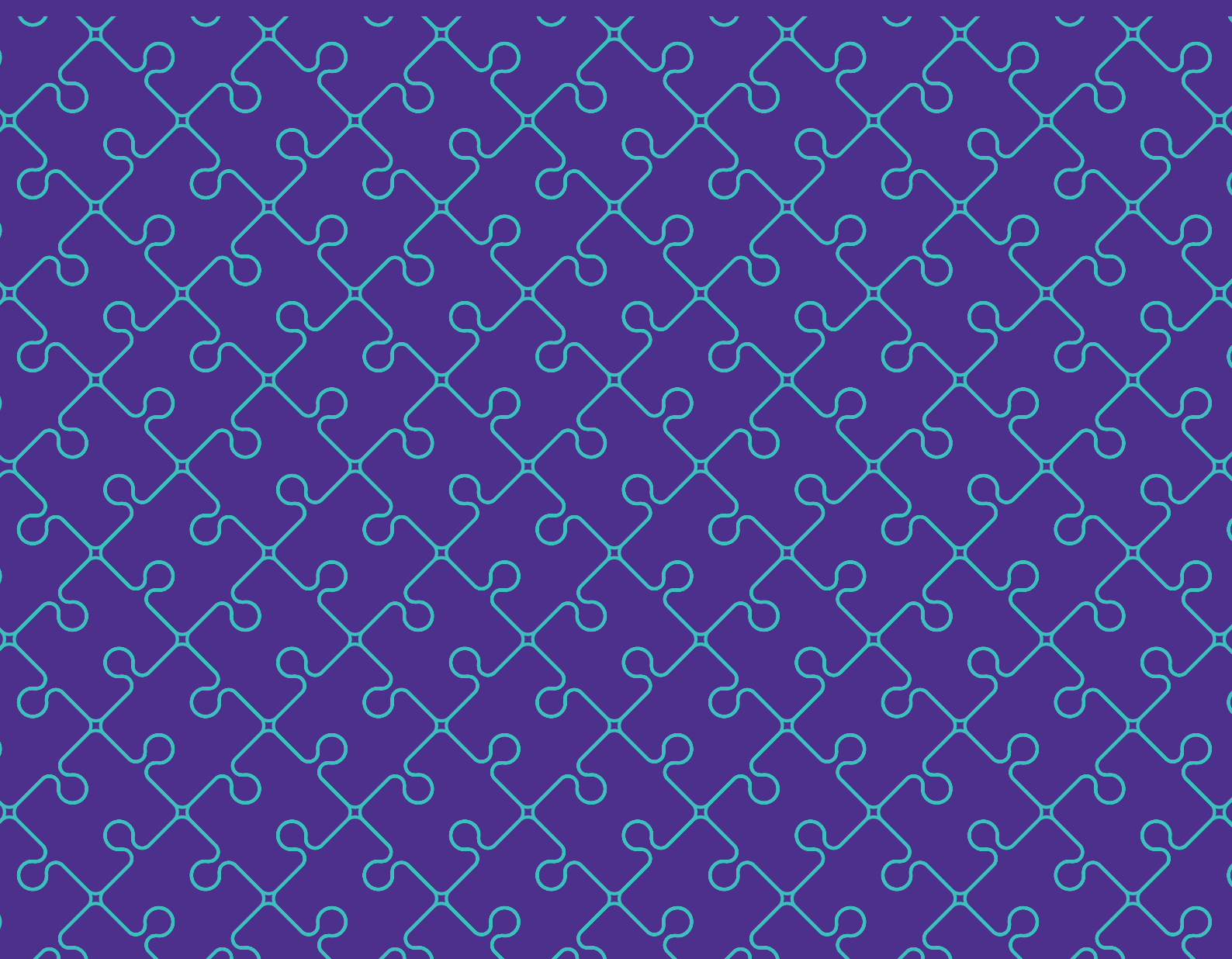


Screening for economic abuse



Identifying risk

For domestic abuse services



SURVIVING

ECONOMIC

A B U S E

Domestic abuse takes many forms. Some abusers repeatedly dictate their partner's choices and everyday actions, and may restrict how they acquire, use and maintain money and economic resources such as housing, food and transport.

