



# The Drive Partnership

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

*Thank you*



It's not the person being abused that needs to change. It's not them. When Drive Project got involved I felt this level of security, I felt in control for once in ten years. I wasn't scared anymore.

**Helen, Victim-Survivor**



The work of the Drive Partnership is only possible thanks to the hundreds of organisations who helped create, inform, commission and deliver our projects and our wider systems change work to end violence against women and girls.

Ten years ago, our founding partners – **SafeLives, Respect and Social Finance** – and our donors, could have hardly imagined the huge network with whom we are honoured to work today. From commissioners to delivery partners, including survivor-led organisations; from the experts-by-experience to the more than 200 members of the Action on Perpetrators Network, this ten-year anniversary is a moment for all of us to be proud, and gather our energy for the work ahead.

Together we've  
changed the  
conversation  
and changed  
lives

We've built new  
collaborations,  
because none  
of us can end  
domestic  
abuse alone

Collectively  
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bigger

A shared mission to end violence  
against women and girls

# Our Ten-Year Top Ten

We supported efforts to change the conversation from 'Why doesn't she leave?' to 'Why doesn't he stop?'

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We created an intervention to stop high-risk, high-harm and serial perpetrators causing further harm, working with nearly 7,000 perpetrators

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We supported nearly 9,000 adult victim-survivors and almost 15,000 child victim-survivors to be safer

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We partnered with specialists to better meet the needs of under-served communities

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We built a network for Action on Perpetrators

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We worked with academics and, in partnership, built the evidence of what works

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We worked with parliamentarians and, together, changed law

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We worked with public services to change practice and systems

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We secured a funded commitment for the delivery of the Drive Project nationwide

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We partnered day in, day out, with victim-survivor organisations in a shared mission to end violence against women and girls, and all those who experience domestic abuse

# Together we changed the conversation and changed lives

**1 We supported efforts to change the conversation from 'why doesn't she leave?' to 'why doesn't he stop'?** in partnership with the wider sector, designing and delivering domestic abuse interventions to match for victim-survivors and those harming them, whatever their gender. Ten years on, work with victim-survivors and work with perpetrators are increasingly seen as two sides of the same coin, both essential to ending abuse and enabling those already affected to be safe and free to live their lives.

**2 We created an intervention to stop high-risk, high-harm and serial perpetrators causing further harm, working with nearly 7,000 perpetrators.** The Drive project challenges, changes and disrupts the behaviour of perpetrators, while supporting victim-survivors. It combines individual case management, delivered by our expert partners, with coordinated multi-agency responses. It puts responsibility back where it should lie; with perpetrators to change their behaviour and public services to manage risk.

**3 We, alongside our partners, supported nearly 9,000 adult victim-survivors and almost 15,000 child victim-survivors to be safer,** by reducing the abuse they were experiencing. The majority of these were women, and their children, at risk of serious harm or murder, supported through the Drive Project. Our other projects have directly and indirectly supported over 1,500 adult and child victim-survivors – including the DAPO positive requirements pilot, National Systems Change work, and Restart; our earlier intervention project which has a focus on preventing harm to families, and innovating housing responses. All our work draws on the input of victim-survivors, and we're particularly grateful to SafeLives Pioneers and Changemakers for their guidance.

**4 We partnered with specialists to better meet the needs of under-served communities.** We're working with specialist by-and-for organisations, experts by experience, and academics to address systemic gaps and develop improved responses to domestic abuse across LGBT+ communities and racialised communities. This work includes the launch of three co-designed specialist responses to those causing harm. We are also working to improve the diversity and cultural competency of the wider workforce delivering perpetrator interventions. Guided and driven by experts, we've supported anti-racism development training for white leaders, and a leadership training programme for staff from racialised communities working with perpetrators.

# We've built new networks of collaboration, because none of us can end domestic abuse alone

## **5 We built a network for Action on Perpetrators**

with over 230 members – from women's services, including by-and-for organisations, to Police & Crime Commissioners, from Royal Colleges to children's centres. The Network, led by the Drive Partnership, shares ideas and best practice for work with perpetrators; and every one of its members is contributing to better outcomes for victim-survivors. This Network published a 'Call to Action for Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy' in 2020 and a 'Call for Further Action' in 2024, each with more than one hundred signatories, to influence law and policy.

## **6 We worked with academics and, in partnership, built the evidence of what works.**

Our work is independently evaluated so we can tell what has impact. From our partnership with the University of Bristol, who first evaluated the Drive Project, to our work with the University of Suffolk to measure our impact on systems change, to our links with clinically practicing academics, we want to bring the latest thinking into our work.

