

Call to End Violence
Against Women and
Girls (VAWG):
Action Plan
Progress Review

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
The wording of the actions reflects the wording from the VAWG Action Plan published 8 March 2011		
PREVENTING VIOLENCE		
<p>1. Deliver a cross-government VAWG Communications Strategy.</p> <p>The VAWG Communications Strategy has four overarching aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to change attitudes, especially those who think the victim is often to blame for being abused, or that violence is a private matter; • to change behaviour to make victims feel more confident to report abuse and empower individuals, including men and boys, to play their part in tackling the issues; • to equip frontline professionals to recognise and deal effectively with victims and perpetrators of VAWG; and • to mobilise communities to take responsibility and challenge VAWG. <p>Communication plans are being developed to support the delivery of all elements of this action plan.</p>	HO	<p>The strategic aims were approved by the Interministerial Group in May and the HO Communications Team has developed a communications plan for the next 6 months.</p>
<p>2. Launch a youth prevention campaign to tackle teenage relationship violence.</p> <p>The aim of the campaign will be to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. The campaign will encourage teenagers to re-think their views of acceptable violence, abuse or controlling behaviour in relationships and direct them to places for help and advice.</p>	HO	<p>The Teenage Relationship Abuse campaign launched on 1 September, aims to prevent teenagers becoming victims or perpetrators of abusive relationships. The campaign used a combination of online TV, outdoor and online advertising, and the Home Office also produced support materials (posters, postcards etc) for partners to use in their local area.</p> <p>The 'This Is Abuse' website (www.thisisabuse/directgov) continues to receive a high number of visitors, and we hope the campaign will run early into the New Year (2012).</p>

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<p>3. Develop education and awareness-raising campaigns on rape and sexual assault.</p> <p>Building on recommendations in the Stern review, we will explore campaign options to spread awareness of the law amongst the public – and in particular young people – to ensure basic elements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are understood.</p>	HO	<p>Communication proposals include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring victims have access to comprehensive support and advice online. • Exploiting media opportunities as a way of confronting the myths that surround rape. • Sharing details of good local campaign practice, via the Home Office website. <p>Directly addressing the growth of rape and sexual assault experienced amongst teens and signposting support by investing and building on the current teenage relationship marketing campaign to challenge attitudes that sexual abuse is acceptable.</p>
<p>4. Improve understanding of the incidence and reporting of false allegations of rape.</p> <p>The Stern Review highlighted the range of different estimates of the extent of 'false allegations' that have been put forward and the different interpretations of this term. The Government has appointed an independent research company to conduct a case file review of a large sample of serious sexual and violent crimes in order to assess the prevalence and circumstances of false allegations.</p>	HO / MoJ	Report is due to be published early 2012.
<p>5. Improve the reporting on the number of successful rape prosecutions in the UK.</p> <p>The Stern Review was critical of the way in which crime and conviction statistics about rape have been taken out of context to present misleading attrition rates for rape cases. This will be addressed as part of an independent consultation to look at the measurement of conviction rates. The issue will also be considered as part of the National Statistician's short review of crime statistics.</p>	MoJ	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Following a MoJ consultation on improving statistics, MoJ have committed to altering the way conviction rates for rape will be measured.</p> <p>The National Statistician's short review of crime statistics was published in June 2011.</p>

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<p>6. Take action to protect children from excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation.</p> <p>Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union, has been asked to conduct an independent review into the sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood. This Review will build on the earlier reports and recommendations from Prof. Tania Byron on child internet safety, Prof. David Buckingham on the commercialisation of childhood, and Dr Linda Papadopoulos on the sexualisation of young people.</p>	DfE	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Report published June 2011</p>
<p>7. Hold a forum between the VAWG interministerial group and representatives from the media and music industries.</p> <p>The VAWG interministerial group will meet with media representatives to discuss how images and messages can perpetuate gender stereotypes and promote an acceptance of VAWG. The Group will look at ways of challenging these stereotypes and promoting positive male and female role models through the media and music industries.</p>	HO / DCMS/ DfE/ GEO	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Ministerial meeting held with presentations from regulators and industry bodies, including Ofcom, the ASA and BPI, on a range of issues around the representation of women in the media and recent action that has been taken to address concerns in this area.</p>
<p>8. Work with the National Union of Journalists to produce guidance for journalists reporting on issues relating to VAWG.</p> <p>This will encourage responsible reporting of VAWG which does not perpetuate the myths or beliefs which fuel it; for example, referring to a 'crime of passion' when someone is murdered by their partner or ex-partner.</p>	HO	<p>Draft guidance is being produced by Against Violence and Abuse.</p>

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<p>9. Explore the prevalence and effects of VAWG on vulnerable groups, including BME communities, and work to raise awareness of VAWG both within these groups and with frontline practitioners and local decision makers.</p> <p>VAWG is not restricted to particular socio-economic groups or specific communities. Ultimately, the primary risk indicator is simply being female. However, we recognise that age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and culture also play a role.</p> <p>We want to ensure that our approach to ending VAWG tackles inequality and effectively supports the most vulnerable women and girls in our society. We will review reports from the joint Southall Black Sisters and End Violence Against Women Coalition seminars with BME women and the report 'Still We Rise' (Women's National Commission, 2009). We will also identify and collate best practice across all agencies, highlighting the work of VAWG specialist services, and ensure that awareness raising campaigns reach all communities.</p>	HO	<p>Scoping work underway, reviewing 'Still We Rise' report identifying best practice across all agencies and highlighting the work and value of VAWG specialist services, and the value of awareness raising campaigns reaching all communities represented by the focus groups from the report.</p>
<p>10. Raise awareness of forced marriage and challenge attitudes which condone this practice through media activities, training events and community engagement.</p> <p>The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) will continue to lead the way in this work and build on its expertise in this area by working with partners to explore good practice approaches to further engage communities. The work will include FMU running its annual preventive media campaign in the run-up to the school summer holidays.</p>	FMU (HO / FCO)	<p>FMU has commenced work on its annual preventative media campaign, which focuses on teachers and what they can do to tackle forced marriage at the initial stages of notification. A number of journals, magazines and websites within the teaching trade have been targeted.</p> <p>FMU has also engaged in a Facebook campaign to raise further awareness amongst the most vulnerable target group.</p>

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<p>11. Support community engagement work to tackle female genital mutilation (FGM).</p> <p>Long-term and systematic eradication of FGM in the UK will require practising communities to abandon the practice themselves. Through the regular government-chaired FGM Forum, we will work with the well-established network of FGM civil society organisations to examine how we can support and facilitate their engagement with communities in the UK.</p>	HO / DH / DfE	Through the FGM forum we are mapping community engagement work tackling FGM. In October we launched a FGM community engagement fund (of up to to £25,000) to support and facilitate community engagement work.
<p>12. Raise awareness of VAWG within the Armed Forces.</p> <p>The Ministry of Defence will take steps to ensure that its employees and their families understand the nature of the abuse and what steps to take if they are affected by it.</p>	MoD	COMPLETED MOD met with the Service Families and Welfare Associations on 8 September 2011. A range of actions relating to the overall objective of raising awareness of VAWG within the Service community were identified. These are being followed up in conjunction with the actions already identified.
<p>13. Update the British Crime Survey (BCS) to improve understanding of attitudes towards VAWG.</p> <p>We will introduce new questions in the BCS on attitudes towards domestic abuse and sexual assault in order to guide our policies on early intervention and changing attitudes and behaviours.</p>	HO	Questions have been developed and put forward to the BCS team for inclusion.
<p>14. Meet with the major supermarkets and relevant business organisations to discuss how to promote personal safety for lone workers.</p> <p>We know that many women working in supermarkets and other retail premises late at night fear for their safety, particularly with regard to the sale of alcohol. We will work with major supermarkets and relevant business organisations to promote best practice in ensuring the safety of their staff.</p>	HO	COMPLETED HO sits on the quarterly Violence Against Retail Staff meetings which feed into the National Retail Crime Steering Group co-chaired by Lord Henley. HO also attended the British Retail Consortium's quarterly violence working group in 18 May and their Meeting of Partnership on Work-related Violence to present the VAWG Action Plan and discuss the retail crime. There were useful discussions, particularly around the need for guidance for supermarkets. HO is also making links with personal safety organisations to investigate whether workshops on personal safety to retail staff would be an option.

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<p>15. Work with the EHRC to promote the new Equality Duty and produce guidance covering issues in relation to gender equality for local areas.</p> <p>The new Equality Duty comes into effect on 6 April 2011. For the first time, the duty will require all public bodies to have due regard to the need to foster good relations between groups, including eliminating unlawful discrimination on the grounds of gender. We will publish guidance to accompany the Equality Duty to support organisations in their duties</p>	GEO	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The new Equality Duty was commenced on 5 April 2011. The Duty is supported by specific duties which came into force on 10 September. The specific duties require listed public bodies to publish information demonstrating their compliance with the Equality Duty, and to set equality objectives. GEO has published two quick-start guides, to help public bodies comply with the Equality Duty and the specific duties which support it and is available here: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/equality-act-publications/equality-act-guidance/equality-duty?view=Binary</p> <p>The specific duties guide is available here: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/equality-act-publications/equality-act-guidance/specific-duties?view=Binary</p>
<p>16. Establish an independent VAWG Advisory Group to advise the Department for Education.</p> <p>Schools and colleges can play a vital role in helping children and young people to develop healthy relationships. The group, which will be chaired by Gill Francis, will agree a work plan with the department for 2011. This will include input to both the Bailey and Munro Reviews.</p>	DfE	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The Group has provided input to the Bailey, Munro, National Curriculum and PSHE Reviews</p>

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<p>17. Run a national campaign to support and help turn around the lives of families with multiple problems.</p> <p>Domestic violence is a key issue in families with multiple problems. Evaluation has shown that family intervention services can reduce the number of families suffering the ill affects of domestic violence as well as issues such as drug and alcohol misuse.</p> <p>As part of this national campaign there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new Early Intervention Grant of £2.2 billion per year from April 2011 to bring together funding for early intervention and preventative services including support for families with multiple problems; • community budgets, allowing areas to pool funding, focused on provision of integrated family intervention and a key worker approach; and • funding for exemplar projects in community budget areas which test new approaches to supporting families, for example, by improving access to domestic violence and substance misuse services. 	DfE	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>All 16 community budget areas now up and running; Early Intervention Grant now available; exemplar projects now approved. Exemplar themes vary from intergenerational worklessness through to preventing children going into care. Croydon has a specific focus on DV; Leicestershire focuses on offender families, as does West London.</p>
<p>18. Develop training for health visitors to provide support to families when they suspect violence against women or children may be a factor.</p> <p>As part of our professional skills workstream, we will ensure that health visitors can easily be signposted to information and web-based training on violence against women and children as it is developed by the Department of Health.</p>	DH	<p>An understanding of identification, assessment and management is part of the Nursing and Midwifery Council standards for admission to the register as a health visitor. Work on updating current professionals is on-going. So far, as well as specific guidance being published, domestic violence is included as an option in the personal development programme for current health visitors.</p>

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<p>19. Implement findings from the independent Munro Review to improve child protection.</p> <p>This review focuses on supporting better, child-focused, frontline practice and will recommend ways of overcoming barriers which hinder this.</p>	DfE	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Published 10 May 2011. Government responded on 13 July 2011. Government is working with frontline services to take forward the recommendations, however as many of the recommendations are for Local Authorities, Local Safeguarding Children Boards and others to do we are expecting them to implement as appropriate. Therefore we consider this action completed.</p>
<p>20. Encourage the teaching of sexual consent within the curriculum.</p> <p>This work will be taken forward in the context of the Department of Education's review of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education, which will also consider Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). We will look at how all schools are able to follow good practice regarding the teaching of sexual consent.</p>	DfE	<p>The PSHE review was launched on 22 July. Views and evidence are invited up to 30 November via www.education.gov.uk/consultations</p>
<p>21. Reduce sexual and sexist bullying in schools.</p> <p>Head teachers will be expected to take a strong stand against bullying – particularly prejudice-based bullying such as racism, sexism and homophobia. We will increase their authority to discipline pupils and maintain this discipline beyond the school gates.</p> <p>In addition, Ofsted inspections will focus more strongly on behaviour and safety, including bullying, as one of four key areas of inspection. Inspectors will look for evidence of how much bullying there is in schools and how well it is dealt with.</p>	DfE	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>DfE published updated anti-bullying advice to schools as part of a package of behaviour guidance in July. The advice sets out the Government's stance on prejudice-based bullying, summarises schools' legal obligations and powers, and signposts school staff to specialist organisations that can offer specialist support for different types of bullying. The advice can be accessed at http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/bullying</p> <p>Education Bill achieved Royal Assent on 16 November.</p> <p>Ofsted published in September the outcome of its consultation on the new inspection arrangements, along with a draft framework. The framework can be found at http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/shape-of-school-inspection-2012-0</p> <p>New framework to take effect from January 2012.</p>

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<p>22. Reduce access of children to harmful material on the internet.</p> <p>Children who access pornographic websites can find it disturbing and viewing this material has been associated with the reinforcement of sexist or violent attitudes and behaviours. To address these concerns, the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), co-chaired by Home Office and DfE Ministers, together with DCMS, is looking at parental controls (and age verification) for computers, networks and mobile devices; improving the skills of parents and children; and providing resources for the schools' and children's workforce.</p>	<p>DfE / HO / DCMS</p>	<p>UKCCIS Parental Controls project: is currently and working with industry to improve the availability of and access parental controls. In October the four largest fixed line ISPs launched a code of practice to address the Bailey recommendation on 'Active Choice'.</p> <p>UKCCIS Age Verification project: has been exploring 'Digital Wallets' and access to the 'National Pupil Database', as a possible mechanism to restrict access to age restricted websites. The idea is being reviewed by DfE legal staff. Age verification was cited in the Bailey recommendations as an area that industry must make progress and the group will be reporting in December 2011.</p> <p>UKCCIS Improving skills, knowledge and understanding project: will launch guidance for provider of internet services used by children on 7 February 2012. Although guidance already exists, for the first time clear advice linked to risk and signposting will be available.</p>