This behaviour is known as **economic abuse**. This toolkit is designed to support you to identify whether someone you are working with is experiencing this form of abuse.

Why address economic abuse?

It is vital that we better understand and address economic abuse because economic stability is linked to physical safety. Abusers exploit existing economic inequality or create economic instability to reduce their partner's ability to make choices.

Without access to the economic resources required to leave and live independently, victims stay with abusive partners for longer than they want to and experience more harm as a result.

Screening for economic abuse

Survivors of domestic abuse are likely to have had negative experiences of being asked questions. They may have been grilled by the abuser or repeatedly asked to share personal information with services.

Answering questions can cause anxiety. We know that you will do what you can to ensure your client is comfortable. It might be useful to know that members of the ['Experts by Experience' Group](#) (individuals who have experienced economic abuse and who inform our work) have told us they would be more relaxed answering questions when someone is sitting next to them, rather than across a desk.

We set out the points to talk through when introducing the questions to your client below. They identify that the victim-survivor might choose to complete the questions on their own, with the worker in the room, or nearby. Or they might prefer you to work through the questions with them. Either method is fine.

Making the questions part of a conversation

We have developed a 'conversation kit' to explore the concept of economic abuse and the forms that it takes, thereby helping victim-survivors make connections between the abuser's actions and their economic situation. This 'sets the scene' for systematically asking clients about the different forms of economic abuse that they might have experienced in order to understand the full extent of what has happened/is happening. The conversation kit is available [on our website](#) and we recommend that you use it wherever possible.

Training on economic abuse

In order to use the conversation kit effectively, we also recommend that you undertake training on economic abuse first. Details of how to access training can be requested via info@survivingeconomicabuse.org

Contributing to a national dataset

The screening questions have been statistically proven to be distinct forms of economic abuse in the United States. SEA is building a national dataset of responses to the screening tool in the UK, enabling us to analyse the answers and see how economic abuse is experienced by gender, ethnicity, sexuality etc.

If you are interested in contributing to this dataset, then please contact us on info@survivingeconomicabuse.org

Further support

If you are supporting someone who is experiencing economic abuse, they are not alone. We have information that can support them to understand economic abuse and take steps towards safety.

Visit www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/resources for information including:

- What is economic abuse
- Steps you can take towards economic safety
- Organisations that can help

Also see our website for more tools for professionals to support you in your work.

Briefing your client

Please talk through the following points when you introduce the questions in whatever order feels most appropriate.

Why am I answering these questions?

- Economic abuse is when your partner/family member has interfered with your money or other economic resources in some way to stop you being in control of your own life and making choices.
- These questions have been designed to help us identify if you have been affected by economic abuse, and if so, how we can best support you.

How shall I answer the questions?

- It is up to you how you choose to answer these questions.
- I can ask you the questions and write down your answers or you can do it yourself with me in the room or nearby.

Answering the questions

- At the beginning, please could you make a note of the date. I will add your client ID number.
- It would be most useful if you could answer all the questions.
- You can have as much time as you need, and it's fine to stop at any point, and come back to the questions later.
- If you remember something and want to change or add to any of your earlier answers, please do.
- How things have been for you might have changed from day to day. Please answer the questions thinking about the times when the situation has been at its worst.
- If you are not sure what the question is about then please ask me.
- Answering these questions will enable us to identify how we can best support you.

References

This questions in this toolkit are based on research by Adrienne Adams and colleagues at Michigan State University.

Adams, A. E., Sullivan, C. M., Bybee D., and Greeson, M. R. (2008). Development of the Scale of Economic Abuse. *Violence Against Women* 14(5): 563–587.

