

## **Domestic Abuse: increase funding for support services**

Domestic violence and abuse affects the lives of millions of women in the UK. The most recent ONS survey shows 1.2 million women have experienced domestic abuse in a year. Under the Conservatives, over a third of all local authority funding to domestic and sexual violence services was already cut by 2012.

Conference welcomes the manifesto pledge to establish a National Refuge Fund and provide stable central funding for women's refuges and rape crisis centres; and the commitment made by Shadow Equalities Secretary Dawn Butler in September 2018 that Labour will require employers to provide up to 10 days paid leave for victims of domestic abuse.

Conference believes that all victims of domestic abuse, and their children, should have access to the services they need, whether they use a refuge or not.

Conference resolves that the Labour Party should commit to:

- i) Ensuring that specialist services for survivors and children escaping domestic abuse, both those provided within refuges and those provided in the community, are fully resourced across all areas of the country, including ring-fencing a dedicated source of funding and return to 2010 levels as a minimum.
- ii) Working with women's groups specialising in the sector to identify what access to specialist services women and children affected by domestic abuse should be entitled to, including long-term counselling;
- iii) Campaigning to ensure that no more women's refuges or support services will close, or have to turn away any women or children due to lack of funding.

**South East Cornwall Labour 8th December 2018**