

Exiting the sex trade

RESOURCES FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN
NEEDING OR WANTING TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE

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Published on March 24, 2021

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Introduction

Exiting the sex trade

Resources, services and information to support and assist girls and women needing to exit the sex trade

Document author – Jessica Williams, a radical feminist, researcher, lobbyist, ex-incarcerated woman and survivor of male violence, physical and sexual.

Girls and women that want/need to exit the sex trade need as much support as possible. The abuse and violence that most girls and women endure in the sex trade may leave long-lasting trauma-based mental health conditions, and sometimes, physical ailments, injuries and conditions. Support on multiple levels and on a long-term basis is needed.

In Western Australia we are still working toward establishing services and organisations that can act as a one-stop-shop, or a hub, for girls and women leaving sexually and/or physically violent environments, but there are numerous services and organisations that you can connect with to get the necessary support from. It may take a few phone calls and/or appointments, but if it helps girls and women that want to exit the sex trade, it is well worth any phone calls and appointments that need to happen.

Here is another document, also put together by me (author), that may have some useful information and links to services and resources.

<https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2020/08/31/resourcesforgirlsandwomen/>

The above document is tailored for girls and women escaping physically or sexually violent environments. Services tailored to people in these circumstances should be suitable for girls and women exiting the sex trade, because girls and women exiting the sex trade are escaping physical and sexual violence and most likely the threat of homelessness.

Special message to girls and women in the sex trade –

Girls and women should not be sexually exploited. Despite the gaps in services that you may face, it is very possible to be in a different, better place in your life if you just reach out and stay committed. Please do not be discouraged if you can't get help through certain services. **Keep trying.** You are worth the effort. You are so courageous and strong to take a stand for yourself, your freedom and your well-being. Bring your struggles out of the shadows and seek help. You are loved and you are worthy of change. You deserve happiness, safety and stability. I hope that this resource document helps you find the services and support that you need.

Information and services listed in this document are tailored to Western Australia but will be beneficial to girls and women wanting to exit the sex trade regardless of location. Some services may exist in other states. This resource document is not legal advice and does not serve to replace the advice and assistance of professionals and established services.

Tips

When speaking with counsellors, peer support workers etc., be open and clear that you want to exit the sex trade and need support and assistance to do so safely and efficiently so that you do not end up having to go back to the sex trade.

Going to the police is not an easy decision to make, but if you are in immediate danger, it may be worth considering. You can request to speak with a female police officer. Call 000 if you feel your life is in danger or that someone may be trying to harm you.

Safety and Privacy

Physical Safety

If you are concerned about your safety or that someone may try to find you and stop you from exiting the sex trade, consider filing for a [Violence Restraining Order](#) (VRO) or a [Misconduct Restraining Order](#) (MRO). This is usually done through the courts and not police officers or police stations.

Online

When you're searching up information on your phone or computer, remember that you should be able to use 'private browsing mode' also called 'dark mode'. Private browsing is a privacy feature in some web browsers. When operating in such a mode, the browser creates a temporary session (tab/window) that is isolated from the browser's main session and user data. Browsing history is not saved, and local data associated with the session, such as 'cookies', are cleared when the session is closed. These modes are designed primarily to prevent data and history associated with a particular browsing session from persisting/staying on the device, or being discovered by another user of the same device.

Here is some general information to start -

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/stop-apps-tracking-location/>

Otherwise, you can consider removing or disabling any apps you do not recognise or do not regularly use.

If you own a domain (website) you can take steps to remove your information from any public lists. Contact your domain provider or your website host directly. You cannot hide this information for a '.au' domain. Further information here -

<https://www.domainregistration.com.au/infocentre/info-private-registration.php>

Phone

If you believe your phone has a tracking app on it or that someone is accessing your phone to spy on you, there may be security settings you can adjust to interfere with tracking capabilities and to block them from accessing your information. Whether you have an Android or iPhone, going to your 'settings' and adjusting specific ones can be a good idea. Spend some time investigating your settings menus (there are a lot) and look up anything you're unsure of.

You can block individual numbers on smartphones, too. Usually, you just need to go to your 'recent call list', select the number you want to block by tapping the 'information' symbol next to the number and then scrolling down and selecting 'block this caller.' If this does not work, use 'private browsing mode' along with what you've learned about VPN's (below) to search how to block a caller on the phone that you use.

VPN

It is beneficial to learn about VPN's (virtual private networks) if you want to take extra security measures. You can learn about VPN's and more here -

<https://www.thedirectionmovement.com/securityandprivacy>

Further Tips for Online Safety and Privacy

If you are online, you may be vulnerable to abuse. There is advice available to help you.

eSafety

You can learn about online safety on the [eSafety Commissioner website](https://www.esafety.gov.au/).
(<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>)

They have information and resources that can help you:

- understand what [technology-facilitated abuse](#) is
- create an [online safety plan](#)
- find people who can help
- [collect evidence](#) of online abuse.