Adams, A. E., Greeson, M. R., Littwin, A. K., and Javorka, M. (2019). The Revised Scale of Economic Abuse. *Psychology of Violence* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/vio0000244>.

Screening questions

Date:

Client ID number:

	0 Never	1 Hardly ever	2 Sometimes	3 Often	4 Very often
<p>1</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever stop you from having enough money to buy food, clothes, or other essentials?</p> <p>This may include you not having enough money to buy these things because you had/have to spend your money on bills, etc.</p>					
<p>2</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever stop you from having enough money to pay the bills?</p> <p>This may include being given an allowance which was/is not big enough to pay bills.</p>					
<p>3</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever tell you how you must spend money, rather than letting you make these decisions?</p> <p>This may include talking you out of spending money, making you feel guilty/intimidated about spending money.</p>					
<p>4</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever get you to give them receipts or change?</p>					
<p>5</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever hide money from you?</p>					

	0 Never	1 Hardly ever	2 Sometimes	3 Often	4 Very often
<p>6 Did/does your partner/family member ever keep important financial information from you?</p> <p>For example, details about their income, mortgage, bank account information, credit agreements, credit card statements, etc.</p>					
<p>7 Did/does your partner/family member ever make you ask them for money?</p>					
<p>8 Did/does your partner/family member stop you having a job or going to work? Or did/do they make it too hard for you to do so?</p> <p>This may include making you have (more) children, moving home, telling you that your place is at home.</p>					
<p>9 Did/does your partner/family member ever make you get a credit card or loan, or buy something on credit, against your wishes?</p> <p>This may include blackmail (telling that they couldn't work otherwise or that you need to improve your family's wellbeing) or insisting that all liabilities are in your name.</p>					
<p>10 Did/does your partner/family member have a loan or credit card with YOUR name on it which you didn't agree to? Or did/have they ever bought something using your credit?</p> <p>This includes situations in which you felt unable to say no</p>					

	0 Never	1 Hardly ever	2 Sometimes	3 Often	4 Very often
<p>11</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member make you use your money to buy them things or pay their bills against your wishes?</p> <p>This includes situations in which you felt unable to say no – partner made you feel guilty, sulked, made you feel intimidated, etc.</p>					
<p>12</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member spend their money on whatever they want, while your money covers the essentials?</p>					
<p>13</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever steal things from you?</p> <p>This includes items that may have gone missing when your partner used things that were yours, eg car.</p>					
<p>14</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever put bills in your name, so that you had/have to pay them?</p> <p>Or you had no choice but to put them in your name.</p>					
<p>15</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member build up debt in your name, eg by using your credit card, internet account, or phone?</p> <p>They may have told you that their credit was bad.</p>					

	0 Never	1 Hardly ever	2 Sometimes	3 Often	4 Very often
<p>16</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever force or pressure you to give them your savings, wages or other things?</p> <p>This includes situations in which you felt unable to say no.</p>					
<p>17</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member stop you from having or accessing a personal or joint bank account?</p> <p>This may include preventing you from having access to online log-in details, PIN number, etc.</p>					
<p>18</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever make you sign papers without telling you what they're for?</p>					
<p>19</p> <p>Did/does your partner/family member ever break or destroy your things, or things in the house?</p>					