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<p>23. Establish a working group of the Home Secretary's Guns, Gangs and Knives Roundtable to develop proposals to address VAWG and female involvement in gangs.</p> <p>The Roundtable comprises experts from voluntary and community sector organisations and the police. It discusses knife and gang-related issues and has played a valuable role in developing the Government's programme of community engagement on youth violence issues. Working with the Roundtable, the Home Office will look at what more can be done to prevent VAWG within gangs through combining early intervention work with tough enforcement and empowering local communities to prevent the spread of violence.</p>	HO	<p>Following the publication of the 'Ending Gang and Youth Violence' report, published by the Government on 1 November, we will be setting up a working group to develop and advise policy to prevent the impact of gang violence on girls and young women. The terms of reference and membership are currently being finalised and the first meeting will take place in the new year. This group will include representatives from the voluntary and community, and the criminal justice sectors.</p> <p>This working group will report to the Inter-Ministerial group on Gangs and Youth Violence which is chaired by the Home Secretary, rather than the Guns, Gangs and Knives roundtable.</p> <p>The report also made an additional £400,000 per year for three years available to improve services to support children under 18 suffering rape and sexual abuse – including from gangs. These proposals will be developed in consultation with the new Home Office Sexual Violence Forum and will be published shortly.</p>
<p>24. Evaluate the police specialist unit approach to investigating rape.</p> <p>Emerging evidence for investigating rape suggests that forces that develop specialist units tend to report an increase in reporting and confidence amongst victims. In spring 2011, the ACPO Rape Support Programme will produce a final report looking at the specialist unit approach by the police to investigating rape. The ACPO Rape Working Group will then consider next steps.</p>	HO	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>ACPO have published and circulated their report on the dedicated team approach to handling rape cases. The report shows that increased reporting rates were found in each force following the launch of dedicated teams and it has also identified a number of factors that appeared to make a positive difference to rape investigations.</p>

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<p>25. Identify ways to improve communication with victims of sexual violence.</p> <p>We are committed to improving our communications with victims of sexual violence and the support systems they rely on. For example, the Crown Prosecution Service will ensure that the 'CPS Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Rape' booklet is accessible and available to victims. The CPS will also continue to assess the quality of prosecutors' response to rape by quality assuring a random sample of letters from the CPS to rape victims.</p>	<p>Moj / CPS / HO</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The Home Office have funded Rights Of Women to revise and republish their handbook for adult victims of sexual violence; 'From Report to Court'. The guide was launched on 18 July.</p> <p>The CPS 'Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Rape' booklet is now available on the CPS website and they are continuing to quality assure letters from the CPS to rape victims.</p>
<p>26. Learn from how the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) operates to see how its methods of investigation of stalking cases could be applied to mainstream policing.</p> <p>FTAC is a specialist unit that has developed considerable expertise in the risk assessment and management of stalking of high profile individuals, such as members of the royal family and politicians. The unit brings together police work with psychiatric assessments. We are looking to capture their learning and use their techniques more widely. This will include consideration of programmes for perpetrators which focus on their offending and issues relating to their mental health.</p>	<p>HO</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The Department of Health and the National Offender Management Service now sit on the National Stalking Strategy Group and are working with the group to investigate how to ensure health practitioners and police professionals working on stalking are linked up. NOMS are looking at perpetrator programmes for stalkers and are keen to hear from academics and experts in the field as part of their research.</p>
<p>27. Work with ACPO, the CPS and specialist organisations to ensure that best practice guidance on the investigation and prosecution of stalking cases is disseminated through a series of regional events.</p> <p>This work follows on from the first joint Home Office / ACPO National Stalking Conference – 'Tackling Stalking and Harassment in Homicide Prevention', which took place in December 2010.</p>	<p>HO</p>	<p>HO launched the first of 4 roadshows in Manchester on 14 November with Minister Lynne Featherstone using the event to launch the Home Office's consultation on stalking. 3 roadshows will follow across the country between now and December 2011.</p>

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<p>28. Coordinate a National Stalking Strategy Group to support the ACPO Stalking Working Group.</p> <p>The National Stalking Strategy Group will comprise representatives from the Police, CPS, Home Office, Ministry of Justice and experts in the field. It will support the victim and charity focused ACPO Stalking Working Group in building Police/ CPS awareness of stalking, focusing on the importance of risk assessment, improved police response and robust prosecution.</p>	HO	<p>Since the first meeting on 27 April, the group has met monthly with a good turn out from all departments. The group has discussed cyberstalking, the fixated threat assessment centre, regional roadshows and legislation. Progress continues to be fed back to ACPO working group and the Home Office will feedback to the next ACPO working group on 8 December 2011.</p>
<p>29. Learn from how police forces in other countries respond to VAWG and work with our police partners to consider how effective approaches might be applied in England and Wales.</p> <p>We will look at the New York Police Department's pro-active approach to dealing with domestic violence perpetrators, maintaining contact with families where there is a history of such incidents.</p> <p>We will also learn from the pioneering work taking place in Melbourne to tackle stalking. We will work with FTAC to consider how this approach might be applied in England and Wales.</p>	HO	<p>We will be setting up a telephone conference in late 2011.</p> <p>Feedback from Melbourne is informing the staling roadshows.</p>
<p>30. Work with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce public health guidance on preventing domestic violence.</p> <p>This guidance will be directed at commissioners and front-line professionals including the NHS, the Police and social services. It will provide information for professionals dealing with domestic violence and will include evidence-based interventions that can be used by professionals to identify and support victims, including children; enforce the law; and respond to perpetrators.</p>	DH	<p>The Department of Health has commissioned NICE to develop guidance for commissioners and front-line professionals dealing with domestic violence. An expert group has met twice to inform the scoping document which will be submitted to DH.</p>

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<p>31. Share with partners and local areas best practice in the use of integrated offender management (IOM) to tackle domestic violence related offending.</p> <p>We will explore with partners how the IOM approach to drugs and alcohol interventions might include awareness raising of the prevalence of domestic violence in these cases. We will support partners and local areas to identify and share effective practice in this.</p>	HO	IOM is a local approach, and local partnerships determine their local priorities for IOM, based on local circumstances. Up until now, the overriding focus for IOM has been on acquisitive crime and drug-related offending, but there are examples now of areas looking beyond this, to include violence and public protection issues. Where there are such examples of innovation, the Home Office will look for opportunities to share the practice across other partnerships and with other agencies.
<p>32. Introduce VAWG training for health professionals who carry out Work Capability Assessments.</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Medical Adviser for the Department for Work and Pensions will integrate awareness of VAWG into the training of healthcare professionals who undertake Work Capability Assessments in order to improve their understanding of the issues involved. This will help ensure that victims of VAWG (particularly victims of sexual violence) are seen by trained medical assessors.</p>	DWP	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Draft training module for healthcare professionals delivered.</p>
<p>33. Introduce an automatic 13 week deferral period for victims of domestic violence who claim Jobseeker's Allowance.</p> <p>The Department for Work and Pensions plans to introduce a separate automatic 13 week deferral period in autumn 2011 for Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who are victims of domestic violence. This will ensure that victims have financial support during a period of instability.</p>	DWP	Implementation date now March 2012. DWP undertaking a second consultation over the summer and will build in time to take regulations to the Social Security Advisory Committee for scrutiny.

