



Press Release: Ruby's Law, a Campaign for Domestic Abuse Law Reform

London: January 2025

Ruby's Law is a campaign that seeks to address the often-overlooked role of pets in the cycle of abuse and provide survivors with the confidence to seek safety without fearing for their animals. Launched in January 2025, the campaign will urge the government of England and Wales to amend the Family Law Act 1996 to include crucial protections for pets in domestic abuse cases.

"Having spent much of my career in the family courts representing victims of domestic abuse, I've seen how deeply domestic abuse impacts families, including their pets. For many survivors, pets are a source of love and comfort during immense hardship. Abusers often exploit this bond to exert control. It's time for the law to acknowledge pets as integral family members deserving of protection."

Christina Warner, Barrister and Founder of Ruby's Law

Why Pets Need Legal Protection

Research highlights that abusers frequently harm or threaten pets as a tool of control and intimidation, with many survivors staying in abusive relationships out of fear for their pets' safety. Despite this, current family law in England and Wales offers no specific provisions for protecting pets in such situations. By embedding protections in law, the campaign aims to empower survivors to leave abusive situations while ensuring the safety of their beloved animals.

The campaign recommends the following:

1. Extend non-molestation orders to safeguard pets from threats, harm, or use as coercive tools.
2. Require occupation orders to consider pet welfare and custody in abusive households.
3. Recognise threats or harm to pets as emotional or economic abuse under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

How You Can Help

Ruby's Law is calling on Members of Parliament and peers to support the proposed legislative amendments in Parliament. We ask the public to support our calls by signing our [change.org](#) petition and following us on LinkedIn and Instagram.

About the Campaign

Ruby's Law is led by Christina Warner, a human rights and animal protection barrister committed to ensuring legal protections evolve to include all family members, including pets. The team behind Ruby's Law is collaborating with animal welfare and domestic violence organisations to raise awareness and build public and advocacy support for the legislative changes we propose. We are also working closely with survivors of abuse to ensure the campaign reflects their perspectives and needs.

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Change.org: <https://chnng.it/FYjhqtxyNG>