

What the Government has done to tackle Violence against Women and Girls

In the past year we have taken a number of steps to prevent violence against women and girls from happening in the first place; to provide effective support to victims where violence does occur; and to take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims, and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. These include:

Stable Funding

- The government has ring-fenced nearly **£40 million of stable funding up to 2015** for specialist local domestic and sexual violence support services, rape crisis centres, the national domestic violence help lines and the stalking helpline. This has been supplemented by additional funding to support frontline organisations to tackle female genital mutilation, and to support services focusing on male victims of sexual and domestic violence.

Improving services for Victims and Witnesses:

- **Following public consultation**, we are making **wide-ranging improvements to support provided to victims and witnesses**. These include moving to a model of commissioning focussed on outcomes; refreshing the Victim's Code; increasing and extending the Victim Surcharge to raise an additional £50m from offenders for victims' services and looking at ways to improve support at court for victims.

Domestic Violence

- **Domestic Violence Definition:** We announced that the definition would be extended to include those aged 16-17 (currently only those over 18 are included) and include coercive control. The new definition will be implemented by the end of March 2013.
- **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) pilot:** We launched four domestic violence disclosure scheme pilots in Gwent, Wiltshire, Nottinghamshire and Greater Manchester Police to enable the police to disclose information about a person's previous violent offending to help protect new partners from future abuse.
- **Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) pilot:** The one year pilot of Domestic Violence Protection Orders ended on 30 June and will be evaluated by summer 2013. The three pilot forces are continuing to operate DVPOs without funding from the Home Office.
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews:** We launched a £150,000 fund for Domestic Homicide Reviews to help local areas prevent future domestic violence tragedies.
- **Teenage relationship abuse campaign:** Campaign adverts will run from 14 February through to April 2013. The aim of the campaign is to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. The campaign originally ran from March to April 2010 and again from September to December 2011.

Forced Marriage:

- We announced that we will create **new offences of forcing someone to marry against their will** and breaching of a Forced Marriage Protection Order. A summer campaign for forced marriage was also launched on 12 July 2012, including three short films to raise awareness of different perceptions and views of forced marriage.

Sexual Violence

- **Teenage rape prevention campaign:** Adverts ran from 1 December 2012 to 20 January 2013. The campaign aimed to change and challenge attitudes to rape and prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse. Teenagers who have seen the material are more likely to recognise and challenge lack of consent or abusive relationships. The campaign originally ran in March 2012.
- **Independent Sexual Violence Advisers training package** was launched on 3 July 2012, to promote common standards across the country.
- **Sex offender management:** In July 2012, we tightened the law and closed loopholes that might be exploited by registered sex offenders.
- **Protecting Sex Workers:** On 6 July we launched a 12 month national 'Ugly Mugs' pilot scheme run by the UK Network of Sex Work Projects to help protect sex workers from violent and abusive individuals, encouraging them to report incidents of violence and abuse.

Stalking:

- We created **two new stalking offences**, "stalking" and "stalking involving fear of violence or serious alarm or distress" which came into force on 25 November. ACPO and the CPS have issued updated training and guidance to support the new offences

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

- A short film about female genital mutilation (FGM) was launched on the NHS choices website in August 2012 aimed at families, young girls, and professionals who may come into contact with girls/families who are from FGM practising communities.
- The DPP hosted a roundtable on **securing FGM prosecutions**, which has been followed-up with a CPS action plan launched on 22 November to address the barriers to investigating cases of FGM and strengthen prosecutions. On 26 November the Government launched the '**Declaration against FGM**' and an additional **£50,000 funding** to support frontline agencies tackling FGM. Ministers have signed this pocket-sized leaflet that sets out the law and aims to support families and protect those most at risk.

International Action

- **Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO):** On 8 June the Government signed up to the Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO).
- **Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative:** Recognising that many countries devastated by conflict have seen increasing levels of gender-based violence, the Foreign Secretary announced the preventing sexual violence initiative in conflict and post conflict situations on 29 May 2012.
- **Scaled up international work to tackle VAWG:** In the past year DFID has invested significantly in scaling up programme work in this area as well as in building the global

evidence base on what works to tackle VAWG. DFID has 20 country programmes directly tackle VAWG. Through funding to civil society they are helping tackle VAWG in an additional 48 countries.