

RAPE CRISIS SCOTLAND



**NATIONAL
ADVOCACY
SERVICE**

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Are you thinking about reporting sexual violence to the police?

Have you already reported and need some extra support with the process?

If you want to find out more about your options and would like free, specialist support throughout the process, we are here for you.

The **National Advocacy Service** is a network of specialist sexual violence Advocacy Workers who can support you to understand, navigate and access the criminal justice system.

There are Advocacy Workers in every area of Scotland. Advocacy Workers are completely independent of the police and other criminal justice agencies. This means that advocacy support is confidential and that an Advocacy Worker will not pressure you to report. Advocacy Workers will provide information so that you can make informed decisions.

They can help to amplify your voice if you do not feel able to speak up or are not being listened to.



Advocacy Workers can provide support and information at every stage of your criminal justice journey, from before a statement is made right through to the end of a court case. Support can be flexible and your Advocacy Worker can arrange an interpreter if you need one.

Advocacy Workers can:



Provide information and support if you are thinking about reporting



Explain legal processes in simple terms



Arrange and attend police statements



Help you to communicate with criminal justice agencies such as Police Scotland and the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)



Attend police identification parades (VIPERs) with you



Support you to seek updates on the progress of a case



Support you to attend appointments and meetings related to the criminal justice process



Provide information about the special measures available to help you give evidence in court, and liaise with COPFS to apply for your preferred measures



Help if you want
to make a Victim
Impact Statement



Support you
to attend court



Support you to
engage with the
parole board



Support you to submit
a complaint about a
criminal justice agency,
should you need to



Provide general emotional
support around the impact
of the offence and criminal
justice processes
throughout the case



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My Advocacy Worker took the time to understand how my brain works. She really did everything I needed and did it at my pace. She broke it down step by step, explained things in ways I could understand and let me work things through in my own time.

Getting support from an Advocacy Worker was the best thing I could have done, everything got easier.

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If you would like to have support from an Advocacy Worker please contact your local centre.



Further information can be found in the **"I need help"** section of Rape Crisis Scotland's website **www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk**



You can also contact the **Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline** any day between **5pm – midnight** to have a referral made for you:



Call: **08088 01 03 02**

Text: **07537 410 027**

Email: **advocacy@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk**

Webchat: **www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk**



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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba