



HAVEN HORIZONS

National Domestic Abuse Prevention Centre

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Haven Horizons Donates Lifesaving Books on Domestic Abuse to Libraries Across Ireland as part of the '16 Days' Campaign

The Haven Horizons All Island Book Donation is part of the international '16 Days' global campaign aimed at raising awareness and taking action to end Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence (DSGBV). The campaign runs from 25 November to 10 December 2025.

Donating the books during the 16 Days campaign to Libraries Ireland, Libraries Northern Ireland, TUS Libraries and to Women's Aid Federation NI, Madeline McAleer Research, Training and Development Director of Haven Horizons said: *"Haven Horizons is proud to make this annual book donation, because domestic abuse is an all-island problem. Many victims and members of the public often don't recognise the red flags, tactics and the risk associated with abusive intimate relationships. A survivor told me that reading one of these books saved her life by helping her understand the tactics and behaviours used by her partner and helped her make the decision to leave her relationship. Books can literally save a life."*

This important donation will allow anyone to access the 80 books on domestic abuse at their local library, North and South.

Books donated in 2025 include two moving memoirs: *Deadly Silence* by Jacqueline Connolly, winner of the An Post Book Awards Non-Fiction Book of the Year 2025, and *For Valerie* by David French. Both authors' lives were irrevocably changed by the murder of their siblings. Also, the powerful novel *The Names* by Florence Knapp highlights the intergenerational impact of domestic abuse. Three other books by experts, academics and practitioners in the DSGBV field include: *Every Man - Why Violence Against Women is a Men's Issue* by Jackson Katz, *Preventing Domestic Homicides: Lessons Learned from Tragedies* by Peter Jaffek and Katreena Scott and *Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - A Systems Approach* by Olumide Adisa and Emma Bond.

The statistics North and South reveal a tsunami of domestic abuse. An Garda Síochána stats indicated that there were 65,000 domestic abuse related callouts in 2024. Domestic abuse callouts to An Garda Síochána increased by 45% over the last four years. Recent Police Service of Northern Ireland statistics reveal that a report of domestic abuse is made to the PSNI every 16 minutes and that the number of domestic abuse homicides doubled between 2024 and 2025.

On behalf of Libraries Ireland Dolores Meaney, Senior Executive Librarian with Clare Libraries, thanked Haven Horizons for the DSGBV book donations from 2018-2025: *"Reading has the power to change lives. We welcome this Haven Horizons donation of recently published books on domestic abuse, which will benefit people nationwide. These titles, some of which are also available as e-books and e-audiobooks, help to raise awareness of an important topic. The library service is a national service, so any of the donated books can be requested at any branch across the country."*

Haven Horizons is a national organisation dedicated to DSGBV prevention, which collaborates with partners on creative prevention initiatives to raise public awareness of domestic violence on an all-island basis.

Thanking Haven Horizons for the book donations on behalf of Women's Aid Federation NI, Laura O'Neill said: *"We appreciate this donation of recently published seminal books on domestic abuse and domestic homicide. The rate of domestic violence and domestic homicide in Northern Ireland remains unacceptably high. So, the positive impact of this donation cannot be overstated. These titles raise awareness of an important topic and foster a broader social understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships and will help bring about real cultural change."*

A complete list of the books donated (2018-2025) is available on the Haven Horizons website – www.havenhorizons.com

For anyone affected by domestic, sexual and gender-based abuse, contact:

- Women's Aid national freephone helpline – 1800 341 900
- Women's Aid Federation NI national freephone helpline - 0808 802 1414
- Rape Crisis National Helpline - 1800 77 8888
- Men's Development Network Advice Line – 1800 816 588
- National LGBT+ helpline - 1800 929 539

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information, contact Katarina - admin@havenhorizons.com Tel 085 862 1720

Background Information

Haven Horizons focuses on prevention activities, including education, research, collaborative partnerships, and piloting best-practice models. [Haven Horizons](http://www.havenhorizons.com)