



Home Office

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategies

March 2021

Introduction

Since 2010, we have:



seen the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence and abuse has dropped according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW);



introduced significant new legislation which includes specific offences of stalking, forced marriage, failure to protect from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and revenge pornography;



rolled out Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) nationally;



introduced FGM Protection Orders and an FGM mandatory reporting duty;



strengthened measures to manage sex offenders or those who pose a risk of sexual harm;



increased protection and support for victims and those at risk through measures such as “Clare’s Law”, which allows women to check if their partner has a violent history;




provided significant funding (£100million between 2010 and 2019) for crucial frontline services and support organisations; and




introduced our landmark Domestic Abuse Bill to bring more perpetrators to justice and strengthen our response to victims.

Introduction


Tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a government priority. These crimes can have lasting and severe impacts to the physical and mental health of victims, their families, communities and the economy, with domestic abuse alone costing an estimated £72bn.



In **2010**, we first published Our Call to End Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. Behind our strategy was this simple proposition: no woman should live in fear of violence, and every girl should grow up knowing she is safe, so that she can have the best start in life.



In **2016** we published our new Tackling VAWG Strategy, which set out an ambitious programme of reform. This was refreshed in **2019** to re-affirm commitments to tackling violence against women and children. The refreshed strategy set out additional actions to strengthen our response through to 2020. We also published an action plan to provide detail of progress made against the actions set out in the 2016 strategy.



In **2019** the Home Office also published the first ever Cross-Government Male Victims Position Statement which re-affirms our commitment to male victims of these crimes, and sets out 12 specific commitments to better enable male victims and survivors to come forward and receive necessary support, and to tackle offenders.

2021 and beyond



Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

Spring 2021



Domestic Abuse Strategy

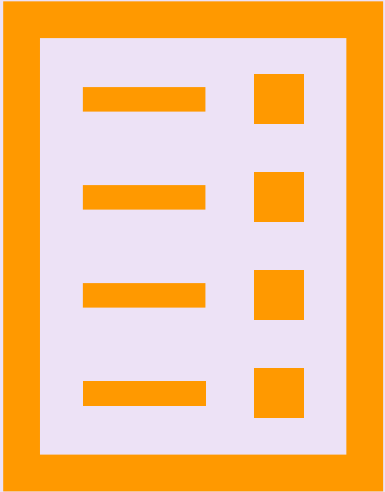
Summer 2021

Why are there two strategies?

- We recognise that domestic abuse is a form of VAWG. However, given the scale of, and harm caused by, domestic abuse, we will publish a dedicated strategy to specifically focus on this form of VAWG
- This will allow for a bespoke Tackling VAWG Strategy which will focus on other VAWG crimes such as rape and sexual violence, as well as new and emerging crimes and the online challenge.
- **These two strategies will complement each other** and work together to drive down these crimes and protect our society from those who would seek to do harm.

Call for Evidence

To inform both of the new strategies, we launched our **first-ever** Call for Evidence which closed in February 2021. The Call for Evidence invited responses from the public - including those who had been directly affected, their friends, family and colleagues - organisations that provide support to victims and survivors, frontline professionals, and academics.



The Call for Evidence consisted of 4 components:

- 1) **Public survey**
- 2) **Victims and survivors survey**
- 3) **Written submissions**
- 4) **Focus groups**

We have received around **19,000** responses in total and we are now in the process of analysis the findings.

Most importantly, the Call for Evidence will help us place victims and survivors at the heart of our approach, as well as drive forward improvements in the effort to target perpetrators and to ensure that we are fully equipped to respond to the changing nature of these crimes.

Focus of the strategies

The two strategies will be closely linked, and will both have a key focus on:

Prevention

Support for
victims and
survivors

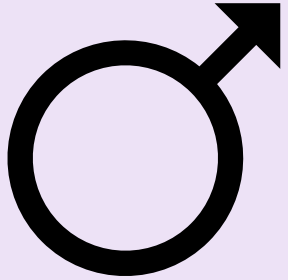
Pursue
perpetrators

Improved
infrastructure/
whole system
response

National Statement of Expectations



Male victims



- The government recognises that a significant number of men and boys also experience violent and abusive crimes that are captured under the previous VAWG Strategies such as **domestic abuse**, all forms of current and historic **sexual violence**, **stalking**, and so-called ‘**honour based**’ **violence/abuse**.
- We, therefore, published the first cross-government **Male Victims’ Position Statement** in 2019 to clarify and strengthen our response to male victims.
- The Male Victims’ Position Statement will be **refreshed** as part of the new VAWG and DA strategies. It will explore the challenges male victims face and outline additional commitments to better enable victims and survivors to come forward and receive the support they need, and to help bring more perpetrators to justice.

Covid 19 and domestic abuse



- We've seen deeply concerning increases in domestic abuse during the pandemic.
- Launched #YouAreNotAlone campaign
- Overall, as of January 2021 the campaign had reached an estimated 25m people through paid advertising, with support from celebrities and influencers who have shared the campaign to over 130m followers on social media.

Domestic Abuse Bill

Landmark legislation will ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences, safe in the knowledge that the state will do everything it can, both to support them and their children and pursue the abuser.



Raise **awareness** and **understanding** about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families



Further improve the **effectiveness of the justice system** in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice



Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies



Any questions?