

Dear

Our specialist domestic abuse service is located within your constituency, and I am writing to you to ask for your support on the devastating impact The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 ("The Act") is having on survivors who reside in refuge. The Act was implemented on the 1st of December 2022, and we believe that this Act has the potential to break the Welsh refuge system and that it has not benefitted a single survivor in refuge.

Refuge provision is emergency temporary accommodation that survivors and their family access when fleeing imminent risk of serious harm or death. This stay is never intended to be long term and refuge is never intended to be a 'home'; however, many survivors are having to reside in refuge for over 6 months due to the lack of appropriate move on accommodation.

The Act has made a significant change to renting legislation and whilst we welcome the increased security of tenure it offers for many renters; we do not believe the Welsh Government have considered the impact it has on refuge provision. There is a significant administrative burden on both local authorities and refuge staff for every single survivor who enters refuge.

We are currently dealing with a situation where:

As our I hope you will support our concerns by raising this to the Welsh Government at any possible opportunity.

We believe that there must be an exemption for all refuge provision to ensure that no further detriment is caused to survivors or the services that support them.

If you need any more information or have any questions about our concerns, please contact us on

or reach out to Welsh Women's Aid on
StephanieGrimshaw@welshwomensaid.org.uk

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,