



WE Party Conference

15–18 October 2020

Amendment title:

Highlight the prevalence of domestic abuse separately to elder abuse

Proposed by:

Greater Manchester branch

Type of amendment: Amendment to Policy motion

Title of motion you want to amend:

WE support and promote healthy and positive ageing for all women in the UK.

Motion text you wish to amend:

Line 21

'highlight the prevalence of elder abuse and the health impacts it causes'

Wording of amendment:

1 Line 21

2 'highlight the prevalence of domestic abuse and elder abuse and the health impacts
3 they it causes'

Amendment rationale:

4 The prevalence of domestic abuse amongst older people is often obscured by the
5 labelling of all forms of abuse against older people as 'elder abuse'.

6 Elder abuse is defined by the World Health Organisation as:

7 "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any
8 relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to
9 an older person".

10 This type of abuse therefore includes abuse perpetrated by anyone who might be in
11 a trusted relationship with the older person, including care staff, neighbours,
12 healthcare workers. Domestic abuse amongst older people is therefore seen in the
13 context of adult safeguarding.

14 Domestic abuse is widely regarded as violent, abusive or controlling behaviour
15 specifically perpetrated by an intimate partner, ex-partner or family member.

16 Many surveys and studies, including the Crime Survey for England and Wales have
17 excluded consideration for victims of domestic abuse aged 60 plus, resulting in
18 systematic invisibility. More recent reports (see link below) have highlighted the need
19 to understand the specific experiences of older victims of domestic abuse in order to
20 develop appropriate support services.

21 [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20Later%20Lives%20-](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20Later%20Lives%20-%20Older%20people%20and%20domestic%20abuse.pdf)
22 [%20Older%20people%20and%20domestic%20abuse.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20Later%20Lives%20-%20Older%20people%20and%20domestic%20abuse.pdf)

23 We would like this policy motion to acknowledge the specific issues affecting older
24 victims of domestic abuse, differentially from other forms of 'elder abuse'.