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<p>34. Work on the development of learning programmes for the Police on sexual and domestic violence, including FGM, forced marriage and honour-based violence (HBV).</p> <p>Police officers need to ensure that they have the tools to respond effectively to call-outs relating to cases of domestic violence and sexual assault. Their actions need to be professional and sensitive to reassure vulnerable women and girls that the police believe them and will protect them.</p>	HO	NPIA are taking forward the development of these programmes.
<p>35. Ensure that the CPS review of victim support commitments includes consideration of communication with, and support of, victims of VAW.</p> <p>This review will set out the standard service for all victims and witnesses, and in what circumstances the CPS would offer an enhanced service (based on offence type, vulnerability of victim or witness or nature of the defendant).</p>	CPS	Initial proposals are being piloted ahead of project completion in March 2012. CPS is consulting with stakeholders on the impact of the proposed changes.
PROVISION OF SERVICES		
<p>36. Allocate £28million of Home Office funding over four years for specialist services and consider mechanisms to devolve VAWG monies in the next Spending Review.</p> <p>The funding rounds for ISVAs, MARACs and IDVAs are now complete and decisions on successful bids will be made by the end of March 2011. For the first time funding will be allocated on a stable basis for the next four years.</p> <p>The Government has committed to provide £1.72m in every year up to 2015 to fund ISVAs based in either voluntary and community sector organisations or SARCs. This will provide for 86 ISVA posts across the country based on Home Office funding alone. In addition, the Home Office will provide £3.3m in every year up to 2015 for IDVAs and MARAC co-ordinators, who provide vital support to high-risk victims of domestic violence.</p>	HO	<p>Grant funding has now been allocated to SARCs and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to support 87 ISVA posts on a stable basis for the next four years as set out.</p> <p>Grant funding has now been allocated to statutory and VCS organisations in support of 144 IDVA posts, and 54 MARAC posts on a stable basis for the next four years.</p> <p>Successful organisations were informed in March 2011 and grant agreements issued in April.</p>

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<p>37. Provide Home Office funding over the Spending Review period for continued training and quality assurance for MARACs.</p> <p>We will continue to invest in the training and quality assurance process for MARACs to assist in ensuring levels of consistency across the country and help disseminate good practice.</p>	HO	Home Office funding identified for Spending Review period and decision made to award to CAADA. Objectives agreed for 2011-12.
<p>38. Allocate £900,000 for national helplines for each year of the Spending Review period.</p> <p>This will support the work of national helplines which provide advice to male, female and LGBT victims of domestic violence. We will also fund helplines dedicated to victims of stalking and male perpetrators of violence.</p> <p>We will work with the National Stalking Helpline to develop its capabilities. This will include an online forum and regional activities to provide ongoing support to victims.</p>	HO	<p>Grant agreements have been sent to the helplines in April.</p> <p>Worked with the National Stalking Helpline to develop their Business Plan and continue to work with them to develop their capability e.g. we helped them raise awareness regionally by inviting them to speak at stalking regional roadshows run by the Home Office.</p> <p>An information sharing meeting for the Helplines took place in November 2011 – which also included those that we do not fund.</p>
<p>39. Use proceeds from the victim surcharge to give existing rape crisis centres stable, long-term funding, and to establish new centres where there are gaps in provision.</p> <p>A total of up to £3.5 million per year has been made available from the MoJ to rape support centres and – for the first time – grants will be made to centres on a three-year basis. The aim is to allocate at least £30,000 a year to each eligible centre, providing such centres with the financial certainty they require to develop a sustainable presence.</p> <p>39a. Allocate three-year funding to existing rape crisis centres by means of a centrally-run grants scheme.</p> <p>By providing guaranteed core funding over three years, we will be providing centres with the financial certainty they require to develop a sustainable presence.</p>	MoJ with support from DH	<p>39a. Funding for existing centres has been agreed for the three-year period commencing April 2011. Now in process of making first payments.</p>

