

# WILLOW

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

is the new name for



## Progress in Prevention, Awareness & Support

Over the past few months, we have continued to see both the challenges and the progress in addressing domestic abuse. Demand for our services remains high and, at the time of writing, our refuge is at capacity. At the same time, we are encouraged to see more women coming forward to seek support, alongside growing conversations around prevention, education, and awareness.

Domestic abuse continues to affect 1 in 4 women in Ireland, but meaningful progress is being made both locally here in Co. Meath and on a national scale. Over the past few months, we have welcomed:

✦ The Department of Social Protection's introduction of a new non-means-tested payment to help survivors of domestic abuse with transport costs, supporting greater independence and easier access to safety and support services. Learn more [here](#).

✦ The completion of our pilot year of the Athrú Project, which engaged 270 TY students across three schools in Navan in conversations around relationships, consent, respect, communication, and the pressures young people are facing today.

✦ The launch of Zero Tolerance Meath's third module in its webinar series, *The Dynamics of Abuse: Patterns and Motivations*, exploring how power and control operate within abusive relationships, and the beliefs and behaviours that underpin them.

✦ The sixth annual **Go Purple Day** which took place on May 15th. Go Purple Day is the national day of awareness of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, led by An Garda Síochána, with the goal of highlighting this issue in our society and the supports available to those affected.



## Meet our 2026 Community Champions

Three Community Champion Awards were presented on May 15th to mark Go Purple Day, recognising individuals and organisations making an

outstanding contribution to supporting survivors and challenging domestic abuse in Co. Meath.

This year's winners were:

### **Organisation Award – Rotary Club of Navan**

Long-standing supporters of Willow, the Rotary Club of Navan has consistently raised awareness and vital funds, including through its annual golf classic, which will support the development of a children's playground at our new refuge in Navan.

### **Individual Award – Debbie Ward**

A dedicated supporter of our work, Debbie provides 100 Christmas hampers each year for women engaging with our services, offering vital support during a particularly difficult time for women experiencing abuse.

### **Youth Award – Ruby Clarke**

A student at Youth Reach Navan, Ruby is recognised for opening up conversations about domestic abuse among her peers and exploring its impact on children and young people through her research and advocacy.



## **Modules**

- Webinars hosted via Teams
- Provide baseline knowledge about domestic abuse
- Open the door for reflection in working groups



## **Working Groups**

- Reflection on learning modules and group discussions
- Stronger, in-depth understanding of the topic
- Safe space for shared learning and diverse perspectives
- Open to organisations, staff, and the public (18+)
- Inclusive, community-wide engagement
- Focus on collaboration and awareness
- Commitment to turning learning into local action
- Supporting practical, county-level responses



# Building a Safer Community Together

Zero Tolerance Meath is a community-led prevention project in Co. Meath focused on preventing Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV). As part of the project, we are delivering a series of learning modules designed to build awareness, understanding, and community action around the prevention of DSGBV.

Following each learning module, participants come together in local groups to explore the topic in greater depth, build knowledge and confidence, and learn from one another's experiences and perspectives.

This initiative is a valuable opportunity to get involved in your community, meet people passionate about social change, and work together towards communities that are free from violence. No prior knowledge or experience is needed — just an interest in helping create safer, informed, more supportive communities for everyone.

