

RAPE IN MARRIAGE / RAPE BY A PARTNER

Rape in marriage was criminalised as recently as 1982 in Scotland and 1991 in England. Before these dates a woman had no legal protection for the crime of rape perpetrated against her by her husband.

A woman should always have the right to say no to sex, regardless of whether she has previously had consensual sex with the man or not. Forced intercourse within marriage or a relationship is still rape.

There are many reasons why a woman may remain in a relationship where such abuse is taking place:

- pressure from society to stay
- to prevent disruption to any children
- lack of viable alternatives, e.g. financial constraints
- fear that leaving might incite further violence
- shame about speaking out about what has happened
- many women cannot admit, even to themselves, that their husband or partner is raping them
- women may blame themselves for what is happening
- women may still have feelings for their abusers or feel convinced that they will change

Remember, if you would like free confidential information and support about any of the issues raised on this page, you can contact the Centre and speak to a trained support worker.

HELPLINE SUPPORT

You can telephone our helpline for support or information on 01738 630965. We also have a 24 hour answering machine, so that at any other time messages can be left and will be returned discreetly, as soon as possible.

Write to: WRASAC P & K, P.O. Box 7570, Perth, PH2 1BY

Email info@perthshirerapecrisis.org

USEFUL CONTACTS

Samaritans

(01738) 626 666

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| Genito-Urinary Clinic | (01738) 473 220 |
| Police Family Protection Unit | (01738) 892 911 |
| Perthshire Women's Aid | (01738) 639 043 |
| Victim Support | (01738) 567 171 |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Board | (0141) 331 2726 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | (01738) 624 301 |
| Bristol Crisis Service for Women | (0117) 925 1119 |
| Childline | (0800 1111) |