**7 We worked with parliamentarians and, together, changed law.** Working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Perpetrators, the Network helped ensure that the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act required the Government to take a strategic approach to perpetrators in the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan 2022. The Act also enabled the Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO), for which we design and deliver the triage model for the Positive Requirements element. In 2025, the Government published a new strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls with 'pursuit of perpetrators' a central pillar.

**8 We worked with public services to change practice and systems.** We worked with public services and the voluntary sector to pilot programmes, training packages, and complimentary approaches. With the backing of donors and commissioners willing to try new things, we put a spotlight on perpetrators in whichever part of the system they present to. Whether its work with Probation and Police, training children's social care professionals and solicitors in family courts to enhance perpetrator awareness, or training for Health or Housing professionals; we're partnering across sectors to hold perpetrators to account and better serve victim-survivors.

Collectively we've thought big, always remembering we're part of something bigger – a shared mission to end violence against women and girls

**9 We secured a funded commitment for the delivery of the Drive Project nationwide.** Since 2020, in two Calls for Action, each supported by over 100 signatories across the sector, we've been asking for consistent responses across England and Wales. This commitment is a major step towards such provision and follows years of piloting, evaluation, and delivery. A £53 million grant over four years from Home Office to PCCs (and their successor structures) will improve the safety of thousands more victim-survivors facing high-risk domestic abuse, through partnerships with specialist providers, including victim-survivor organisations. We know this is just part of what's needed.

**No one should have to wait until the person abusing them poses a terrifying level of risk before they get help, so we continue to make the case for a full range of perpetrator interventions.**

**10 We partnered day in, day out, with victim-survivor organisations in a shared mission to end violence against women and girls, and all those who experience domestic abuse.** We know many victim-survivors still struggle to get the help they need, either for themselves and their children, or in relation to the person causing them harm. We stand together with the VAWG sector in calling for increased, long-term and predictable investment for survivor services that meets the scale of the challenge. We also join calls for policy and systems changes so that victim-survivors, particularly minoritised and migrant women, never feel they have to take on the system as well as the person harming them. There is so much to do, but together we are making change.



“Even though it was an uphill path, the end goal when I got to the top was a better life – not just for me and my partner, but for the kids as well, for their future. Even though it’s uphill, I don’t even think I’ve reached the top yet I’m still progressing up there....”

**Drive Project Service User**



# Our partners in addressing systemic gaps

The Drive Partnership's National Systems Change work seeks to identify and address systemic gaps in responses to domestic abuse by bringing together the insights of survivors, service users, practitioners, specialist organisations, researchers and policy makers to build solutions.

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, and Treebeard Trust, we partnered with specialist by-and-for organisations and experts by experience to co-design three specialist responses to domestic abuse led by a consortium of delivery providers to address systemic gaps in responses to domestic abuse across Black African, Caribbean and Mixed Heritage communities, South Asian communities, and LGBT+ communities, which launched in 2025.

- **The Pamoja Njia Bora Programme** (Together, We'll Find the Best Path Forward), designed for Black African, Caribbean, and Mixed Heritage communities, is now being delivered by Creating Equalz, Silenced CIC, and Bambuuu in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Northamptonshire.
- **The CHAB Programme** (Changing Harmful Attitudes & Behaviours), designed for South Asian communities, is now being delivered by H.O.P.E CIC, Sikh Women's Aid, Halo, and Pegasus Ltd in Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland and Bradford.
- **The LEVEL Programme**, designed for LGBT+ communities, is now being delivered by WomenCentre and The Brunswick Centre in West Yorkshire.

# RESTART

We partnered with MOPAC, Respect, Cranstoun and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance, to develop a pilot project called Restart, bringing together children's social care, housing and domestic abuse services to identify and respond to patterns of harmful behaviour at an earlier stage, and where appropriate, offer alternative housing pathways for the person causing harm.

Restart is focused on providing earlier intervention for families experiencing domestic abuse, working to increase safety and increasing quality of life for both adult and child victim-survivors, whilst providing increased options to enable them to remain safely in their home. To date, over sixty-eight families have been provided housing advice, support, or emergency accommodation through Restart. The project also serves to equip and support children's social care workers and housing specialists with the skills to respond more effectively to families and with greater confidence to the high prevalence of domestic abuse within their work.



When he apologised and fully acknowledged his behaviour it opened up the door for me to move on and to also gain closure, I never thought this would happen, I had given up hope, yet the Drive Project enabled this to be a reality.

**Victim-Survivor, anonymous**





A partnership between:

**Respect**



Ending  
domestic  
abuse



**SOCIAL  
FINANCE**