



Home Office

## **Tackling violence against women and girls The plan for 2021 to 2024**

How can you tell the government what is important to put in the new plan.

Easy read version





**Priti Patel** is the Home Secretary. This is an important job in the government. She makes sure all communities in the UK are safe. She is leading the work to make a new plan about violence against women and girls.



Anyone can be a victim of these crimes. The government know that women and girls are victims of sexual crimes and violence more than men.



The government want to listen to people who have been victims of sexual crimes of violence.



They want to hear from other people too.



It will make the plan better if lots of people give their views.



**Nimco Ali** is a campaigner for women's rights. She is working with the government to find out what people think and to make this new plan happen.

## The new plan

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY



The new plan will be called the **Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**. It is for three years from 2021 to 2024.



2024 is when we will have the next general election.



HM Government

The plan will cover the things that people say are important. There are two main ways the government will find out what these things are.



The first way is by listening to victims of violence, and the public. The government will do this by asking people to complete some questions in a survey.



The second way is to talk to lots of groups who support victims of violence, and experts from universities.



The government know that men can be victims to, so they want to hear from both men and women.

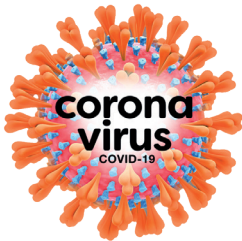
## Why is the new plan important?



Crimes of violence and abuse affect everybody, not just the victims.



We want a country where people can live without the fear of violence and abuse.



The coronavirus pandemic has shown that it can be hard for some people to get the support they need.



Violence against women and girls is a hidden crime. This means it is usually done where other people can't see it happen, and it isn't always reported.



It can happen to people from all ages, ethnic groups and religions. It also happens to people with disabilities.



Not all people can report the violence done to them for lots of reasons. So it is hard to know who is affected by the different types of crimes.





The police say more of these crimes are being reported. This could be because it is easier now for victims to report these crimes.



We know some different new crimes are happening because people are using computers and smartphones more. One of these is 'up skirting', which is taking a photo up someone's skirt. There is a list of the most common crimes at the end of this document.

## Finding out more about violence against women and girls



The government have produced an online survey. People can say what they think is happening and what should be done, without having to give their names.



The types of abuse, violent and sexual crimes are changing. The law is changing to include these new crimes. The government want to know more about these. For example, who is affected and how. This can help the government know how to give these victims the best support.



Victims do not always get the support they need. The type of support available is different depending on where the victim lives.



The people who commit abuse don't always get caught. The government want to know what they can do to change this.



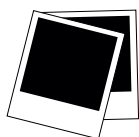
The government know they need to stop these sorts of crimes happening. This is called prevention work.



They need to know especially how to stop the newer crimes happening, like up skirting.



There are some projects that help women to stop them being victims of sexual violence. There is a good project in Wales that gives advice to sex workers so they can stay safe. The government help to fund this project.



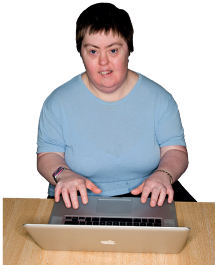
Revenge Porn  
**Helpline**

There are other good projects that help victims such as **Rape Crisis** and the **Revenge Porn Helpline**. These organisations can also help the government know when these crimes happen the most.

## How you can take part



There are lots of ways you can take part.



You can complete the online survey <http://gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard>

It will take about 15 minutes to complete. This has a lot of words and is not an easy read version.



Or you can email **VAWGStrategy2021** [@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:VAWGStrategy2021@homeoffice.gov.uk) and ask for an easy read survey which is shorter.



You can write about your own experiences or ideas and email them to **VAWGStrategy2021** [@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:VAWGStrategy2021@homeoffice.gov.uk)



If you want to take part but need a paper version of the survey or the easy read server you can write to:

**Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Consultation 2020**  
**Home Office**  
**Interpersonal Abuse Unit**  
**Violence Against Women and Girls Team**  
**5th floor, Fry building**  
**2 Marsham Street**  
**London**  
**SW1P 4DF**

## Violence against women and girls

What do these words mean?

This will help if you want to do the longer online survey:

### Cyber flashing

Sending sexual or rude photos to another persons phone to frighten or embarrass them.

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### Domestic Abuse

Bullying, abusive or violent behaviour by a partner, ex-partner, or family member. It includes sexual violence. Usually women are the victims and the abuse is done by men. But men can also be victims.

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### Female genital mutilation

When a girl a woman has part of her genitals (private parts) cut for cultural religious reasons, and not medical reasons.  
It is against the law.

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### Forced marriage

When someone is made to marry someone else against their will.

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### Harassment

Behaving in a way to frighten or upset another person or make them feel stupid.

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### Honour based abuse

Violence or threats done by someone in a persons family or community to protect the name of the family or community.  
Sometimes it is a punishment for breaking the family or communities rules. It can be physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.

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### Online dating

Using the Internet or phone apps to help a girlfriend or boyfriend. The couple may then meet in real life.

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|---------------------|---|
| <b>Online forum</b> | A place on the Internet where people can chat to each other by typing messages. People can use false names and so no one knows who they really are. This means some people can say things they wouldn't say in real life. |
| <b>Perpetrator</b>  | Someone who commits a crime.  |
| <b>Rape</b>         | When a person forces someone else to have sex, by physical force or by frightening them.  |
| <b>Revenge porn</b> | Showing private sexual messages. Photos or videos to others to embarrass or upset the person who is in them or who sent them.   |
| <b>Sex worker</b>   | Someone who earns money by doing sexual acts.   |
| <b>Sexting</b>      | Text messages that have words, photos or videos about sex.  |
| <b>Stalking</b>     | Somebody makes the victim frightened and upset because they won't leave them alone. This can be following them around, or sending them lots of messages on the phone or email.  |
| <b>Upskirting</b>   | Putting a camera under someone's skirt or dress to take a secret photo of their private parts or underwear. They often don't know it has happened.  |