion annually, or €555 for every man, woman and child living in the country, every year.⁸

Ground-breaking new evidence

Emerging evidence from research being conducted by NUI Galway and Safe Ireland, with the support of The Community Foundation for Ireland, is giving us a clearer indication of the combined costs of domestic violence on an individual basis.

The study, which tracked the total economic impact for 50 women, shows that the total average cost of domestic violence is €115,790⁹, delineated across three distinct phases of a woman's journey from abuse to recovery.¹⁰

Lost income and productivity are emerging as the largest economic costs being incurred. Some participants were prevented from working, while others had to cease work due to illness or injury. This research is showing us that women are being forced into poverty and economic dependence on the state.

This dependency, in addition to their disproportionate utilisation of health and legal services, results in considerable costs for the state. Women's capabilities and the future

⁴ Garcia-Moreno and Watts 2000, Bacchus et al., 2004, Campbell et al. 2008, Duvvury, et al. 2012.

⁵ Levendosky et al. 2002, Dube et al. 2002, Åsling-Monemi et al. 2003, Bogat et al. 2006.

⁶ Grisso et al. 1999, Kyriacou et al 1999, Bonomi et al. 2006.

⁷ UN Secretary General 2006, Duvvury et al. 2013.

⁸ Hagemann-White 2006. This is based on the 2006 Council of Europe study indicating that DV costs member states €555 per citizen annually in policing, health bills, lost productivity and court proceedings.

⁹ As one woman in our sample was unable to report any of the economic costs she incurred, the total economic impact across all cost categories, €5,673,732, is divided by 49.

¹⁰ Three distinct phases are: the abusive relationship, sanctuary and interim period, and relocation and recovery.

potential of their children who experience DV is also undermined. As such, addressing DV is not only a moral imperative, it makes sound economic sense.

Widespread social epidemic

Domestic violence is an enormous problem in Ireland.

The most comprehensive study of violence against women undertaken in Europe¹¹ (2014) reveals that:

- 31% of Irish woman (470,157 women) have experienced some form of psychological violence by a partner since the age of 15;
- 26% (394,325 women) have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or non-partner since the age of 15;
- 15% percent – 227,495 Irish women – have experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15.

However, the survey also reveals that a massive 79% of women never report the most serious incidence of violence to the police in Ireland. This means that only one woman in eight is coming forward to report the violence she is experiencing.

We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg

It is our culture and attitudes that allow domestic violence to continue as the most underreported, largely undocumented and certainly unprosecuted crime in the country.

Our services are completely overstretched and are operating to capacity. Yet, we know we are only reaching a tiny proportion of the women who are living with violence in Ireland. We can do better with better investment.

Even at that, the numbers are shocking: The last national statistics (2016)¹² tell us that:

- **50,551** helpline calls were answered by domestic violence services across Ireland.
- **10,101** individual women received support from domestic violence services.
- **3,685** individual children received support from domestic violence services.
- **1,460** individual women were accommodated and received a range of other supports in refuge.
- **2,190** individual children lived in a refuge.
- Refuges were unable to accommodate **3,981** requests from women for emergency accommodation because they were full.

¹¹ EU FRA Study on Violence Against Women, 2014.

¹² Safe Ireland, National Domestic Violence Statistics 2016.

5. Budget 2020 priorities

Safe Ireland has five urgent budget priorities for 2020. With adequate and smart investment, Ireland can begin to transform our response to domestic violence.

1. STRENGTHEN SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The Istanbul Convention, the EU Victims Directive and Tusla's statutory duty set out clearly that we must ensure that there are sustainable and thriving professional support services to protect adults and children affected by domestic violence.

A national survey and assessment of needs across the majority of domestic violence services in Ireland in 2019 has identified the following priorities for domestic violence service development in 2020.

a. Secure sustainability for DV services

Equal value for equal work

In 2007, the HSE established a pay and conditions framework for DV services to establish a benchmark for DV specialist service providers. However, with eight years of austerity and limited increase in core operational funding for DV services, there is now huge disparity in pay and conditions across the sector.

Domestic violence services, so essential to survivors and their children, are facing huge challenges retaining staff and attracting suitably qualified staff. Our services and those who work within them are hard wired to provide support to vulnerable women and children. However, it is extremely difficult to continue to do so when pay is low, hours are long and there is such huge disparity between services.

