



We're calling time on the harm,  
abuse and exploitation of  
older people in the UK.

**This is our manifesto.**



**Hourglass**

Safer ageing · Stopping abuse

*“Every year, more than a million older people are physically, emotionally, financially or sexually abused in the UK.*

*This is a truly damning indictment of how our society views and values older people. Sadly, the abuse of older people is not a new issue, but one that has now reached a critical threshold that can no longer be ignored, nor tolerated.*

*Time is running out for the very people whose remaining years are so precious. Someone has to take a stand and fight for those whose voices are so often ignored or stifled.*

*We are Hourglass – the only UK-wide charity that’s calling time on the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people.*

*Driven by our values, we’re invested in – and investing in – making a difference. It takes honesty to face up to these challenging issues. It takes a special kind of courage to bear witness to the heart-breaking stories of abuse and neglect we hear every single day. And it takes a dedicated team with nearly 30-years of experience and unique expertise to fight for our most vulnerable, day in and day out.*

*This will not be an easy journey. Yet with your support, we will work tirelessly to influence, challenge and educate; listen, advise and support; and will commit to working in partnership to deliver positive change for vulnerable older people and all those affected throughout the UK. We will create an environment where safer ageing is guaranteed for all.*

*Now is the time to join us on this journey to end the abuse, harm and exploitation of older people. In doing so, you are helping us build the fairer and safer society that we all want and deserve.”*

**Richard Robinson, CEO**

**We are Hourglass – the voice for older people at risk. We are committed to an urgent public review of the abuse of older people, and to ending the abuse, harm and exploitation of older people. We are striving to create an environment where safer ageing is guaranteed for all.**

## Definitions



### The Abuse of Older People

*A single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.*

### Safer Ageing

*Older people face physical and attitudinal barriers that create circumstances of actual or presumed age-related vulnerability – an environment which puts older adults at risk. Our campaign for safer ageing seeks to remove these barriers to empower older people to age securely and live free from abuse.*





## These are our aims

Hourglass will campaign and advocate tirelessly to put the abuse of older people and the urgent need for a safer ageing agenda at the fore of all strategic thinking on exploitation, abuse and neglect.



We will collaborate with other frontline organisations to develop a robust knowledge bank, such that all our work is sensitive to the diversity amongst the older people we support.



We will tackle financial abuse of older people, working within the financial and third sectors to share knowledge, good practice and expertise to better understand and prevent exploitation.



We will take these insights, alongside our expert network of influencers, patrons and practitioners, to the heart of decision-making and illuminate the seriousness of abuse of older people.



We will seek to raise the profile of the risks associated with ageing by commissioning in-depth research that highlights the voices and stories of those we support. We will demand greater transparency and access to data concerning adult safeguarding and crimes against older people – across all societal groups.



We seek to establish authority as the leading expert on the abuse, harm and exploitation of older people. Hourglass is the first port of call for media and policy shaping.



## In Northern Ireland



Hourglass will develop traction in the newly formed Executive to achieve our primary goal of implementing an Adult Safeguarding Bill, bringing Northern Ireland in line with legislative protections across the wider UK.

We will work with all sectors, providers and influencers to capitalise on the wide impact of recent investigations and reports, and further shed light on the hidden abuse of older people both in institutions and within their own homes.

We will pursue transparent and accurate data on crimes against older people, advocating for improvement in criminal justice procedures to broaden our insight and facilitate an agenda of prevention and protection.

## In Wales



Hourglass will continue to lobby and influence the legal and criminal justice framework and the Welsh Government to protect older people from abuse and create a national conversation around safer ageing.

We will continue to tailor the way we communicate all campaigns and services to Welsh audiences, with a commitment to investing in our Helpline to ensure the availability of a bilingual service.

We aim to shed light on institutional barriers to services for minority group older people in Wales by bringing together a diverse portfolio of case studies.

## In Scotland



Hourglass will continue to be a major collaborator with the Scottish Government to push forward legislative change to enable safer ageing.

We will seek the expansion of The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 to include domestic relationships beyond partner or ex-partner.

We will campaign for new statutory protections, codifying an aggravation based on vulnerability, to achieve greater prevention of and protection from crimes against older people.

## In England



Hourglass believes in the urgent need for a designated Commissioner for Older People to spearhead a government strategy on tackling the abuse of older people.

We will use the breadth of our experience supporting older victims to inform collaborative and targeted intervention on the passage of the Domestic Abuse Bill.

We will work towards uniformity across police constabularies over the recording of and access to data concerning crimes against older people.



**Call our Helpline on:**

**0808 808 8141**

Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm

It's entirely confidential, free to call from a landline or mobile and will not appear on your phone bill.

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Hourglass is the working name of Action on Elder Abuse, a charity registered in England and Wales (reg. no: 1140543), and also in Scotland (reg. no: SC046278). Action on Elder Abuse is also registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales under number 07290092.



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