



# Your invitation to join **SEA CAPTAINS CIRCLE**

A collective group united around a single goal - to help save lives and stop economic abuse forever



*"The work your charity is doing saved mine and my children's life."*

Becoming a member of the SEA Captains Circle is a way to partner with us on a voyage to pioneer new approaches to supporting survivors. A commitment of at least £500 per year (£3,000 for organisations) will help fund SEA's continued effort to raise awareness of economic abuse and transform responses to it.

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## What is economic abuse?

Economic abuse is a form of coercive behaviour. It involves the control of a current or former partner's finances as well as the things that money can buy. Bit by bit, the victim's ability to make their own choices and be in control of their own lives is taken away. It often occurs in the context of intimate partner violence and is a form of domestic abuse.

One in six women in the UK have experienced economic abuse. The effects can last a lifetime, with victims never free of the abuser's control – left in debt, without access to money or a home. Tragically, many feel they have no choice but to take their own life.



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## Our impact

Since its inception in 2017, SEA has made huge strides towards economic abuse being more widely recognised and better responses for victim-survivors.

We have:

- successfully campaigned to both name and define economic abuse in law
- driven a change to the law to criminalise controlling or coercive behaviour in England and Wales that occurs after a relationship has ended
- implemented the pilot and rollout of the Economic Abuse Evidence Form to transform the support that victim-survivors with coerced debt receive from creditors and debt advice services – so they only have to tell their story once
- established the Financial Support Line for victims of domestic abuse in partnership with Money Advice Plus, providing one-off advice and a casework service to victim-survivors
- trained thousands of frontline professionals to recognise and respond to economic abuse

**"This type of abuse has affected every part of my daily life; it has seemed to be endless and has left me feeling helpless and powerless to affect change. Knowing this will now be a criminal offence is a huge relief. I am delighted and proud that my story has helped raise awareness and played a part in pushing this much needed amendment through."**

Victim-survivor talking about the change to the law to criminalise post-separation abuse that SEA successfully campaigned for.

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## Our infrastructure and resources

- SEA has a team of c30 dedicated professionals, including a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of five supporting the Chief Executive by leading our work in specialist economic abuse services and survivor engagement; advocacy and communications; impact and partnerships; development; operations.
- SEA's Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and of the charity. Each Trustee brings considerable expertise from a range of professional backgrounds. Four committees report to the Board – Finance, Risk and Audit, HR and Safeguarding, and Nominations – providing scrutiny and insight on specific areas. A Development Committee contributes knowledge and access to networks supporting fundraising activities, an Advisory Group has professional insight and experience specific to our strategic priorities, and Ambassadors help raise public awareness of economic abuse.
- Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) is a standing agenda item on SLT and Trustee Board meetings. We have a Trustee with Board oversight for EDI and specialists in this area as SEA Ambassadors and Advisory Group members.
- SEA's Safeguarding Policy sets out the principles, processes, roles and responsibilities when working with adults and children who may be considered vulnerable or at risk of harm, and reflects our second-tier (not frontline) status.
- SEA team members ensure they follow the GDPR requirements in recruitment, storage of sensitive personal data and use of our Customer Relationship Management system. Any incident that could lead to breach of security is managed by the Head of Operations and recorded in the risk register. Where data is shared between partners, SEA puts in place a data sharing agreement.
- SEA is committed to reducing our environmental impact. The entire team is home-based and we prioritise the use of public transport and online communications for meetings. We rely on the generosity of our partners and funders to offer their office space for our team meetings. We encourage an environmentally sustainable home-working environment: turning off devices when not active, avoiding unnecessary printing and monitoring our utility usage.
- SEA depends on charitable donations for all areas of our work. Without them, SEA would not exist. Our main income source is grants from statutory sources and trusts/foundations, many of them restricted to specific projects. We recognise the need to grow our unrestricted income and are developing philanthropic giving through initiatives like SEA Captains Circle and an enhanced earned income stream from our training programme.

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## Where will my money go?

By working within the women's sector and financial services sector, we aim to build a model for improved support for victim-survivors of economic abuse. Your financial gift will help drive forward this work. With your support, we will call on the government to facilitate the changes needed and work with them to improve their systems and practices.

### Your money will help us to:

- support survivors through our information and resources, bespoke training and frontline partnership work
- strengthen the connections survivors have with each other through the Experts-by-Experience Group and Survivors' Forum
- amplify our voice by building relationships with high-circulation media, digital & financial organisations
- train more sector professionals to ensure they are equipped to respond effectively to economic abuse
- engage with the financial services sector to commit to and share best practice including implementing the 2021 Financial Abuse Code
- facilitate survivor engagement in policy and deepen relationships with organisations working with migrant women
- help victim-survivors coerced into debt achieve life-changing debt write-offs through the Economic Abuse Evidence Form pilot
- influence change by working with decision-makers in legislation, policy and regulation using the powerful evidence we generate.

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## We need your support now more than ever

**Victim-survivors currently have an individual average debt of £20,000. Six times more than in 2020\***

\*Data from the Financial Support Line and Casework Service



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## What to expect from becoming a member of the SEA Captains Circle

As part of the SEA Captains Circle, not only will you help us to transform the lives of victim-survivors, but you will also receive the following benefits (subject to level of support):

- Regular updates about our progress and impact
- Invitations to attend exclusive events throughout the year
- Acknowledgement of your support on our website and in our Impact Report
- Priority access to our research and reports
- Be part of, and help grow, a community of givers who all support the work we do

From as little as £50 per month, you can become a member of a movement for change.

**“The first vital and powerful thing to be done to tackle any form of abuse is to name it. For years economic abuse has lurked unidentified, unrecognised and insidious, a malignant trap in the lives of so many. By naming economic manipulation, deprivation and harm as the abuse it is, SEA instantly empowers victims and survivors to validate what is happening to them.”**

Monica Dolan, award-winning stage and screen actor  
SEA Captains Circle Patron

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## Get in touch

We hope you are inspired by our ambition and determination to make a difference to the lives of so many women.

Please contact us today via email:  
[fundraising@survivingeconomicabuse.org](mailto:fundraising@survivingeconomicabuse.org)  
to discuss further or to become part of the SEA Captains Circle.



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

Registered charity number 1173256





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

## Get involved

If you would like to get involved in our work:

Follow us on Twitter:  
**@SEAresource**

Learn more about economic abuse at:  
**[www.survivingeconomicabuse.org](http://www.survivingeconomicabuse.org)**

Access useful resources at:  
**[www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/](http://www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/)**

Join our international network:  
**[www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/international-network/](http://www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/international-network/)**

Raise funds or donate to us:  
**[www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/donate](http://www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/donate)**