



Home Office

# Violence Against Women and Girls

National Statement of Expectations  
Guidance on commissioning services  
to support victims and survivors of  
violence against women and girls

Easy read version



Easy Read produced by  
[www.building-bridges-training.org](http://www.building-bridges-training.org)





Violence against women and girls includes rape, sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, honour-based abuse, revenge porn and upskirting.



Women and girls are mainly the victims, but it can include men and boys.



It can happen to anyone, of any age, in the family or community.



This is the **National Statement of Expectations**. It explains how local areas should organise services so that victims of violence against women and girls can get the help they need.



The government passed the **Domestic Abuse Act** in 2021 and wrote the **Violence against women and girls strategy** and the **Domestic abuse plan**. There are easy read versions of these.

[Tackling violence against women and girls strategy](#)

[Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#)



The government wants people to get the help they need as early as possible, and for organisations who provide support to work together. This will help the number of violent crimes against women go down.

## The government wants to see local plans and services that:

1. Put victims at the centre of how services are planned and run so they meet their needs.  
Local areas should:



Find out what services local people want.



Think about the needs of children and keeping them safe.



Make sure there are specialist services which can support all people, including those who are from ethnic minority backgrounds, have a learning disability, are deaf, disabled, migrants or are LGBT.



Make sure victims can still get support if they move to a new area.



Think about how to help people who might find it hard to get services. For example people who have mental health issues, use alcohol or drugs, or who are poor or homeless.

2. Understand more about the perpetrators – the people who do violence – so that women and girls can be kept safe.  
Local areas should:



Understand more about the ways that perpetrators make their victims feel the abuse is their fault.



Tackle offending that happens more often and gets more violent.



Have services to help perpetrators change their behaviour.



Understand the families, communities and societies where abuse is happening.



Make sure professionals are trained to spot signs of abuse.



Make sure there are specialist workers in children's services teams.

**3. Make sure all services and support are planned and run so that women and girls are safe.  
Local areas should:**



Make sure staff get specialist training.



Understand more about violence against women and girls in the local area by finding out more from victims and survivors and all the services who help them.



Have trained workers in hospitals and health and social care services who can help victims and help them find other services for support.



Find out if victims were happy with the support they got from services.

**4. Are led by local people to keep everyone safe.  
Local areas should:**



Have a local group who can make sure there is good support, which works in the local area for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.



Help local groups apply together for funding for support services, so smaller specialist groups can also get funding.



Work with Supporting Families Co-ordinators to build good networks.



Find out if the police are doing any work to stop violence against women and girls, or if voluntary organisations have other funding to do work, such as from the lottery, and make sure everyone is working together and can learn from each other.

**5. Make sure everyone in the local area knows about violence against women and girls, so they can be part of helping to stop it.**  
**Local areas should:**



Find out what work is being done in schools.



Make sure schools know where to get specialist advice, and school children who have been affected have someone to talk to.



Make sure banks can help support victims.



Make sure there is support for deaf people, disabled people and people with a learning disability to tell someone if they are a victim of violence or abuse. It might be more difficult for them to explain or even to get out of the house.



Have information in an accessible format. It should also explain what abuse is, as some people with a learning disability may not recognise that they are victims and can get help.



Make sure that health visitors, housing and health and social care workers have training to spot abuse and know what to do.



Make sure there are local safe spaces through schemes like:

**'Ask Me'** (trained people in the community)

**'Ask for Ani'** (in the pharmacy)

**'Safe Spaces'** (in pharmacies and banks)

**'Ask for Angela'** (in the pub).



Have housing and homeless plans that include support for victims of violence.



Use technology for people get support and for perpetrators to report if they are worried about their own behaviour. But this is as well as, and not instead of face to face support.