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<p>39b. Address gaps in service provision by developing <u>new rape crisis centres</u>.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice is working with the sector's two umbrella groups to develop four new rape crisis centres in different locations around the country in 2011/12. This represents the first phase of a longer-term programme to establish additional centres over the course of the Spending Review period.</p>		<p>39b. Projects in train to develop first tranche of new centres in Hereford, Devon, Trafford and Dorset. The centres in Hereford and Devon held their official launch events on 17 November and 28 November respectively.</p>
<p>40. Develop an effective and sustainable funding solution for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds (the Sojourner Project).</p> <p>Migrant spouses who are victims of domestic violence may benefit from a provision in the Immigration Rules which allows them to qualify for indefinite leave to remain in the UK even though their marriage has broken down. However, if destitute, they cannot access benefits while their case is considered by the UK Border Agency and this can make access to refuges problematic.</p> <p>A pilot project is running until 31 March 2011 to provide support to victims and their children. We will continue support for this group past March 2011, taking account of recommendations made by a review of the current scheme.</p>	UKBA	<p>Agreement in principle has been reached with DWP. Detailed discussions have now begun on the practicalities of type of leave, timings, data sharing arrangements etc.</p> <p>The long term funding solution will replace Sojourner in April 2012.</p>
<p>41. Consider the findings of a study examining the impact of transferring commissioning and budgetary responsibility for forensic sexual assault work from the Police to the health service.</p> <p>Fundamental to the provision of SARC services is the opportunity for victims to undergo a forensic examination if they wish. This study will look at the variation in quality of forensic medical provision for victims of rape and sexual assault. It will also pull together evidence on what the impact of a change in responsibility would be on issues such as cost, quality of service and workforce issues.</p>	DH	<p>The study has been completed. We are testing collaborative commissioning of SARCs through the early adopter programme for custody healthcare.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>42. Build capacity amongst NGOs to establish local initiatives and services to raise awareness of and tackle forced marriage.</p> <p>Local initiatives and services which are embedded and informed by the local community can be highly effective. We will use the learning from these projects to ensure that adequate support is provided to NGOs to enable them to respond effectively to forced marriage.</p>	FMU (FCO / HO)	<p>Information on FMU website regarding the operation of the Domestic Programme Fund (DPF) during 2011/12 made available in April 2011.</p> <p>The DPF launched in Autumn and decisions were made on successful projects funding to be dispersed.</p>
<p>43. Explore options for providing longer term support to victims of forced marriage once they have been repatriated to the UK.</p> <p>Historically, the nature of consular assistance has meant that direct support to victims ends once a person is repatriated to the UK. We will work with NGOs and survivors to revise the current Survivor's Handbook and explore the feasibility of providing longer term support to victims of forced marriage when they have been repatriated.</p>	FMU (FCO / HO)	<p>Updated Survivors handbook sent out to NGOs and survivors for comments in September.</p> <p>A model for longer term support has been developed and is being explored in further detail with NGOs.</p>
<p>44. Support local authorities and specialist organisations, in partnership with the Local Government Association, to work together to provide local support for women and girls affected by abuse.</p> <p>This will involve Ministerial-led discussions on sharing and promoting practice on commissioning local services to ensure that all women and girls are able to access advice and support to help them overcome abuse.</p>	DCLG	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>DCLG Ministerial led roundtable held in May 2011 to support and encourage sharing of effective practice by local authorities.</p> <p>The Local Government Group (which incorporates the Local Government Association) held a conference in June 2011, providing the opportunity to highlight to local authorities the importance of investing in DV and VAWG services.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>45. Work to ensure that the asylum system is as gender-sensitive as possible.</p> <p>We want to make the asylum system as gender-sensitive as possible so that women and girls who have been persecuted through violence and/or discrimination can have every opportunity to make their case and to have their asylum application considered as fairly as possible. This work will be taken forward in consultation with key corporate partners as well as voluntary organisations. It also involves the UK Border Agency's determination services, detention services and support services.</p> <p>45a. The Agency has included gender as a specific element of a national plan to reduce the asylum allowed appeal rate through better analysis of the reasons for allowed appeals.</p> <p>45b. There is a gender element in work on improving the screening process. A new instruction on screening and revised training on ASU policy will incorporate issues of sensitivity and gender awareness.</p>	UKBA	<p>In light of outcomes from the thematic review UKBA will continue to work with its corporate partners to build on the improvements it has already made to the way in which it takes account of the needs of women going through the asylum process and to its quality of decision making in women's asylum claims. It will deliver a new training package to all asylum decision makers and will establish a clear baseline of the current position so that future improvements can be monitored.</p> <p>(45a) A report detailing the findings of the analysis has been drafted for internal use. The Agency's performance statistics are now routinely disaggregated by gender. These statistics can be found on the performance section of the UKBA website.</p> <p>(45b) There is a gender element in work on improving the screening process. A new instruction on screening and revised training on ASU policy will incorporate issues of sensitivity and gender awareness.</p>
<p>46. Fund the development of a Diploma in the Forensic and Clinical Aspects of Sexual Assault.</p> <p>This initiative should see an increase in the numbers of appropriately trained forensic practitioners available to SARCs, which should in due course allow for a greater choice for victims in the gender of the treating physician. We will also launch e-learning training which will provide doctors and other clinical professionals with specialised knowledge in sexual assault work.</p>	DH	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The diploma is up and running with two intakes per year.</p> <p>The E-learning training was launched and is available through the Faculty of Forensic Legal Medicine in partnership with Ulster University.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>47. Build on the training available to ISVAs to ensure a minimum quality standard for ISVA support, and provide a framework for qualification of ISVAs.</p> <p>We will work with Skills for Justice to further develop the agreed National Occupational Standards for Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence to ensure they adequately capture the range of skills that ISVAs will need. This will provide a framework for qualification of ISVAs.</p> <p>We are also working with the voluntary and community sector and SARCs to build the training available to ISVAs, ensuring a minimum quality standard for ISVA support. We will also provide an introductory e-learning package for all Home Office funded ISVAs.</p>	HO	<p>The e-learning package for ISVAs has been completed in a draft version and has been piloted. We are currently considering options for distribution.</p> <p>An ISVA training fund was launched in July to HO funded ISVAs from the voluntary sector. In September the fund was also opened to HO funded ISVAs in SARCs.</p> <p>HO continues to work with Skills for Justice on the new National Occupational Standards for ISVAs, these are due to be launched in early 2012.</p>
<p>48. Review and update guidance on the operation of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs).</p> <p>It is important to ensure that our efforts to tackle crime are joint up with our work to protect victims. Therefore our guidance on the operation of MAPPAs will be reviewed in relation to how well it fits with the MARAC system to ensure effective links are made.</p>	NOMS	<p>The final draft of the revised MAPPAs Guidance has been produced and is awaiting comments from the 42 MAPPAs areas. The revised version is due to be published in April 2012.</p>
<p>49. Launch e-learning training for GPs on violence against women and children (VAWC).</p> <p>This aims to help improve the competencies and skills of GPs to understand the scale of the problem, identify signs of violence, know what to do when someone does disclose, and share information appropriately with other agencies.</p>	DH	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The tool was launched at the Annual Primary Care Conference on 20 October.</p>
<p>50. Review forced marriage e-learning tool for frontline practitioners.</p> <p>The review will help to evaluate use of the tool across practitioner groups; determine whether improvements are required; and identify agencies willing to host the site on local networks.</p>	FMU (HO / FCO)	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Review completed.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>51. Review use and effectiveness of multi-agency guidelines for dealing with forced marriage and FGM.</p> <p>In October 2010, the FMU began its review of the implementation of the statutory guidance on forced marriage with a view to identifying patterns, good practice and possible areas for improvement by relevant agencies.</p> <p>Multi-agency FGM practice guidelines were launched in February 2011. We will evaluate their success by examining how extensively they have been utilised, and consider how they may be best improved or adapted for the future.</p>	<p>FMU (HO / FCO)</p> <p>HO / DH / DfE</p>	<p>Summary report now likely to be published in 2012.</p> <p>FGM practice guidelines launched in February 2011 will be reviewed in February 2012.</p>
<p>52. Review the findings from the HBV local mapping exercise and identify models of effective practice to share with local areas, particularly those where awareness and activity to tackle forms of HBV is low.</p> <p>We are aware that there are differing levels of awareness and action to tackle forms of HBV at a local level. It is important to continue raising awareness of these issues to ensure those at risk, who are often particularly hard to reach, are aware of the support available to them. It is also important to recognise where good practice is taking place and share this information with other areas to help improve the response to HBV.</p>	HO	Initial analysis undertaken but more detailed assessment planned over the Winter 2011.
<p>53. Support information sharing and effective practice in the criminal justice system through a network of CPS specialist co-ordinators with responsibility for implementing CPS policy locally.</p> <p>The CPS will support specialist coordinators working with local VAWG services, especially the voluntary sector at a local level, to improve support for victims during the criminal justice process.</p>	CPS	First assessment took place in April 2011. Second reports submitted October 2011.