We must see the introduction of full pay parity and a restoration of pay and conditions for management and ancillary staff in line with 2007 HSE¹³ agreed pay and conditions.

This can begin with a detailed assessment with the sector in early 2020 to calculate the quantum, followed by a phased introduction over three years leading to full pay parity and a qualification framework agreed with the sector by 2023.

The estimated cost for this in 2020 is €4.75m.¹⁴

¹³ Murphy, T. & Assoc. HSE 2007 Report to HSE Steering Committee; Review of Staffing Structures & Terms and Conditions of Employment in the Violence against Women Sector & Provide Recommendations on Standardisation Within the Sector.

¹⁴ Based on calculations informed by the national survey and assessment of needs across DV services.

Meet core operational costs

The national survey of domestic violence services carried out in 2019 also shows that the rising cost of rent and insurance is also having an impact on domestic violence services, in particular those that are providing residential and childcare facilities.

Some services have seen their insurance premium rise by up to 300% in the past two years, with at least one service facing an increase of €10,000 in its annual insurance premium.

In 2020, there needs to be an increase in operational funding to domestic violence services to meet inflationary costs. Following this, there is a need for a plan for year on year increases to meet inflation and sustainability costs of in line with national trends, at a minimum.

The estimated cost for this in 2020 is € 400,000.

b. Expand core services to meet increased demand

Our services are responding to increasingly complex needs and demands. We need to ensure an additional 80 whole time equivalent professionals in total in 2020 to meet the requirements in court accompaniment and outreach, and to further develop services to support children and scale up the Safe Ireland Tech Safety and national legal advocacy service (Resolve).

Courts and outreach

The introduction of the Domestic Violence Act 2018 provides for domestic violence agencies to provide court accompaniment services to victims. This vital mandate has to be expanded and resourced adequately.

The development of violence prevention and safety strategies in domestic violence services has demonstrated that outreach into communities can reduce the need for women to leave their homes and can provide greater support for them in securing safe accommodation.

In order to meet this demand, we need to ensure that there are 40 additional whole time equivalent (WTE) staff recruited to our services in 2019.

Children

Children are victims of domestic violence. In order to respond adequately to the complex needs of child survivors we need a minimum of one full-time dedicated child support worker in each service. Additional resources will be required to provide necessary training, equipment and programme development. For 2020 we are recommending funding for the recruitment of 40 WTE who will work directly with children.

Technology

Technology Abuse is increasingly used by perpetrators to control, intimidate and isolate survivors. In 2020, we need to scale up the existing *Tech Safe Ireland* project, which is being co-ordinated by Safe Ireland, to increase the capacity of domestic violence services and other professionals to respond to this pernicious and often hidden form of abuse.

Legal protection and safety

Women are presenting with increasingly complex legal needs. In 2020, we need to scale up our pilot project *Resolve* which is a national specialist legal advocacy service, coordinated by Safe Ireland, to help survivors access the legal protection and safety they need.

The estimated costs in 2020 to meet these increasing demands are:

40 WTE Specialist Staff: ¹⁵	€1,782,000
36 WTE Child Support Workers: ¹⁶	€1,316,000
Technology Abuse Pilot:	€ 152,000
Legal Advocacy Service:	€ 280,000
Total:	€3,530,000

c. Professional Development

While there is a very educated workforce employed in DV services there is no nationally agreed framework for qualifications or specialist feeder programmes to educate new recruits. In addition there is no ongoing continued professional development standards established for domestic violence specialists to complement the national standards for provision of domestic violence services.

Sustaining and developing DV support services relies on well-structured and trauma informed organisations. Our assessment of service development gaps has identified the need to invest in organisational culture, resources and policies to ensure that DV service providers are responsive to both the effects of trauma on the women and children they are supporting and potential secondary effects of trauma on organisational culture. Investment is needed in building capacity across DV services to ensure that they are

¹⁵ €31922* x 40+employers prsi + 7% pension (half year) - point 1 on social care scale plus € plus €320,000 for equipment, recruitment and operational costs.

¹⁶ €31,922* 36+employers prsi + 7% pension (half year) – point 1 in social care scale. Plus €200,000 for equipment, recruitment and programme development.

trauma informed. A scaling up of an EU funded pilot programme is planned by Safe Ireland for 2020 and requires government funding to achieve same.