Australian Electoral Commission

Your address appears on the electoral roll. If you think this could put you/your family at risk, you can register as a silent elector. Contact the [Australian Electoral Commission](#) to do this.
<https://www.aec.gov.au/>

Phone number: 13 23 26

myGov

It's important you keep your myGov sign in details private. If you or your shared sign in details with anyone, you should change them immediately. Read more about [security](#) and myGov.

My Health Record

Information uploaded to your or your child's My Health Record can contain contact information such as your address. If this could put your family at risk call the [My Health Record System Operator](#) on 1800 723 471. They can discuss your options with you.

Referral & Information Services and Hotlines

Women's Information Service

The Women's Information Service offers free, confidential information for women throughout Western Australia. The free telephone service operates from 9.00am to 4.00pm on weekdays. It provides information and referrals about issues such as health, finances, legal matters, counselling and domestic violence.

Free call: 1800 199 174

Email: wis@communities.wa.gov.au

See more at: <https://dlgc.communities.wa.gov.au/AdviceSupport/Pages/Womens-Information-Service.aspx#sthash.UbMc3Zs2.dpuf>

1800RESPECT is a free and confidential interactive online and telephone counselling, information, and referral service. It is available nationwide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (1800 737 732 or www.1800respect.org.au (link is external)) and offers support and assistance to people who have experienced family violence.

Ask Izzy

Ask Izzy is a free and anonymous way to find national and local support. It includes services like housing, meals, healthcare, counselling, legal advice and many more.

Daisy

[Daisy](#) is a free app developed by 1800RESPECT that connects you to services in your local area. You can create a list of services and save them. This includes legal, housing, financial and children's services. You can also search the internet with Daisy and understand what to expect when contacting a service.

Sunny

Sunny is a free app developed by women with disability and 1800RESPECT. Sunny supports all women with disability impacted by sexual assault and family and domestic violence.

Sunny helps you to:

- understand what violence and abuse are
- learn about different types of violence
- understand what has happened
- know your rights
- find people who can help

Local Services

Women's Health and Family Services

The services at WHFS are open to all WA women including Aboriginal women, migrant and refugee women, and their families. Programs and Services at WHFS include medical, counselling, drug and alcohol support, domestic violence, mental health and other health services for women and their families. Creche facilities and interpreting services are also available.

Website: <https://whfs.org.au/>

Email: info@whfs.org.au

Phone number: (08) 6330 5400

Toll-Free: 1800 998 399

Location: 227 Newcastle Street, Northbridge, WA

Second location:

Suite 6 Joondalup Lotteries House 70 Davidson Terrace, Joondalup, WA 6027

Email: infojoondalup@whfs.org.au

Phone: (08) 6330 5400

Toll-Free: 1800 998 399

Women's Legal Service WA

A not-for-profit community legal centre providing legal advice, support and advocacy to WA women experiencing disadvantage. In addition to the legal advice and assistance provided through their mainstream services, they also do the following:

- **Safe as Houses**

[Safe as Houses](#) is a specialised program that aims to prevent homelessness for women and children affected by family and domestic violence. By working in partnership with [Tenancy WA](#) and [Street Law WA](#) they provide integrated legal and non-legal support services to resolve the complex tangle of issues family violence tends to create. Those issues can include:

- family law
- child support
- child protection
- debt
- injuries compensation

- criminal proceedings
- tenancy
- business and employment

Contact:

As a not-for-profit community legal centre servicing the whole of WA, they receive a large volume of calls each day. They understand it can sometimes be difficult to get through. If you are unable to speak to someone by phone, you can email them - info@wlswa.org.au).

You might also like to download the Refocus app for your smartphone (available from the App Store or Play Store).

If they cannot see you in the time you need, you might like to contact [Legal Aid WA](#) or the [Community Legal Centre](#) in your local area to see if they can assist you.

To request information, talk about a legal issue, seek a referral or to request an appointment with one of our solicitors please call us, Monday to Thursday 9:30am to 4:00pm and Friday 9:30am to 1:00pm.

(08) 9272 8800 or 1800 625 122 (country callers)

Level 1 of 445 Hay Street, Perth (CSA Building).

There is a free Red CAT bus that stops just before 445 Hay Street or there are buses that run along St Georges Terrace.

The nearest train station is Mclver.

Meter parking is available along Victoria Avenue and Hay Street. There is also a car park between Hay and Murray Streets.

