



**Hourglass**

Safer ageing · Stopping abuse  
Northern Ireland

**WE'RE CALLING TIME ON  
THE HARM, ABUSE AND  
EXPLOITATION OF OLDER  
PEOPLE IN THE UK.**

**THIS IS OUR MANIFESTO.**



Northern Ireland

**Hourglass**

[www.wearehouglass.org](http://www.wearehouglass.org)

**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.**



**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



  
**Veronica Gray**  
Deputy CEO

**In Northern Ireland we have laws designed to protect children from abuse and animals from cruelty – and that is right. However, in the 21st century with a rapidly ageing population we are the only part of the United Kingdom without dedicated legislation to protect vulnerable older people from abuse, harm and exploitation.**

Hourglass Northern Ireland believes that our older people deserve the same protection in law and should not be subject to a postcode lottery of protection. That is why we are seeking an Adult Safeguarding Bill for Northern Ireland. There is a lot of work to do, but we will embrace that challenge in a proactive and collaborative way.

Hourglass Northern Ireland commits to bringing about real and positive change for older people at risk of abuse, or those who are currently subject to acts of violence, cruelty, sexual assault, neglect and theft. With more than 25 years' experience and expertise, our mission is to listen, advise and support vulnerable older people and all those affected throughout the UK.

We want to shed light on the nature and extent of abuse and to work with all partners to call time on the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people here in Northern Ireland and across the United Kingdom.

Our job as Hourglass Northern Ireland, and my role as Deputy Chief Executive, is to demonstrate how each of us can make a difference, and inspire our communities to embrace the safer ageing agenda and work to ending the abuse of older people.

To do that, we need brave leadership at all levels and support and encouragement from our government, funders and the public. Hourglass Northern Ireland aims to be part of a resilient, provocative sector here that can help drive positive change for many years to come. The challenge starts here.

*Veronica Gray*

Veronica Gray  
Deputy CEO  
Hourglass

## 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 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 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 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 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 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.**

## 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.



## How Hourglass can support you

**Hourglass is the only UK-wide charity dedicated to stopping the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people and promote safer ageing.**

The Hourglass confidential helpline provides information and support to anyone concerned about harm, abuse or exploitation of an older person. This might include physical, financial, psychological, sexual or neglect.

The helpline is available in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales to provide a tailored service to callers from across the UK. Our trained Information Officers can provide information, advice and support and put you in touch with appropriate local agencies.

## Our Helpline is available from 9am to 5pm every Monday to Friday, offering:

- support for older people who have experienced, or are at risk of, any kind of harm, abuse or exploitation.
- support for anyone concerned about an older person, e.g family, friends, neighbours, carers or health professionals, etc.
- information and advice relating to safer ageing and prevention.

**The Hourglass helpline is entirely confidential, free to call from a landline or mobile, and the number won't appear on the phone bill.**

# 0808 808 8141

**Talking to us will cost you nothing. Not talking could cost you a lot.**





# Hourglass

Safer ageing · Stopping abuse  
Northern Ireland

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Email: [enquiries@wearehourglass.org](mailto:enquiries@wearehourglass.org)  
Web: [www.wearehourglass.org](http://www.wearehourglass.org)  
Office: 020 8835 9280

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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 Reg. No. 07290092