



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact Carla Owen on 020 7359 6242

Stonewall Housing is launching a specialist domestic abuse service to its clients.

Debbie Gold, Advice Services Manager said, "we are pleased to announce that Stonewall Housing now has a Housing Advice Worker specialising in domestic abuse. Our specialist worker will support lesbian and gay survivors of domestic abuse and assist them in finding better housing options so that they no longer feel unsafe at home."

Currently there is a real lack of support services available to lesbian and gay survivors of domestic abuse. Mainstream women's services are often inappropriate for lesbians, and there is no emergency accommodation for men fleeing domestic abuse at all.

Maria Sookias, Stonewall Housing's specialist domestic abuse Housing Advice Worker said, "I will be providing advice and advocacy to survivors of domestic abuse, talking them through their options and supporting them in whatever decisions they make about their housing, be that staying at home or finding safe accommodation elsewhere. I will also be working in partnership with LGBT domestic violence charity Broken Rainbow so that we can provide an holistic service to our clients."

The new service has been made possible thanks to a grant from Comic Relief. Jackie Fernandez, Director of Stonewall Housing said, "it is fantastic that Comic Relief has recognised the often hidden problems surrounding lesbian and gay domestic abuse, and have shown their commitment to addressing this by supporting Stonewall Housing."

Stonewall Housing provides housing advice to 1,000 lesbians and gay men in London every year, who have housing problems ranging from domestic abuse, homelessness and homophobic or transphobic harassment to substandard housing, issues with landlords, and queries about benefits enquiries.

We also provide support in six shared housing projects across four London Boroughs to 41 young lesbians and gay men who are homeless, living in unstable, unsafe or unsuitable accommodation, or in serious threat of becoming homeless.

Stonewall Housing was established in 1983 and has helped over 11,000 LGBT people in housing difficulty over the last two decades.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. Stonewall Housing's website is at www.stonewallhousing.org