The estimated budget that Safe Ireland needs to directly support professional development in the DV Sector and support the establishment of a national qualifications framework is €150,000.

d. Performance and data management systems

DV Support Services have to ensure that they have secure and sustainable data management systems. Here's why:

- All services have an obligation to be compliant with GDPR.¹⁷
- Services see an increasing need to have data systems that can support good practice and ensure efficiencies.
- They need to be able to report to a variety of funders and policy makers.
- Istanbul data requirements are becoming a reality for providers.
- The roll-out of the current government's national strategy on DSGBV will benefit from a collective, quality system of management.
- Evidence-based policy and service development can be improved with systems that allow for oversight and transparency.

The reality, however, is that performance and data management systems in most services are archaic and creaking.

There is an urgent need to develop and implement an integrated information solution for domestic violence services that addresses the current gaps in information and business intelligence, that ensures that services can comply with European data requirements.

Safe Ireland is working with DV Services and specialist tech partners to develop and implement a sustainable data management system. We have secured private philanthropy and require match funding from the government meet the total costs.

The estimated funding that Safe Ireland needs for this in 2020 is €200,000.

2. PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Domestic violence is not on the homeless agenda

Domestic violence is simply not on the homeless agenda. It is not being dealt with or addressed adequately within the current, ongoing housing crisis. According to local

¹⁷ Data Protection Acts, 1998-2018.

authority criteria, women leaving violent homes are not homeless; they are out of home, as they have a home, albeit an unsafe, violent one.¹⁸

Spiralling rents and the complete lack of social housing stock and rental properties mean that women cannot find places to live with their children.¹⁹

As a consequence, women are staying in emergency refuge for months. Service managers are referring to refuges as becoming more like “homeless hostels”. While refuges provide important safe accommodation options for women and children they are not suitable for longer term accommodation.²⁰

The knock-on impact means that other women looking for emergency accommodation to escape violence can’t actually access refuge. There simply isn’t room. Ireland’s provision of emergency accommodation remains stubbornly less than one-third of that recommended by the Council of Europe.²¹

Significant numbers of women are choosing to return to their abusive homes. Many others are making the decision to stay in abusive relationships because they predict that they will be faced with accommodation problems.²²

Domestic violence services are picking up the pieces

In 2016²³, 1,460 women and 2,190 children were provided with safe emergency housing in a refuge in Ireland.

On a typical day,²⁴ 475 women with 300 children, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness because of domestic violence receive some form of support from a domestic violence service.

An Irish study²⁵ has found that 92% of the women in the study had experienced some form of violence or abuse during their lifetimes and two thirds of the women interviewed reported intimate partner violence. Being the victim of domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women.²⁶

Housing instability is four times more likely for women who have experienced domestic violence compared with women who have not been victimized²⁷ and approximately one in four homeless women cite IPV as a major contributor to their homelessness.²⁸

¹⁸ No Place to Call Home: Safe Ireland’s Consultation on Homelessness and Domestic Violence 2016.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Safe Ireland, National Domestic Violence Statistics 2016.

²⁴ Safe Ireland, On Just One Day, National One Day Census of Domestic Violence Services, 2015.

²⁵ Mayock and Sheridan (2012).

²⁶ Jasinski, Wesely, Mustaine, & Wright, 2002; Kannah, Singh, Nemil, & Best, 1992; Wilder Research Center, 2007.

²⁷ Pavao, Alvarez, Baumrind, Induni, & Kimerling, 2007.

²⁸ Jasinski et al., 2002; Wilder Research Center, 2007.

We can promote housing stability and prevent homelessness

In 2020, there is an opportunity to develop new and well tested solutions to ensure housing stability and prevent homelessness.

a. Survivor Resilience Fund

In July 2017 Safe Ireland initiated the Survivor Resilience Fund (SRF) in two refuge services through generous funding by the Community Foundation for Ireland of €20,000 (€10,000 per refuge site). The fund was designed to meet the needs of women and children affected by domestic abuse who had no other funds available to them (often as a result of abuser tactics) to allow them to find and maintain existing or alternative, safe accommodation. So, for example, the survivor resilience fund might have been used to help a woman with the cost of a rental deposit. It may have been used to help a woman and her children move their belongings to a new location. Some women were provided with funds to buy new school uniforms for their children because they had been forced to move to a new town to find safety. These funds were not huge amounts. However, without the support from the pilot survivor resilience fund, women reported that they wouldn't have been able to maintain or access the safe housing they needed, thus putting them at greater risk of homelessness.