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>54. Continue to deliver training for specialist and dedicated prosecutors in VAW.</p> <p>The CPS will ensure that all rape specialists are trained by March 2011 and that a national list of prosecutors is kept updated. Likewise specialist forced marriage and HBV prosecutors have also been trained to focus on improving the prosecution of these crimes and the safety of victims.</p> <p>The Director of Public Prosecutions is visiting all areas to discuss the implementation of VAW plans, especially in relation to rape.</p>	CPS	<p>Rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) training, compulsory for specialist rape prosecutors since 2008 has been delivered. At the end of May 2011 there were 845 trained rape specialists in post across England and Wales, a stock take in October indicates this number is now 807. In addition 46 prosecutors in CPS Direct have been trained and five from the Serious Crime Group.</p> <p>Update of mandatory DV E-learning is monitored and short refresher multi-media training sessions on a range of VAW strands are being considered.</p>
<p>55. Produce a universal academic module (six days duration) for frontline professionals on VAWG.</p> <p>The training module will be produced for frontline practitioners including nurses, teachers and social workers so that they can access a formal standard of training which is directly relevant to their work. The module will be developed in consultation with leading practitioners and academics.</p>	HO	<p>Draft modules to be delivered to HO in late November.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>56. Carry out further research on the health aspects of violence against women and children (VAWC).</p> <p>This work responds to the recommendations made by the independent Taskforce on the health aspects of VAWC on strengthening evidence in this area, including around prevention of mental health impairment associated with exposure to violence, early detection and prevention of recurrence.</p> <p>The research will consist of five separate but related studies in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual assault, gender and violence: exploring the NHS response; • A&E data sharing ; • human trafficking; • violence against women and children; and • self-harming, retraumatisation and family violence. 	DH	<p>The call for proposals closed in July and stage 2 proposals have been submitted, with a view to commissioning successful projects by the end of the year and completing them by 2015.</p> <p>DH is also an Associate Partner for the EC-funded DAPHNE programme which is looking to compare sexual assault interventions across a number of European countries.</p>
<p>57. Help local areas understand the overall benefit of investing in VAWG services.</p> <p>We will support the development of an on-line tool to raise awareness about VAWG. This tool will inform the decision making process of local bodies or organisations that make funding decisions by outlining the services victims of VAWG might need. This work will build on the 'Ready Reckoner', which used findings from the British Crime Survey to estimate the regional prevalence of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking for a given population.</p> <p>We will use the learning from research projects such as the Women's Resource Centre pilot project, which looks at the social return on investment for women's organisations, to help local areas understand that investing in VAWG services could yield savings in the future.</p>	<p>HO / EHRC</p> <p>HO</p>	<p>The research project by the Equality and Human Rights Commission Mapping Needs on the level of need for specialist VAWG support services (including Rape Crisis, SARCs, refuge spaces, advice, advocacy and help lines) is developing.</p> <p>The Home Office has agreed to develop a handbook on related issues. Work on this and updating the Home Office Ready Reckoner is near completion, and to be delivered by the end of the year.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>58. Develop a needs assessment toolkit on sexual violence to provide a local dataset that can inform local statutory assessments such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p> <p>Local decision makers and elected representatives need to be encouraged to work together to tackle sexual violence. This action equips providers and commissioners of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) and other services for victims of sexual violence with support to carry out robust assessment of need in local areas to support more effective commissioning.</p>	DH	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The needs assessment Toolkit has been published and made available on the DH website.</p>
PARTNERSHIP WORKING		
<p>59. Work with eight local areas on a project exploring how tackling VAWG can be supported by community projects.</p> <p>59a. Make the effective practice coming out of the participatory budgeting and community coaching pilots available to local areas so they can decide whether these approaches would work for them or could be adapted to their local circumstance.</p> <p>Community coaching (also known as 'positive deviance' (PD)) is a model for empowering local communities and initiating action, both in organisations and in wider society, for example at estate or team level. Skilled facilitators support citizens to identify locally practised, but hidden, solutions to seemingly intractable problems. It has the potential to foster a community approach to solving VAWG problems locally.</p> <p>Participatory budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the priorities and spending for a defined public budget. This means engaging residents and community groups representative of all parts of the community to discuss and vote on spending priorities, make spending proposals, and vote on them. It also gives local people a role in the scrutiny and monitoring of the process, drawing on local expertise.</p>	HO	<p>A report sets out an overview of the eight areas that received funding on tackling VAWG will be drafted by mid December 2011.</p> <p>Four workshops were held where participants exchanged ideas and discussed how they would move forward in making PD a sustainable project in their local communities.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>60. Continue to strongly support the ratification and lobby for the full implementation of the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.</p> <p>CEDAW and other human rights treaties lay the foundation for international efforts to improve women's rights within a framework of rule of law and respect for human rights. We will continue to act as a strong voice in negotiations on international agreements on women's rights.</p>	FCO	<p>The FCO played a pivotal role by working within the EU, UN, and other international institutions to ensure progressive and robust language was included in a range of international resolutions, agreements, statements and strategies; for example the UN resolution on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; the Human Rights Council annual day discussion on violence against women; and the UN resolutions on accelerating and strengthening efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The FCO also ensured that women's rights remained a priority on the international human rights agenda by raising women's rights issues with 27 countries through the Universal Periodic Review process.</p>
<p>60a. Continue to promote the domestic implementation of CEDAW.</p> <p>The 7th UK Periodic Report on CEDAW is due in May 2011. The GEO is engaging with NGOs, other government departments, the Devolved Administrations and overseas territories to gain their views. The GEO works to ensure that all departmental Ministers are alerted to those recommendations that are relevant to the work of their respective departments.</p>	GEO	<p>The government submitted the UK's 7th Periodic CEDAW Report to the United Nations on 10 June 2011. We continue to raise awareness across Government, the devolved administrations, and with NGOs through a range of methods.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>61. Take action to tackle VAWG in conflict and post conflict countries through the implementation of the UK National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, in partnership with the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD).</p> <p>This resolution recognises that levels of VAWG in modern conflicts amounts to a threat to international peace and security and that women's contribution to preventing and resolving conflict is under-recognised and unfulfilled. The NAP contains a number of specific commitments to implement SCR 1325, including tackling VAWG in conflict and post-conflict countries. This includes improving staff expertise and knowledge; targeted country plans for Afghanistan, DRC and Nepal; and working multilaterally with other countries. We want to monitor progress on the implementation of this NAP, in consultation with civil society so that our work is fully informed and scrutinized.</p>	FCO	Civil society focus groups have been established.
<p>62. Address VAWG through the Government's forthcoming Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS).</p> <p>The BSOS should recognise that women's inclusion in political settlements and peace processes, the protection of women and girls in situations of armed violence, and women's access to security and justice, are essential building blocks for more peaceful and stable states and societies. The BSOS focus on upstream conflict prevention should also help reduce incidence and intensity of conflict, a key driver of VAWG.</p>	DFID	<p>The BSOS strategy was published in July 2011. The strategy recognises that women's inclusion in political settlements and peace processes, the protection of women and girls in situations of armed violence, and women's access to security and justice, are essential building blocks for more peaceful and stable states and societies.</p> <p>A workshop on gender-sensitive implementation of BSOS is planned with civil society.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>63. Ensure that the UK's humanitarian action, including both assistance and protection, prevents and responds to VAWG.</p> <p>Humanitarian crises often erode protection systems, social structures and infrastructure. Social norms and support networks break down due to conflict and/or natural disaster, resulting in an increase of women and children's vulnerability to violence. An independent review of the UK's Humanitarian Emergency Response is ongoing. Following the review, we will determine actions on UK support to tackling VAWG in humanitarian settings.</p>	DFID	DFID has now developed a strategy to implement the recommendations of the Humanitarian Response Review. DFID aims to ensure that the needs of women and girls are integrated into all DFID's humanitarian responses, policy and guidance.
<p>64. Work with UN Women to ensure it focuses on key priorities including VAWG and the delivery of the Millennium Development Goals and delivers real progress for women and girls worldwide.</p> <p>As a member of the UN Women's Executive Board, we will work with international partners to ensure that a well focused strategic plan for the new UN agency for gender equality and women's rights is agreed and adopted at the September session of the Executive Board.</p>	DFID / FCO	<p>DFID provides £10m a year for the next two years in core funding to UN Women.</p> <p>This is in addition to earmarked funding of £3.25m over 3 years to a UN Women 'Women, Peace and Security' project focused on lesson learning.</p> <p>DFID continues to engage with UN Women on VAWG and Women, Peace and Security issues.</p>
<p>65. Continue to support the role and contribution of the Council of Europe (CoE) in preventing and responding to VAWG.</p> <p>We will continue to participate in the negotiations of the draft Convention on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. As well as sharing our best practice, we are also learning from the experiences of other European states in their efforts to address violence.</p> <p>65a. Develop detailed impact assessment and advice for Home Secretary to inform UK's final decision on whether to sign the Convention.</p>	HO	<p>Convention adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 April and opened for signature on 10/11 May. The UK deferred signature and ratification because of difficulties with several articles.</p> <p>HO has carried out a cross Government consultation on this issue over the summer. There remains a number of areas that need further consideration before a final decision can be made on whether to sign.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>66. Continue to support the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development 2010-2015.</p> <p>The EU Plan of Action specifically targets the strengthening of EU support to partner countries in combating gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination against women and girls. This includes: training EU delegation staff on how to implement the EU guidelines on VAWG and discrimination; increasing EU support for national strategies for combating VAWG; and systematically involving women's rights networks and organisations in local calls for proposals for human rights projects. The UK will continue to monitor progress against the EU Plan of Action.</p>	DFID / FCO	<p>DFID submitted its report on the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development in September.</p> <p>The EU will report back on its progress in late 2011.</p>
<p>67. Scale up our activity to tackle VAWG in at least 15 of the poorest countries (includes countries in the UK 1325 National Action Plan).</p> <p>The following countries are planning to develop new DFID programmes on VAWG: India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Malawi, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Ghana, Kenya, Somalia, DRC, the occupied Palestinian Territories and Yemen. In addition, the UK continues to tackle VAWG in Afghanistan through the UK NAP. Projects are likely to include a range of interventions from strengthening security and justice systems, to changing attitudes and behaviours to supporting legislative programmes overseas.</p>	DFID / FCO	<p>Mapping work indicates DFID undertakes VAWG programming in at least 15 of the world's poorest countries.</p> <p>Work has been commissioned to provide practical guidance to DFID country offices on VAWG interventions.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>68. Enhance the UK's international leadership on tackling VAWG overseas.</p> <p>Lynne Featherstone, the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Equalities and Criminal Information was confirmed as Ministerial Champion for tackling VAWG overseas on 25th November 2010. The focus of the role is to provide policy coherence and co-ordination across Whitehall departments on tackling VAWG and to represent the UK overseas. The ministerial champion will also actively encourage FCO, DFID and MoD and other relevant Ministers (who retain Ministerial responsibility for VAWG) to use their influence in their domestic, EU and international engagements to drive forward efforts on VAWG.</p>	HO	Lynne Featherstone has written out to ministers to encourage them to use all levers in their domestic, EU and international engagements to ensure VAWG issues remain high on the agenda.
<p>69. Enable our staff to develop their expertise to support and develop our work on tackling VAWG and to transfer their knowledge across country programmes and sectors.</p> <p>Through training and support, we must equip staff to take forward the Government's international commitments on tackling VAWG. This will include developing staff knowledge and guidance on the causes and effects of VAWG and what effective interventions looks like and supporting them to access existing resources.</p>	DFID	DFID continues to develop tailored guidance and support to country offices on integrating VAWG into country programmes. This includes developing: a theory of change for VAWG, country case studies; a guidance note on measuring VAWG and evaluating programmes; and an online resource with links to evidence papers, research documents, best practice papers and external websites.

