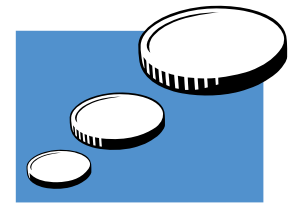


# Giving Insights



New  
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Summer 2008

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### The price of justice

**For the price of a family holiday, donors can help domestic violence victims bring their attackers to justice.**

Victims of domestic violence rarely see their attackers brought to justice. In some areas fewer than one in five domestic violence-related arrests leads to a conviction. The biggest factor in this low conviction rate is the number of women who drop out of the lengthy legal process before it even gets to court. For completed cases, the conviction rate is actually quite high at 75%.

The charity HALT Domestic Violence provides advocates for women who are taking their attackers to court. These advocates demystify the legal process and provide emotional support during a challenging period. Having an advocate



from HALT increases a woman's chances of seeing the trial through to its conclusion from 40% to 88%.

Of the extra 48% of women who are able to stay in the legal system, three quarters will get their abuser convicted. So 36% of the women that HALT works with see their abuser brought to book. That's 36% more than would otherwise get justice. For many women a conviction does not only mean justice, but also safety for herself and her children. Many convicted attackers will either go to prison or be placed under a restraining order.

Every woman helped by HALT costs roughly £425. This means that the cost per extra

conviction is £1,200—less than the price of a holiday in the sun for a family of four.

The cost of domestic violence however is high. Two women are killed every week by their partner or ex-partner, but the consequences are not just physical. One third of women who were abused by their partner last year now suffer from mental health problems. Five hundred women commit suicide every year after experiencing domestic violence.

Those who perpetrate domestic violence should be brought to justice. £1,200 per extra conviction is a small price to pay.

Lucy Heady



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