

PE2025/J: Improve the support available to victims of domestic violence, who have been forced to flee their home

Petitioner written submission, 12 January 2026

Just some points to address at the next CPPP Committee Meeting.

1. Have the judicare simplifications been actioned? If so what does that mean for victims?

2. Have the legal aid reforms already legislated been implemented?

3. Has the future legal assistance system been developed/implemented?

N.B. Will victims of domestic abuse receive free legal aid/assistance to assist in divorce proceedings (or other legal proceedings necessary due to the abuse) regardless of income?

4. Do SLAB currently have powers of discretion in this matter and if so how is this communicated to the victim?

5. Has the review of civil Remedies available for domestic abuse been completed and if so what was the outcome in relation to this case?

6. There needs to be a clear 'pathway' for victims who are asking for Civil NHO's to be extended - If there is one, how is this shared with victims.

7. Whilst my sister's views were not sought when the NHO was being considered, I understand the reason behind the current approach concerning those orders made by the court i.e. to protect the victim from further abuse.

8. Has the Vision for Justice In Scotland commenced engagement to shape the future legislative proposals? How do I get involved with this?

9. Has the part of the Domestic Abuse (Protection) Scotland Act 2021 that can prevent perpetrators from returning to the marital home in force yet? If so, how are victims being made aware of this?

N.B. We still have not addressed the very detrimental effect of continued abuse by proxy of the perpetrator's family towards the victim in addition to the perpetrator being able to approach/threaten the victim's family members?

10. Are Domestic Abuse Protection Notice powers now in use? If so, do the police on the ground know this and how are victims informed? (This can give up to 3 months breathing space for victims to manage accommodation and finances).

11. In the case of challenges faced in implementing such legislation, why not adopt a 'Pathway Approach' whereby the initial offence triggers a legal pathway that is automatically implemented.

12. Is it the case that Victims can apply to the court for an exclusion order and if so, how is this communicated to the victim/police?