The programme was extended in 2018, with additional funding of €19,000 divided between four additional services.

An evaluation of the programme in July 2019 found that it had supported 77 women and 87 children to find safe and secure accommodation – in other words it had helped prevent 164 people from becoming homeless.

The pilot programme is proving to be a huge success – helping women and children to avoid homelessness with relatively small cash injections when they need it most.

The estimated cost in 2020 for Safe Ireland to scale up this proven pilot project and evaluate its impact is €250,000.²⁹

b. Safe housing supports

In addition, to ensuring that more survivors of domestic violence can access safe and secure housing, we need to undertake the following in 2020:

- Training for homeless service providers so that they can develop further trauma informed and gender sensitive homeless services. - €200,000.

²⁹ This would allow us to support 100 women to avoid homelessness, to evaluate their outcomes and to provide technical assistance to domestic violence services to ensure that the quality of the project is sustained.

- Ringfence a dedicated supply of short and long-term social housing for victims of domestic violence – Existing Housing Vote.
- Strengthen anti-racism policies to reduce barriers for Traveller women to the housing rental market - Existing Housing Vote.
- Deliver additional refuge places in Sligo, Cavan, Monaghan, Meath, Dundalk, North Cork and Laois as committed to under Rebuilding Ireland programme - €15,000,000 Capital Budget. Operational costs will be needed post construction post 2020.
- Resource effective co-ordinated community responses to increase safety and reduce homelessness. – Not yet costed.

The estimated costs to undertake these essential programmes is €200,000 current expenditure and €15 million capital expenditure.

3. DEVELOP A WORLD CLASS JUSTICE RESPONSE

In 2015, Safe Ireland published *The Lawlessness of the Home; Women's experience of seeking legal remedies to domestic violence and abuse in the Irish legal system*. It showed that the Irish legal system – at every level - was not working for women and children living with domestic violence and abuse.

There have been many welcome developments and improvements since then particularly in the areas of policing reform and new legislation. However, our justice system is still not working adequately for survivors and their children. The system response remains fragmented - either the constituent parts do not link up or they do not work at all. There is a lack of consistency and continuity in the application of the law across courts and court areas. There is a lack of knowledge and understanding about coercive control. There is continued gender bias, with a lack of understanding about how a perpetrator can groom professionals, presenting the victim as unstable, emotional and erratic, often feeding into traditional gender norms and stereotypes.

However, real culture change requires a critical mass of training and a transformational change in understanding and mindset. This in turn, requires transformational investment in core training and ongoing professional development.

In order to keep women and children safe, we need to undertake training of at least 80% of the AGS workforce to really achieve the institutional reforms necessary to tackle coercive control, as recognised in the Domestic Violence Act 2018.

We also need serious reform in the facilities and staffing levels in our courts' service to address the overcrowding, lack of privacy, over-lengthy lists and over-worked judges that are the norm in most of our courts.³⁰ In Dolphin House, for example, where many

³⁰ Opening statement by Dr. Carol Coulter, Director, Child Care Law Reporting Project, to the Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality, March 6, 2019.

domestic violence cases are heard, survivors are often forced to share the same waiting room with their perpetrator, for full days. While across the country the number of cases heard in District Courts in any one day makes it very prohibitive for any Judge to have the time to fully hear the complexities related to domestic violence cases.

If we want to ensure that our justice service meets the ambition of the Domestic Violence Act 2018, we need to:

- Initiate training in trauma informed care and vicarious trauma prevention for court staff;
- Increase the number of judges specialising in coercive control and both family and criminal law;
- Invest in technology to help increase access to information and services available particularly when victims are waiting in court waiting areas; Invest further in onsite DV specialist court-based services across Ireland.

The estimated cost to begin to achieve these transformative changes in 2020 is €15.5 million in current expenditure and an investment of €4.8 million in technology infrastructure.

This combines €10m for Garda training³¹ and an initial €10 million for courts services to address basic infrastructure gaps, staffing and training as well as technological solutions needed.