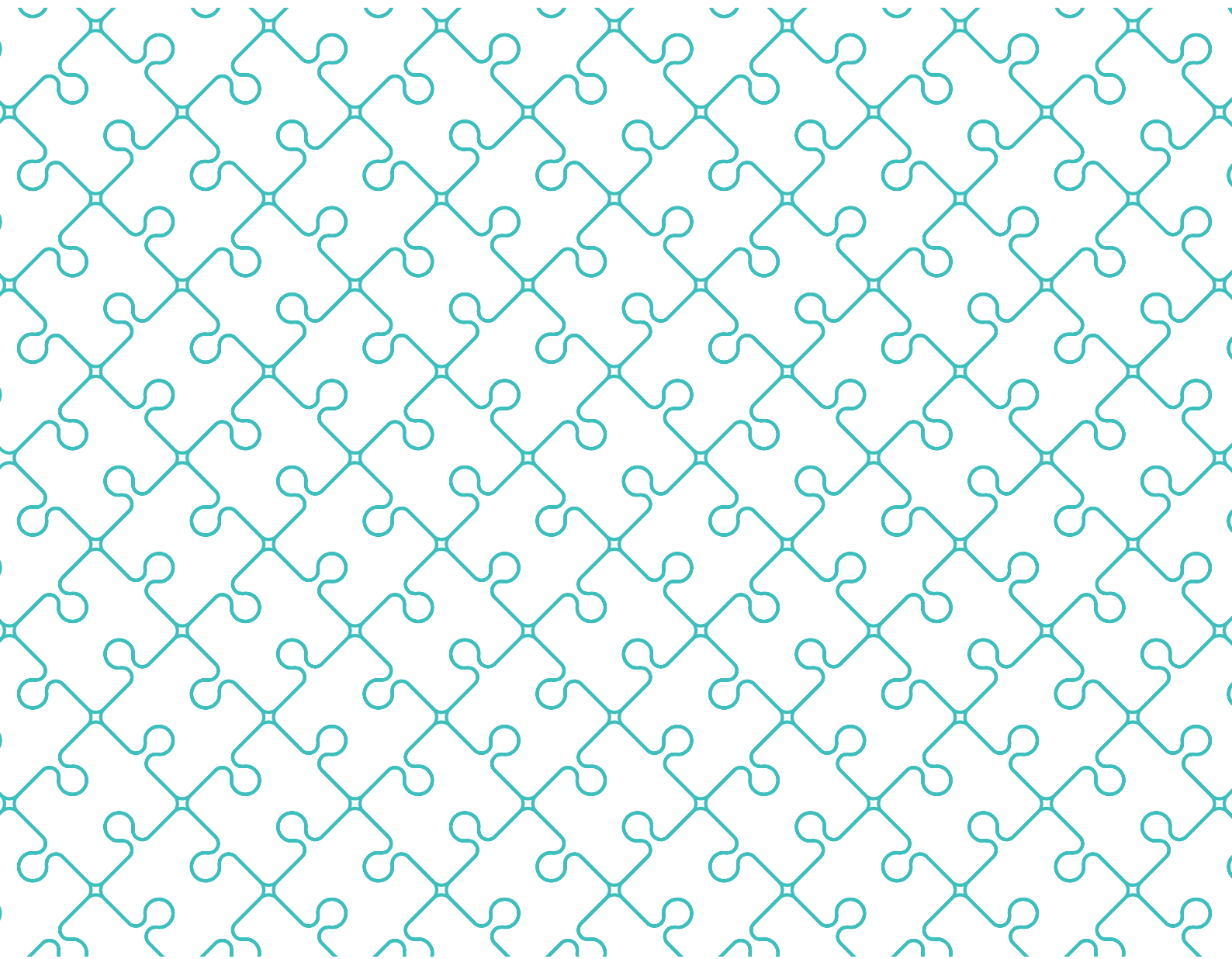
One final question

This is a chance for you to tell us a bit more, if you are happy to do so. Continue on the next page if you need more space.

