

Are you in the UK with permission to stay as a spouse/partner?

Are you experiencing **domestic abuse** but are unsure of what to do about your immigration status in the UK?

The Home Office have introduced the **Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession ('MVDAC')** from 16 February 2024.

This has replaced the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession ('DDVC').

To apply for the MVDAC, you need to show the following:

- ▶ You were last granted **permission as a partner** of someone who is either British, settled, an EEA national with limited leave granted under the EU Settlement Scheme*, a refugee, a member of HM Armed Forces, or a person with permission to enter or stay in the UK on a work and economic route, student or graduate route; **and**
- ▶ Your relationship has broken down due to **domestic abuse**.

*This **does not** apply if you have been granted Pre-Settled Status - please see Rights of Women's website for further information and advice on the EU Settlement Scheme

If you successfully apply for the MVDAC, this will:

- ▶ Inform the Home Office about your relationship breakdown;
- ▶ Cancel your last permission as a partner (if it is still valid);
- ▶ Grant you **3 months permission** to live in the UK;
- ▶ Allow **access to public benefits** and the **right to work**

It is important to **make a further application to remain in the UK before the MVDAC expires**. Otherwise, you will risk becoming an **overstayer and will be expected to leave the UK** if the MVDAC expires and you have not submitted an application to remain in the UK.

Being granted the MVDAC **does not** mean you are necessarily eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain as a victim of domestic abuse.

Therefore, **before** applying for the MVDAC, **you must speak to a legal advisor about your options**.

For free, confidential, legal advice on immigration and asylum law, call our Immigration and Asylum Law Line on **020 7490 7689 open Mondays and Thursdays, 10am-12pm and 2-4pm**.

To check for any changes since this information was published, visit our website www.rightsofwomen.org.uk.

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WOMEN
helping women through the law