4. STRATEGICALLY INVEST IN A NATIONAL PREVENTION PROGRAMME

The best way to create safety for women and children and to address domestic violence in Ireland is to work to prevent violence taking place in the first place.

We need radical new approaches to tackle the problem because what we are doing is not working anymore. The Department of Justice need to be resourced with both an evidence base and a well-resourced process to develop the next national strategy on DSGBV (2021-2026) to ensure that it addresses all components of prevention and particularly primary prevention.

Safe Ireland is already working on a number of evidenced based, innovative prevention and research projects under our Safe Homes Safe Community programme. These programmes are focused on addressing the root causes of gender-based violence, which includes inequality and specifically inequality in the home.

In 2020 we need Government commitment and support to scale up these, small, pilot programmes – to help us work further with communities, with county councils,

³¹ This includes the cost of cover for the release of Gardaí to attend training.

businesses and corporations, social and sports clubs – to help create and achieve a safe and inclusive Ireland.

In addition national research on prevalence of domestic violence, the economic cost of domestic violence and national attitudinal research are all important research areas that should be funded by government and which will help measure impact of the next government strategy.

Scale up of pilot programmes for national roll out - €1,000,000.

Baseline prevalence, economic cost and attitudinal research programmes: - €3,750,000.

Development of a national primary prevention strategy - €500,000.

Total costs: €5 million.

5. CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR PHILANTHROPY

There is a significant opportunity to grow philanthropy in Ireland. Safe Ireland, for example, has benefited enormously by the generous support shown by The Community Foundation for Ireland. Many of our most innovative programmes – for example, the hugely successful and cost-effective Survival Resilience Programme – would not have happened without the support of visionary philanthropy.

However, Ireland's philanthropic landscape remains hugely under-developed in comparison to other countries. Charitable tax incentive policy needs to change to provide for greater inclusion and better alignment with international best practice to encourage higher levels of philanthropic and charitable giving, helping in turn to off-set statutory supports.

We are asking the Government to create a more enabling environment for philanthropy in Ireland by:

- Providing a scheme for direct tax incentive to donors to encourage major gift giving. This will help to create a vibrant culture of giving larger donations and encourage the establishment or the further development of structured giving vehicles to invest in causes for public good.
- Introducing reforms to encourage charitable giving associated with inheritance and wealth legacies at death.

6. Budget Asks in Summary

Transformative Change Needed	Budget 2020	
	Current Expenditure €	Capital Expenditure €
1. Strengthen specialist services for women and children		
Restoration of pay parity	4,750,000	
Sustain core operational costs	420,000	
Expand core services to meet increased demand		
• 40 WTE Specialist Staff	1,782,000	
• Child Support Workers	1,316,000	
• Technology Abuse Pilot	152,000	
• Legal Advocacy Service	280,000	
National Qualifications Framework	50,000	
Professional Development	100,000	
Performance and data management systems		200,000
2. Prevent Homelessness		
Survivor Resilience Fund	250,000	
Safe housing supports	200,000	
Development of new refuge places		15,000,000
3. Develop a World Class Justice Response		
Garda Training Programme	10,000,000	
Courts Services Training and Tech Infrastructure	5,450,000	4,800,000
4. Prevention Programmes		
Scale up of evidenced based pilots	1,000,000	
Research Programmes	3,750,000	
Development of National Prevention Plan	500,000	
Total Budget	€30,000,000	€20,000,000

7. Transforming the Response to Domestic Violence Everyday

Safe Ireland is the National Social Change Agency working to eradicate domestic violence in Ireland. We are a key part of the infrastructure in Ireland to transform the response and reduce the prevalence of domestic violence in Ireland. Our vision is for a safe and vibrant Ireland for all; we believe that Ireland can become the safest country in the world for women and children.

To realise our vision, we are driving an ambitious 5-year strategy and programme of work to change culture and transform the response to domestic violence in Ireland. We want to live in a country where domestic violence is not tolerated in our communities, where victims feel safe and supported to come forward to report domestic violence and abuse and where offenders are deterred and punished for their crimes.

Safe Ireland “centre stages” the needs and experiences of women who are impacted by domestic violence. We work to bring public voice and understanding to the causes and impact of domestic violence in order to improve responses and reduce the prevalence of violence in Ireland.

In order to realise our vision and our steadfast aim to make Ireland the safest country in the world for women and children, we need adequate, consistent and committed budget support from our State.



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