

## Lady Hale - Radio 4 appeal

The President of the Supreme Court, has recorded an appeal on BBC Radio 4 to raise awareness of the problems vulnerable court users face. She shares the story of Sue (whose real name has been changed for her protection) who found herself in court because of the breakdown of her marriage. She was very nervous about attending because she couldn't afford a lawyer and had to represent herself. Sue said she was especially concerned about being in the same building as her ex-husband as he had been violent during their marriage, so court staff brought her to the Personal Support Unit based in the court.

Eddie, a PSU volunteer, listened to Sue and helped her order her thoughts and organise what she wanted to say to the judge. She was then able to fight her case with confidence, which resulted in a much fairer agreement.

*"When I met Sue, she was very anxious. She was worried about the possibility of seeing her abusive ex-husband."* Eddie, PSU volunteer

You can hear more about Sue's experience on Radio 4 at 7.55am on 28 July. Please listen and support at [www.thepsu.org.uk/r4appeal](http://www.thepsu.org.uk/r4appeal)



## Domestic abuse – Survivors' court experience can be traumatic

Civil and family courts can be extremely intimidating for people without legal knowledge or help. Many of the people who come to the PSU for help have experience of domestic abuse, making their time in court all the harder.

*Domestic abuse features in a staggering 70-90% of all cases in the family courts.*

Problems for unrepresented survivors of domestic abuse include: having to serve a non-molestation order on the perpetrator by themselves; confusion over what 'special measures' they can ask for; and often living in a refuge away from home, and isolated from support networks.

The PSU has appointed specialist staff to enhance our domestic abuse support for our clients, through training for staff and volunteers, raising awareness of the special measures available in courts and how to access them, and by sharing best practice with HMCTS staff and the judiciary through information, reports and feedback.

*We need to develop a culture where victims of domestic abuse feel supported and safe at court.*

From April to June this year the Personal Support Unit helped clients with experience of Domestic Abuse issues on 1,724 occasions. Our domestic abuse project will run until March 2020 and we aim to deliver a legacy that will improve the experience of domestic abuse survivors in our courts.



Follow us on Twitter:  
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[facebook.com/PersonalSupportUnit](https://facebook.com/PersonalSupportUnit)

## The difference you've made - supporter news

### Thank you Nottingham County Court

For arranging extra space to help more clients.



### Thank you Our Family Wizard

Who are now part of the PSU Partnership scheme. If your organisation would like to become a [corporate partner](#) contact [carmen.oloughlin@the PSU.org.uk](mailto:carmen.oloughlin@the PSU.org.uk) to find out more.

### Thank you Restore Harrow Green

For donating IT equipment through their recycling programme, saving the PSU £1,900 *"Restore Harrow Green takes its social responsibility very carefully and we do what we can to support good causes who make a difference in the community. We were delighted to be able to send this equipment to the PSU and we hope it helps the volunteers continue to do the amazing job they do"*

**Thank you Sally Berkeley** for running a plant sale raising over £400 for the PSU in Royal Courts of Justice where she volunteers.

### Thank you to Legal walkers across the country

PSU supporters have been walking in Birmingham, Chelmsford, Leeds and London raising over £7,000 for people without representation in court.



## Our upcoming events 2019

Visit: [www.the PSU.org/events](http://www.the PSU.org/events) to buy tickets

Contact: [events@the PSU.org.uk](mailto:events@the PSU.org.uk) or 020 7073 1703

**18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** 6.30-9pm, 26 September, Royal Courts of Justice

The PSU has been helping people through courts for 18 years. We'll be celebrating our journey and looking at the changing legal landscape and how we can help increase access to justice. We'll also be making an announcement regarding an important change to the charity. We'd like to invite supporters to join us. Please register [online](#) or RSVP to [ben.moore@the PSU.org.uk](mailto:ben.moore@the PSU.org.uk)

**The rise in mental health issues in the Family Courts and how can we help** 8.00-10.00 am, 31 October at The Law Society

Join our breakfast seminar as our panel of experts explore the problems and solutions that are being put in place to help reduce the stress and anxiety of those going through the Family courts. Sir Andrew MacFarlane will be speaking about his first year in office as President of the Family Division and the reforms that he will be putting in place to alleviate current pressures. **Ticket Price: £35**

**Challenge Everest** various dates and cities

Whether you are an experienced climber or a first timer, we challenge you to climb the height of Everest to fundraise for the PSU. Find out more about this great team event and [register online](#).

## How you can help:

**Donate as you shop** Sign up to easy fundraising and donate to Personal Support Unit as you shop [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

**Organise an event** From pub quizzes, to cake bakes, do something you love and raise funds to help people going through court [www.the PSU.org/events/organise-your-own-event/](http://www.the PSU.org/events/organise-your-own-event/)