

Some abuse never reaches the services built to stop it.

In rural, farming and equestrian communities, domestic abuse and sexual violence take forms that mainstream services rarely see. Horses and livestock are used as leverage. Tied homes and family businesses make leaving unthinkable. Abuse comes from partners, but also from adult children and other relatives, and it does not stop in later life.

The warning signs are usually there, spread across a vet, a farrier, a yard, a GP and a police officer, with nobody seeing the whole picture until serious harm is done.

The Bridle Path Initiative is the UK's first specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence service for these communities. We are building a national response that joins awareness, professional training, research, safeguarding and systems change.

WHAT WE WORK ON

- Rural and farming abuse
- The equestrian world
- Animals used within coercive control
- Later-life abuse and family perpetrators
- Isolation, tied homes and livelihoods
- Missed opportunities before serious harm

Working alongside The Katie Trust

Our shared work brings family voice, missed opportunities and learning from serious harm into the same conversation as rural and equestrian domestic abuse.

We are looking for partners to build this with us.

RURAL AND EQUESTRIAN REACH

Help us take awareness into farms, yards, shows, markets and rural events.

TRAINING AND SYSTEMS

Fund or host training so that professionals notice risk earlier and respond differently.

WHAT PARTNERSHIP CAN LOOK LIKE

Sponsoring a programme or a region. In-kind support such as vehicles, venues, print or technology. Training packages for your teams and members. Introductions to the networks we should be reaching.

MOBILITY AND ACCESS

Help us reach the places where distance and transport are part of the problem: vehicles, fuel, venues and travel.

RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

Help build the evidence base for a field that has barely been studied.

Kirsty Judd

Founder and Chief Executive, The Bridle Path Initiative CIC

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Scan to donate

Abuse can hide behind stable doors and farm gates.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence can look different in rural, farming and equestrian communities, and they are easier to miss.

ISOLATION

Distance, no transport and a community where everyone knows everyone can make it hard to tell anyone.

ANIMALS

Horses, pets and livestock can be threatened, hurt or withheld as a way of keeping control.

LAND AND LIVELIHOOD

Tied housing, the farm, the family business and shared money can make leaving feel impossible.

LATER LIFE AND FAMILY

The person causing harm may be a partner or ex-partner, or another family member, including an adult child.

You do not need proof, and you do not need to be ready to leave, to ask for information.



Scan for
information
and support routes

thebridlepath.co.uk

Safe enquiries, information
and signposting.



Support our work

Scan to donate. Support
should not stop at the farm
gate.

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The Bridle Path Initiative CIC is not an emergency service. If you are in immediate danger, call 999. If you cannot speak, press 55 when prompted. Community interest company no. 17236688.

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