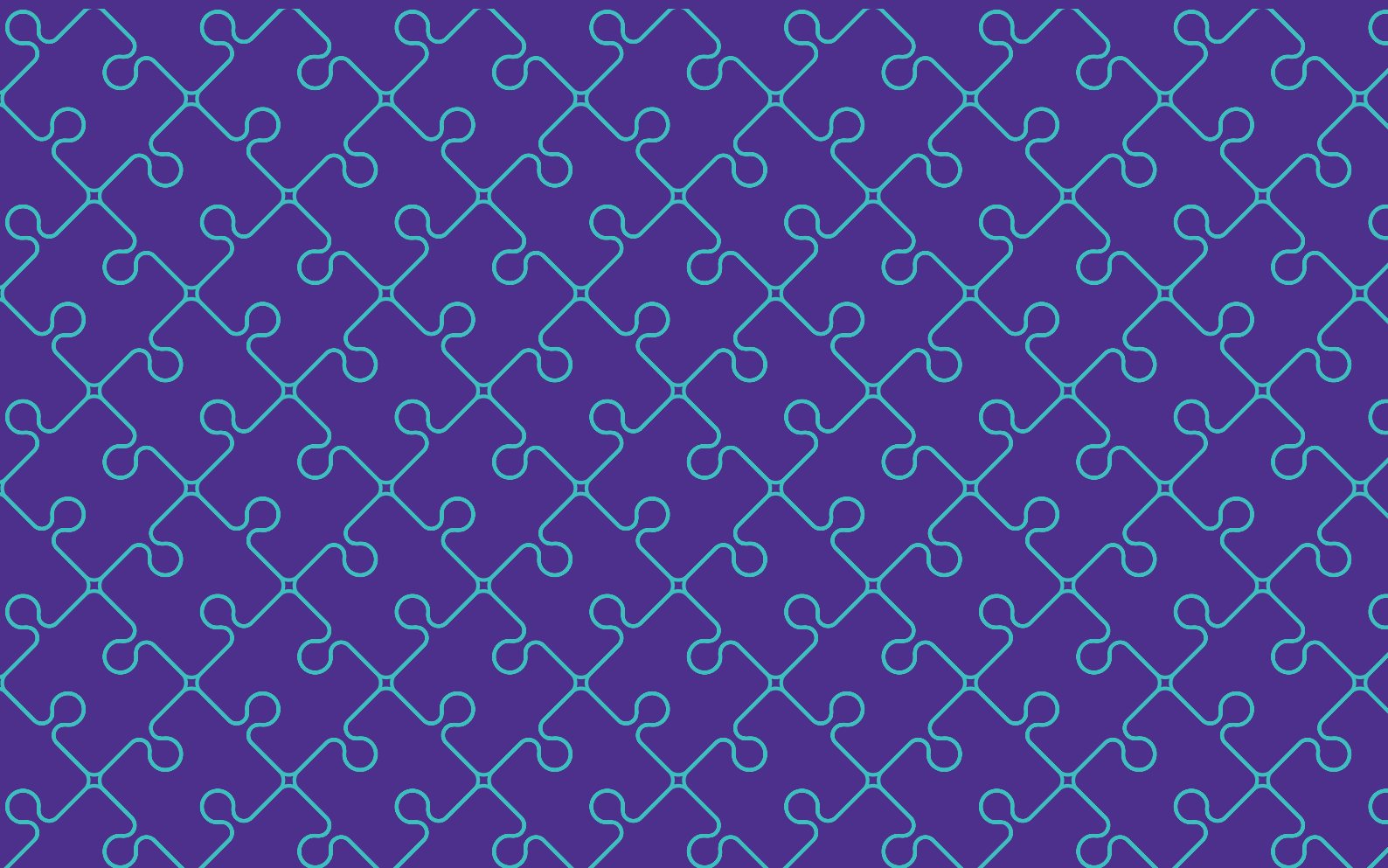
20	Has anything else happened to you, to do with money, work or your possessions, which isn't covered in the questions above?

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**Thank you very much for answering these questions.
We will use the responses to identify how we can best support you.**



Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) is the only UK charity dedicated to raising awareness of economic abuse and transforming responses to it. We are determined that women are supported not only to survive, but thrive.



We deliver training, develop tools and resources, provide expert advice and disseminate best practice to professionals who work with victims-survivors across a range of sectors. We want them to have the knowledge, skills, resources and confidence to recognise and respond to economic abuse.

For more information

Visit www.survivingeconomicabuse.org

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