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>70. Work with partners to improve and communicate the evidence base on VAWG and understanding of effective interventions.</p> <p>We recognise that there are significant knowledge gaps on the extent and nature of VAWG and of effective interventions to address violence, including those which work across different contexts. The UK is looking to scale up our support to tackle VAWG in the poorest countries. Research is critical in enabling the UK and other development partners to design and implement effective policies and interventions. We will continue to work with our partners, including the World Bank, United Nations and Civil Society Partners to share lessons and best practice.</p>	DFID	DFID currently funds a number of research activities relating to VAWG, including operational research.
<p>71. Improve the international, including EU response, to forced marriage.</p> <p>The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provides advice and support to anyone in the UK. However, overseas British Embassies and High Commissions can only provide support to British nationals. We want to build links with partners/governments overseas to encourage them to adopt a co-ordinated response to forced marriage, so that nationals of their countries are afforded similar assistance, both in their country of residence and overseas.</p>	FMU (FCO / HO)	<p>FMU have also liaised closely with colleagues from Canada and met with representatives from Denmark, Belgium, and Ireland recommending the UK model.</p> <p>Recommendations made to adopt similar model have been made to the Swedish Government (by Swedish partners).</p> <p>Future visits have now been arranged with colleagues from Holland, Estonia and Norway.</p>
<p>72. Review results of EU Fundamental Rights Agency's survey on VAW across EU member states and consider any recommendations.</p> <p>In 2011/12, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights will conduct the first dedicated EU wide survey on VAW.</p>	All depts	FRA are still developing draft questionnaire. Third meeting with academics, including Sylvia Walby, was held in July 2011. Questionnaire will be informed by previous BCS and input from HO regarding attitudinal questions.

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
JUSTICE OUTCOMES & RISK REDUCTION		
<p>73. Conduct a 12 month pilot of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs).</p> <p>The period between an incident of domestic violence being reported to the police and the point at which prosecutions are brought into place is often the most dangerous for a victim. DVPNs (issued by the police) and DVPOs (issued by the courts) will require a perpetrator to vacate the residence of the victim for a maximum of 28 days, to provide victims with immediate protection in the aftermath and provide time and space to make a decision about their longer term protection.</p>	HO / Moj	Pilots started successfully on 30 June, and issues are being monitored. Between 30 June – 11 November 2011, provisional police monitoring data indicates that 138 DVPOs have been granted by the courts across the three pilot areas of Greater Manchester, Wiltshire and West Mercia.
<p>74. Consider the case for implementing section 60 of the Family Law Act 1996.</p> <p>This provision would provide for a 'prescribed person' such as the police or local authority to make an application for a domestic violence injunction on someone else's behalf. A similar provision is already available in forced marriage cases. This option could prove most helpful where the victim is particularly vulnerable, or unable to pursue an application themselves.</p>	Moj	Awaiting the DVPO Pilot evaluation
<p>75. Implement section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), putting in place statutory domestic violence homicide reviews.</p> <p>In the aftermath of a domestic homicide, these reviews will support all agencies involved to identify the lessons that can be learned from domestic homicides, with a view to improving practice and preventing future homicide. In addition to implementation of the provision, we will provide statutory guidance for relevant agencies and practitioners, as well as an e-learning training package.</p>	HO	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The statutory guidance, an online training tool and information leaflets for friends, family members and work colleagues who choose to become involved in the Reviews, are all available on the Home Office web page.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>76. Support women affected by domestic violence through the courts system.</p> <p>We will consider how Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) systems may be developed further, including a review of guidance to local areas on establishing one. We are also providing advice and support to SDVC systems that are affected by the Court Closure Programme in order to ensure that all partners are engaged with their relocation.</p>	MoJ- HMCTS / CPS / HO	Guidance was produced and circulated for LCJBs & SDVC partnerships to use as appropriate throughout the Court Closure Programme.
<p>77. Consult on a revised definition of domestic violence to take into account younger victims.</p> <p>Following a recommendation from the Home Affairs Committee report in 2008, the Government will consult on a revised definition of domestic violence to include victims under 18 years of age.</p>	HO	We aim to launch the consultation before the end of 2011.
<p>78. Address issues relating to prosecution, domestic violence and ethnicity.</p> <p>The CPS will consider ways to address prosecution issues in relation to ethnicity differences, especially with regard to support for BME victims and monitoring of cases by ethnicity.</p>	CPS	<p>Internal research undertaken and guidance issued to CPS Areas on engagement with BME DV Support organisations through Local Scrutiny and Involvement Panels in October 2011.</p> <p>Ongoing work with ACPO to address policing issues by December 2012;</p> <p>Address any issues relating to BME victims in current internal research on special measures by March 2012 and CPS national victim and witness review.</p>
<p>79. Produce guidelines for prosecutors dealing with potential cases of FGM.</p> <p>To ensure that the CPS is able to prosecute every case of FGM that satisfies the evidential and public interest tests within the Code for Crown Prosecutors, we will produce new guidelines to support prosecutors to understand the sensitivities and complexities often involved.</p>	CPS	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Guidelines published.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>80. Review impact of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.</p> <p>The Police and the CPS are working together to improve the safety of victims of stalking. This review will look at police attitudes to, and training on, stalking and the impact of CPS guidance for prosecutors. It will also address the effectiveness of restraining orders in preventing harassment and stalking.</p>	HO / CPS / Moj	HO National Stalking Strategy group is keeping this under review and feeding in to the ACPO Working Group on Stalking & Harassment chaired by Garry Shewan (ACPO lead on stalking). HO launched a consultation on stalking on 14 November 2011.
<p>81. Address the issue of cyberstalking by ensuring that the links are made between the different agencies that are working on stalking, e-crime and communications data.</p> <p>Cyberstalking should be treated as seriously as any other form of stalking. The Home Office will work with ACPO to support the police by raising awareness of the agencies that can be used to track down perpetrators of cyberstalking who are able to hide their location and identity on the internet. We will also work with international partners to ensure better cross-border data sharing to facilitate prosecutions.</p>	HO	A cyber stalking focussed National Stalking Strategy group meeting took place in June with experts in the field and useful links were made. A ministerial seminar on personal harm over the internet (covering hate crime and cyber stalking) took place on 11 July with internet service providers, charities, victims and officials and work to take this forward is being discussed.
<p>82. Take steps to validate how VAW prosecutions are conducted.</p> <p>The CPS will ensure that its handling of VAW prosecutions meets the expected standard and will encourage effective processes through which victims can access support with the utmost dignity and respect. It will do this by six monthly reporting to the Chief Operating Officer on the quality and efficiency of VAW prosecutions including a qualitative assessment of 25 per cent of rape prosecutions, improve rape data and publishing an annual VAW Report.</p>	CPS	April and October assessments complete – issues addressed through action plans developed by each Chief Crown prosecutor.

