

"My ISVA was amazing - friendly, approachable, knowledgeable and explained everything really clearly. She was really flexible and patient and answered all my questions."

We're Here For You

☎ 0121 643 0301 (option 2)

🌐 www.rsvporg.co.uk

✉ isva@rsvporg.co.uk



Winners of exceptional ISVA Team 2016



Charity Number 1134387



Company Number 06862873

How We Can Support You

An ISVA can help with the options that are available to you:

- **Reporting the crime to the police** so that a criminal investigation can begin which, where possible, may result in the case being taken to court.
- **Contacting SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre).** If you're not ready to report to the police an ISVA can put you in touch with a SARC for medical advice following a rape or sexual assault and, where possible, to have forensic evidence gathered. You'd need to give your name and contact details, but this wouldn't be shared with anyone else, including the police, unless you give your permission. SARCs can store the evidence collected for 2 years, giving you time to decide if you wish to report or not.
- **Sharing information anonymously.** You can pass on information to the police anonymously via our ISVAs without officially reporting.
- **Criminal Injuries Compensation (CICA).** If you've reported to the police there's a Government compensation scheme for any physical or emotional injuries, or financial losses you've suffered.
- **Civil action.** In certain situations you may be able to claim compensation against the offender, their employer, or an organisation.

You may decide you don't want to do any of the above. That's ok, you must do what's right for you; we will respect your decision. Your ISVA will support you at every stage, whatever you choose to do.

Other Services We Provide

- Children's Advocacy
- LGBT+ Advocacy
- Race and Equality Advocacy
- Sex Worker Advocacy
- Adult & Children's Counselling
- Helpline & Webchat
- Asylum Seeker & Refugee Support
- Social Groups & Coffee Mornings
- Support for adults supporting children
- Pre Therapy/Counselling Groups
- Self-help information
- Training for External Organisations

For more information on all the services we offer please contact us or visit our website.

Get In Touch

☎ Services: 0121 643 0301
Helpline: 0121 643 4136

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📷 [instagram.com/RSVPWM](https://www.instagram.com/RSVPWM)

"RSVP do more than support you, they give you a reason to keep on living."



Adult Advocacy

For people who've been subjected to rape or sexual abuse



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🌐 www.rsvporg.co.uk

✉ isva@rsvporg.co.uk

#ibelieveyou

We support people who have been subjected to sexual violence and abuse to thrive and enjoy a future of hope and confidence. We boldly stand with survivors and challenge victim blaming attitudes.

We provide compassionate, confidential and free services to children and adults of all genders living in Birmingham and Solihull.

We offer some women-only times and services.

We work in ways that recognise your rights and know that survivors come from all walks of life.

We're committed to equality regardless of age, disability, economic status, gender reassignment, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation or sex.

We'll support you to make the decisions and choices that are right for you.

Our services are free, but if you're able we can provide information about paid therapy and counselling with our sister organisation GINA. There's no waiting list for this private service. Contact GINA on: hello@gina.uk.com

Our services are offered from Birmingham City Centre and a few other locations around Birmingham and Solihull too. Ask for more details.

- **We are bold.** We'll support you to make the decisions and choices that are right for you.
- **We believe.** We'll listen, believe you and will not judge you.
- **We are big-hearted.** We'll show you the empathy you deserve and need.

"My ISVA was amazing – they gave me so much emotional support and understanding."

WHAT WE DO

What is an ISVA?

An ISVA is an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate who provides practical and emotional support if you've been subjected to sexual abuse at any time in your life. Independent from other agencies e.g. the police and social services, they can advocate on your behalf by making sure your voice and needs are heard by other services that support you. We also have children's ISVAs, ISVAs for LGBT+ survivors and sex workers, and a Race and Equality ISVA.

Does an ISVA give counselling?

No, an ISVA provides information and practical, emotional, and advocacy support. This is different to counselling; should you need this kind of support an ISVA can refer you.

I was abused years ago, can I still report?

Yes, you can speak to the police regardless of when you were sexually abused; however, not everything reported ends in a court case. An ISVA can support you in making an informed decision on whether to report, and support you throughout the process.

If I speak to an ISVA is it confidential?

We'll work with you in a confidential way. This means we won't share any information with your family, the police, or anyone else without your permission. The only time we'll share any information without your permission is if we're worried about a child or vulnerable person's safety.

I don't want to report to the police, are there other ways an ISVA can still help me?

Yes, an ISVA can support you whether you report or not. They can arrange appointments for other support e.g. sexual health, domestic abuse, counselling, drug & alcohol use, dental & optical care. ISVAs may be able to offer phone support or accompany you to some intimate medical appointments with you e.g. smear tests, sexual health tests, breast examinations, if you find it triggering to attend due to the abuse you've suffered.

I don't want to report to the police myself, can you do that for me?

An ISVA can't make a formal report on your behalf. However, if you want them to just pass on information to the police they can do so anonymously for you. This could be about the offender and what they've done.

Can an ISVA give me information and support on sexually transmitted infections (STIs)?

An ISVA can make and attend an appointment with you to a doctor or sexual health clinic for testing and treatment. They can also help you access STI self-testing kits and provide information on where you can get emergency contraception and also support if you believe you've recently been subjected to HIV.



a world free from sexual violence and abuse

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We can help you access specialised sexual health support through Umbrella.
Call 0121 643 0301 (option 2).



In partnership with  RSV P
rape & sexual violence project