

## Court Advocacy Service

This is a service provided by Foyle Women's Aid to support women who have experienced domestic violence through the legal process. This may involve accompanying a women to court, solicitor's appointments and the court welfare officer etc.

Foyle Women's Aid began in 1977 and has since then developed a specialist service through first hand experience working with women who have experienced domestic violence. During the last number of years it has become apparent that there is an urgent need for women to avail of a Community Justice Service

### How does Foyle Women's Aid achieve their aims?

- We increase women's access to legal options for safety by providing a confidential daily service for women and agencies
- We offer face to face ongoing support and information
- Practical and emotional support throughout their contact with the legal system, including:
- Attendance at court hearings
- Tracking cases through the criminal justice system
- Information on protection orders/injunctions and issues around child contact

- Partnership work with Court Users committee and relevant agencies
- Training for relevant agencies and professionals
- Highlighting difficulties on a range of legislative and related issues

### Who are Community Justice Volunteers?

They are volunteers who have completed training with optional accreditation, through the Open College Network leading to NVQ level 3 in the Criminal Justice System.

### What do they do?

Community Justice Volunteers support women during all court appearances, solicitor's appointments and court welfare officer appointments. They also can offer support on how to collate evidence for written statements. The Legal process can be daunting and very complex. Foyle Women's Aid has worked to ensure that the issue of support is recognised.

### Community Justice Volunteers

- Build strong and pro-active relationships with professional agencies.
- Bridge the gap between solicitors and women and give a better understanding in lay terms of the legal terminology and the Northern Ireland legal system. In matters relating to issues around
  - Divorce/separation
  - Child contact
  - Non-molestation and Occupancy orders

- Residency orders
- Assault and Rape.

### How can I become a Court Advocate?

If you feel you have good communication and listening skills and would like to become a community justice volunteer, you will train with Foyle Women's Aid as a volunteer and then complete the community justice volunteer training, support will be given during these training sessions

**Note: Volunteers must be 18 years +**

If you would like further information on the courses provided by Foyle Women's Aid please contact:

The Community Justice Volunteer Support Worker

e.mail: [volunteering@foylewomensaid.org](mailto:volunteering@foylewomensaid.org)

### Facts on Domestic Violence

- The PSNI respond to over forty thousand incidences of Domestic Violence yearly.
- 44% of all violent attacks on women are Domestic Violence incidents.
- 90% of all these are by a partner or ex-partner
- Domestic Violence happens in all races, classes, ages, and to people from all social and educational backgrounds.
- Two women are assaulted every day in Northern Ireland.
- Abuse can be emotional, physical, financial or sexual..
- Physical attacks are only one sign of Domestic Violence!



## Volunteer as a Court Advocate

Please send me information about  
volunteering with Foyle Women's Aid

I wish to make a donation to the work of  
Foyle Women's Aid.

I enclose my cheque/postal order  
of £  
make payable to Foyle Women's Aid

Name:.....

Title:.....

Organisation:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....

Post Code:.....

Telephone:.....

Email:.....

Web Address:.....

**Please send completed form to :**

**Foyle Women's Aid**  
'Pathways'  
24 Pump Street  
L. Derry  
N. Ireland BT48 6JG

**This project is funded by the  
Department for Social Development  
under the Active Community Initiative**

Volunteers play an important role in both  
projects, helping to deliver a quality service  
to women and children.

Providing court support for women is one  
aspect of volunteering. It is an important and  
vital service for women.

Training will be provided so that volunteers  
have an understanding of the law, in relation  
to domestic violence.

This is an exciting and new accredited  
training programme being developed within  
Foyle Women's Aid.

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**For Women,  
With Women,  
By Women.....**