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>83. Widen the notification requirements for registered sex offenders.</p> <p>Three proposals for notification requirements are currently under consultation to strengthen the management of sex offenders. The proposals are that registered sex offenders: be required to notify the police of all foreign travel; make weekly notification where offenders have no fixed abode; and inform the police if they are residing in a household with a child/children under the age of 18.</p>	HO	<p>On 14 June the Home Office laid the proposal to make the draft order to remedy the declaration of incompatibility identified by the Supreme Court in R.v.F & Thompson, and alongside this launched a targeted consultation on four key proposals.</p> <p>The consultation has now closed. We are currently considering responses received to the consultation and we will publish our findings shortly.</p>
<p>84. Ensure that local areas are fully equipped to continue to operate MARACs as part of their wider response to tackling domestic violence.</p> <p>Our review of MARACs helped improve our understanding about how they are working. It also highlighted areas for improvement and further consideration. We will work with colleagues on the National MARAC Steering Group to review the guidance and training for MARACs, including strengthening the links with other multi-agency arrangements and continue to raise awareness of MARACs.</p>	HO	<p>The review of MARACs was published in July and is available on the HO website. The work of the National MARAC Steering Group in strengthening links and raising awareness is ongoing.</p>
<p>85. Consider whether MARACs could be used to identify and support high-risk victims of rape and sexual assault.</p> <p>As with domestic violence incidents, the majority of sexual assault cases would not be referred to a MARAC. There are, however, some groups that are more vulnerable to serious sexual assault such as those involved in street prostitution, young people in or leaving care, and women and girls with learning difficulties. We will work closely with external stakeholders to consider whether MARACs could be used to identify and support those at a higher risk of serious sexual assault.</p>	HO	<p>Pilots of Sexual Violence (SV) MARACs are being undertaken in Bristol and Bedfordshire. We intend to review the evaluations of these pilots to identify effective practice which can be utilised by other areas considering a SV MARAC.</p>

Action	Dept	Position as of 25 November
<p>86. Support the continued development of effective community-based alternatives to custody for women offenders and women at risk of offending.</p> <p>Supporting Community Sentences and working closely with Probation, the voluntary sector led Women's Community Services are a central hub where women in the criminal justice system can access support at any point. Support is provided to women offenders who have been abused, raped or experienced domestic violence in a number of areas including accommodation, health, children and families, finance, benefit and debt. NOMS will sustain funding for services that are effective in diverting women away from crime in their local areas.</p>	NOMS/ MOJ	<p>In May 2011 we announced £3.2m of funding provided jointly by the National Offender Management Service and the Corston Independent Funders' Coalition, to sustain 26 community projects across England. In addition, the National Offender Management Service has made a commitment from 2012/13 to continue funding services with a proven track record of tackling offending behaviour amongst women. The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office are also funding 'Women's Breakout', an umbrella body for women's services, to build capacity in this sector.</p> <p>Home Office (Government Equalities Office) are also providing £100k funding per year for 3 years (2011-2014) to support Women's Breakout, an umbrella body for women's services, to build capacity in this sector.</p>
<p>87. Provide information on services to support women offenders and women at risk of offending who have been affected by abuse or violence.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice will provide a framework of guidance that will offer models of support and direction to all those working with women offenders and women at risk of offending. This will enable them to respond more effectively to those who have been affected by abuse or violence.</p>	MoJ	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The National Offender Management Service, in conjunction with Women's Aid, has recently published a Framework 'Supporting women offenders who have experienced domestic and sexual violence'. This provides links to resources for practitioners, guidance for commissioners of services and details of many organisations offering support for women in the community.</p>
<p>88. Deliver the Women Awareness Staff Programme (WASP) to voluntary and community sector partners working with women offenders and women at risk of offending in the community.</p> <p>WASP is a two-day training course covering how women enter criminality, the differences between working with men and women in custody, self-harm, parenting from prison, foreign national women, domestic violence and sex work.</p>	MoJ	<p>Following 6 pilot courses, the Women Awareness Staff Programme (WASP) in the Community went live in August. NOMS has also been rolling out the Sex Workers in Custody and the Community training. Since 1 April 2011, 380 people have participated in these training programmes, including from probation services, women's centres, charities working with offenders, police, drugs agencies, NHS staff, school exclusion teams and domestic violence specialists.</p> <p>The original WASP training to staff working with women in custody also continues to be delivered and since 1 April 2011 194 people have participated.</p>

Glossary

A&E	Accident & Emergency	ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Adviser
ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers	JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
BCS	British Crime Survey	LGA	Local Government Association
BSOS	Building Stability Overseas Strategy	LGBT	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transsexual
CAADA	Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse	MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CPD	Continuing Professional Development	MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CJS	Criminal Justice System	NAP	National Action Plan
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service	MoD	Ministry of Defence
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government	MoJ	Ministry of Justice
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
DfE	Department for Education	NHS	National Health Service
DH	Department of Health	NOMS	National Offender Management Service
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	NUJ	National Union of Journalists
DV	Domestic Violence	Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
DVPN	Domestic Violence Protection Notice	PCT	Primary Care Trust
DVPO	Domestic Violence Protection Order	PSHE	Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions	SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
EHRC	Equality and Human Rights Commission	SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
EU	European Union	SPOC	Single Point of Contact
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	SRE	Sex and Relationship Education
FMU	Forced Marriage Unit	UKBA	UK Border Agency
FTAC	Fixated Threat Assessment Centre	UKCCIS	United Kingdom Council for Child Internet Safety
GEO	Government Equalities Office	UN	United Nations
HBV	Honour Based Violence	VAW	Violence Against Women
HO	Home Office	VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Adviser	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
ILR	Indefinite Leave to Remain	WNC	Women's National Commission
IMG	Inter-Ministerial Group		

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