- **Djinda Service**

Djinda Service is the specialist Perth Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service we run in partnerships with Relationships Australia WA.

RUAH Community Services

Ruah operates more than 20 different programs that combine to provide wraparound support for their clients, helping people deal with the trauma of homelessness, family violence and chronic mental illness. They also provide legal advice, support, and advocacy in the areas of mental health law, care and protection, family and domestic law and homelessness.

Telephone: 13 RUAH (13 7824)

Email: connecting@ruah.org.au

(Open 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Friday)

Client centres:

- **Cockburn (EPYCentre)**

E5-E6 /817 Beeliar Drive, Cockburn WA 6164

- **Fremantle**

5 Norfolk Street, Fremantle WA 6160

- **Geraldton**

5D Hadda Way, Geraldton 6530

PO Box 1203

- **Mandurah**

30 Minilya Parkway, Greenfields WA 6210

- **Northbridge (Ruah Centre)**

33 Shenton Street, Northbridge WA 6003

- **Rockingham**

2B/1 Robinson Road, Rockingham WA 6168

- **Stirling**

5/49 Cedric Street, Stirling WA 6021

Albany Women's Centre

Albany Women's Centre offers women with or without children affected by family and domestic violence a safe refuge and support services.

Services include:

- 24-hour on call service
- Safe, secure crisis accommodation
- Case management support
- Outreach services
- Support Groups
- Advocacy
- Community Education

How can the Albany Women's Centre be accessed?

The Centre is located in Albany and services a 50km radius from the city, covering the towns of Mt Barker and Denmark.

Please contact the centre for further details:

PO Box 4033, Spencer Park 6330

Phone: (08) 9845 6000

Email: awc@anglicarewa.org.au

Kimberley Sexual Abuse Prevention and Support Service

The Kimberley Sexual Abuse Prevention and Support Service offers counselling to child and adult victims of sexual abuse and assault, working through trauma in a safe and supportive environment.

- Broome - Regional Offices

Phone: (08) 9194 2400

Address: 2 Weld Street, Broome, WA 6725

- Kununurra

Phone: (08) 9166 5000

Address: 2 Banksia St, Kununurra 6743

Zonta House

For more than 30 years, Zonta House Refuge Association Inc. have supported women who have experienced family and domestic violence, mental health, homelessness and other life crises. Zonta House provides refuge and transitional accommodation, holistic support services and education to women (without children) over the age of 18.

Phone: (08) 9364 8028

The Patricia Giles Centre – Joondalup Area

The Pat Giles refuge can provide safe, crisis housing for single women and women with children to 18 years who have experienced family violence. If you need to come into a refuge in an emergency, phone Crisis Care 9223 1111 and they will assist you with a taxi. At the refuge staff will assist you with information to help you decide about housing, legal and income issues.

At the refuge you will be supplied with bedding and food, clothing and toiletries if needed.

Phone: (08) 9300 0340

Harmony Place

Harmony Place provides professional case management and accommodation services to women with dependent children who are escaping domestic violence, homelessness, and/or other life crises. The Accommodation comprises six on-site 1, 2 & 3-bed crisis units.

Phone: (08) 9227 6616

Koolkuna Women's Refuge

Koolkuna Women's Refuge provides safe, supported, short-term accommodation to women and children escaping domestic or family violence or other life crises resulting in homelessness. Koolkuna Women's Refuge operates from purpose-built premises and has the capacity to accommodate four families at any one time with a maximum of 24 persons. The premises were specifically designed with the needs of larger families, accompanying older male children and those with disabilities in mind. As such, Koolkuna is one of the few refuges in the metropolitan region that can accommodate women with up to 7 children, women and children with disabilities and older male children up to the age of 18 years.

Phone: (08) 9255 2202

Kira House – Midland Area

Supported and/or safe accommodation to women- with/or without accompanying children- fleeing as a result of family and domestic violence or another crisis. Breaking the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness- and assisting clients to maintain existing safe accommodation where appropriate or move to stable safe long-term accommodation is a key role of Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support.

Phone: (08) 6274 3684 or 0408 895 613

Pat Thomas House

Pat Thomas House Inc. is a domestic and family violence crisis service that provides supported crisis accommodation, advocacy, support and counselling to women and children or lone women who are escaping, experiencing or are impacted by Domestic/Family Violence.

The service includes the Refuge where 6 families can be accommodated; we can accommodate 6 women and up to 18 children at any one time. Each room has its own ensuite bathroom and TV.

Phone: (08) 9535 4775

Lucy Saw

The Lucy Saw Women's Refuge Centre in Rockingham provides a safe environment for women and children and is staffed by experienced workers who are available to talk through all the issues surrounding the family and domestic violence.

