**What is domestic abuse ?**

**Women’s aid definition**

Domestic Abuse is physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse that takes place within in an intimate or family type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. This can include forced marriages and so called “honour crimes”. Domestic violence may include a wide range of abusive behaviours, not all of which in themselves inherently “violent”.

**Government definition**

“Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality”. This includes issues of concern to black and minority ethnic (BME) communities such as so called “honour killings”.