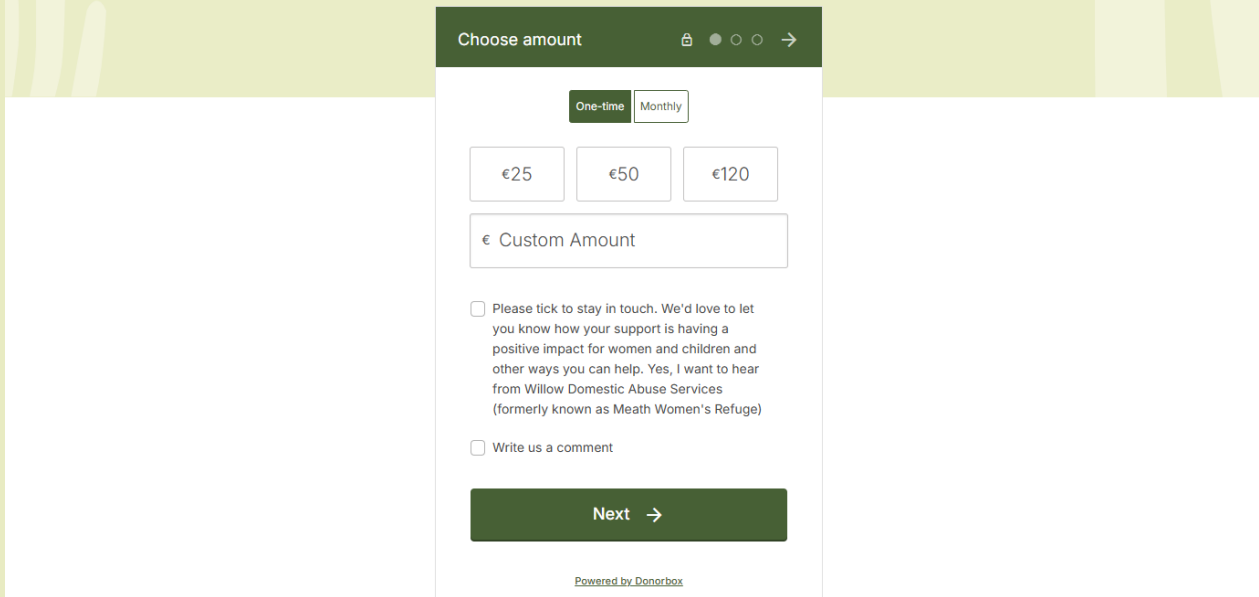
You can access the first three learning modules below. If you would like to join one of our community working groups or learn more about the Zero Tolerance Meath project, please contact Rebecca Machin (Trim/Navan) at [rebecca.machin@willowdas.ie](mailto:rebecca.machin@willowdas.ie) or Joanna Fitzsimons (Kells/Ashbourne) at [joanna.fitzsimons@willowdas.ie](mailto:joanna.fitzsimons@willowdas.ie).

Module 1: Background and Overview to Gender-Based Violence

Module 2: How Culture Shapes Power

Module 3: The Dynamics of Abuse: Patterns and Motivations

Donations are essential to sustaining our services. While core staff salaries are state-funded, it is the generosity of individuals, businesses, schools and community groups that enables us to provide vital supports for women and children, including counselling, play therapy, family activities and maintaining our refuge. Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference.



The screenshot shows a 'Choose amount' form with a dark green header. Below the header, there are two tabs: 'One-time' (selected) and 'Monthly'. There are three buttons for preset amounts: '€25', '€50', and '€120'. Below these is a text input field labeled '€ Custom Amount'. There are two checkboxes: 'Please tick to stay in touch. We'd love to let you know how your support is having a positive impact for women and children and other ways you can help. Yes, I want to hear from Willow Domestic Abuse Services (formerly known as Meath Women's Refuge)' and 'Write us a comment'. At the bottom is a dark green 'Next →' button. A small footer at the bottom of the form reads 'Powered by Donorbox'.

## Consider Becoming a Regular Giver

Donations play a vital role in sustaining our services. While core staff salaries are funded by the State, it is the generosity of individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups that allows us to provide essential supports for women and children, such as counselling, play therapy, family activities, and the ongoing care and maintenance of our refuge.

We are deeply grateful to be part of a community that continues to come together to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue this work and make a real difference in the lives of families across Co. Meath.

If you are in a position to do so, we would be very grateful if you would consider becoming a regular giver. Regular support helps us to plan ahead, be in a better position to respond quickly when needs arise, and make sure support is there for women and children when they need it most.

To set up a regular donation, visit the [donate](#) page on our website and choose your monthly amount.

Donate



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[admin@willowdas.ie](mailto:admin@willowdas.ie)

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