

New research commissioned by Women's Aid finds intimate partner abuse leaves disabled women feeling hurt, not believed and isolated (<https://www.activelink.ie/node/111811>)

New research shows that 98% of disabled women that have experienced intimate partner abuse feel their disability has a major impact on them seeking help and coping with the abuse.

National domestic violence organisation, Women's Aid, in partnership with the School of Social Work and Social Policy in Trinity College Dublin and the Disabled Gender Based Violence Taskforce have published groundbreaking research called: *"Disabled Women's Experience of Intimate Partner Abuse in Ireland."*

The research, which included a survey of disabled women who had experienced intimate partner abuse, highlights the need for urgent action to ensure the safety, welfare and protection of disabled women experiencing intimate partner abuse.

Disabled women outlined how abusive partners, often acting in the position of carer, weaponise women's disabilities in many ways including withholding medication, denying basic care, and using impairments to portray the woman as an unfit parent.

Women's Aid CEO, Sarah Benson says: "This groundbreaking research lifts the lid on a very hidden part of the experience of intimate partner abuse against women in Ireland. For the first time, we are hearing from disabled women directly about the abuse they have endured and the barriers they encounter."

The report outlines 28 recommendations to ensure the safety, welfare and protection of disabled women experiencing intimate partner abuse, including government prioritising the issue in the third national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

The Executive Summary of the research is provided in Irish Sign Language to ensure the findings are more accessible [here](https://vimeo.com/1021678509?share=copy#t=0) (<https://vimeo.com/1021678509?share=copy#t=0>).

The full report is available [here](https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2024/10/Disabled-Womens-Experiences-of-Intimate-Partner-Abuse-in-Ireland-Research-Project-Report.pdf) (<https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2024/10/Disabled-Womens-Experiences-of-Intimate-Partner-Abuse-in-Ireland-Research-Project-Report.pdf>).

Region

Nationwide

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