Phone: (08) 9527 6872

Rebecca West House – Joondalup Area

Rebecca West House provides crisis accommodation for single women or women with children to 18 years who are escaping family violence or who are at risk of homelessness due to other life crises.

Phone: (08) 9562 3811

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army provides services in Western Australia to support women facing family and domestic violence. The Graceville Centre has three services offering help for women who need assistance following family and domestic violence incidents or are homeless due to such incidents.

- **Byanda**

Provides accommodation for women and their children escaping family and domestic violence.

- **Nunyara**

Accommodates six women who are unaccompanied by children.

Both refuges are staffed 24 hours a day to ensure the complete protection of all.

Phone: 08 9328 7284

Ellenbrook Family Support Service

The Ellenbrook Family Support Service is a crisis service for women and children who have experienced domestic or family violence. The service provides crisis accommodation with provision for an on-call arrangement to allow women and children, crisis support 24 hours, 7 days per week. The service provides an integrated and comprehensive service for women and children escaping family and domestic violence with a strong case management and empowerment approach. Each family accepted into the Ellenbrook Family Support Service will receive ongoing support from a Family Support Worker. Clients will be able to access advice and information, referrals, emotional support and practical assistance when required. The Ellenbrook Family Support Worker will also support clients to build on their independent living skills as they transition from the Ellenbrook Family Support Service to the private rental market.

Phone: (08) 9374 0747

Entry Point

Phone: 1800 124 684

Entry point Perth is a free assessment and referral service assisting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Perth metropolitan area to access accommodation and support options. We can:

- assess individual circumstances on the phone or in person
- provide individuals with information on accommodation and support options in the Perth metropolitan area
- if eligible, provide formal referrals to crisis accommodation options and vacancies that exist
- set up a time for an assessment and then refer to the most eligible appropriate services

Other Services and Information

Community Engagement Officers

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/community-engagement-officers/where-find-us>

They can help you access information, payments and services if you are having a difficult time accessing mainstream department services. You can find Community Engagement Officers at locations such as:

- mental health facilities
- general crisis and support services
- specialist accommodation services
- youth services
- drug and alcohol services
- family and domestic violence services
- organised meeting places

Visit a service centre and ask the staff if there's a Community Engagement Officer near you.

<https://findus.servicesaustralia.gov.au/>

Project Respect

Project Respect is a support and referral service for women in the sex industry, including women who have experienced trafficking. We assist women one-on-one, create a safe community and advocate for women's rights. We exist because women matter. We are a non-profit, feminist, non-faith-based, community-based organisation.

Phone: (03) 9416 3401

Email: info@projectrespect.org.au

Address: PO BOX 1323, Collingwood 3066

Facebook: [ProjectRespectMelbourne](#)

'YourToolkit'

Supporting women facing domestic violence and financial abuse on their journey to an independent, confident and safe life:

<https://www.yourtoolkit.com.au>

Family Violence Law Help Website -

<https://familyviolencelaw.gov.au>

Useful Links

Security and safety

MyGov - <https://my.gov.au/mygov/content/html/security.html>

eSafety - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/domestic-family-violence/technology-facilitated-abuse>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/domestic-family-violence/online-safety-planning>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/domestic-family-violence/help-support/collecting-evidence>

Legal Aid WA - <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/find-legal-answers/restraining-orders/restraining-orders/violence-restraining-orders/court-procedure>

Tenancy and accommodation

Tenancy WA - <http://www.tenancywa.org.au/>

Street Law Centre - <https://streetlawcentre.org.au/>

Women's Legal Service WA - <https://www.wlswa.org.au/what-we-do/safe-as-houses/>

Legal

Community Legal WA - <https://www.communitylegalwa.org.au/>

Legal Aid WA - <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/>

Women's Legal Service WA - <https://www.wlswa.org.au/>

Spent convictions - <https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/services/criminal-records/spent-convictions-scheme>

Financial

Anglicare - <https://www.anglicarewa.org.au/get-help/financial-assistance>

NAB - <https://www.nab.com.au/about-us/social-impact/customers/domestic-and-family-violence>

Westpac - <https://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/sustainability/our-positions-and-perspectives/difficult-circumstances/experiencing-family-violence/>

Commonwealth Bank - <https://www.commbank.com.au/support/dv-assistance.html>

Resources and information

Resources from Women's Legal Service WA - <https://www.wlswa.org.au/resources/>

Adopt Nordic WA - <http://www.adoptnordicwa.org/about-us-2/>

Normac - <http://normac.org.au/>

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Australia - <https://www.catwa.org.au/>

Collective Shout - <https://www.collectiveshout.org/>