



Violence against women and girls (VAWG) newsletter

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and communities.

To mark International Women’s Day, this Coalition Government is publishing our updated Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Action Plan 2014. The updated action plan not only summarises what we have achieved with your help over the last 12 months, but also sets out where we will be directing national activity over the next year to have the most impact. The underlying principles of our strategy remain as relevant today as they were three and a half years ago: prevention, provision of services, partnership working, and justice outcomes and risk reduction.

As I made clear in my foreword to the Action Plan, I am committed to ending domestic and sexual violence and enabling women and girls to live their lives safely and freely. I am determined to see a real shift in attitudes – from frontline professionals, across institutions and in the wider public. All of us are responsible for standing up and challenging behaviours which are unacceptable.

I am pleased to introduce the Spring edition of the Violence Against Women and Girls newsletter. Today (8 March) is International Women’s Day – a day to reflect on the progress made to achieve gender equality, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries

This updated action plan highlights the significant progress we have made over the last 12 months, including:

- Our introduction of legislation to criminalise forced marriage in England and Wales;
- The announcement of the roll out of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare’s Law) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders from March;
- Commissioning Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary to carry out a review of the police response to domestic violence, due to report by April 2014;
- A cross-Government Declaration signed by Ministers to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to end FGM;
- Working with service providers and local commissioners to support the transition to a more localised commissioning landscape.

To continue to drive progress, and to reflect developments over the last year, we need to focus on areas that will benefit from sustained activity at national level. Our updated Action Plan accordingly sets out a renewed focus on:

- Early Intervention, specifically raising awareness in schools, addressing gender inequality and supporting perpetrator programmes;
- Promoting effective Local Approaches by supporting more effective local commissioning;
- Driving a culture change across organisations and engaging credible voices to support wider societal change.
- Making the links to wider Government programmes and ensuring that strategies with aligned aims to VAWG such as Sexual Violence against Children and



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Vulnerable People, Ending Gang and Youth Violence and Modern Slavery are joined up more effectively;

- Building a stronger evidence base on outcomes, identifying and promulgating best practice working through national ‘what works’ centres.

We are also particularly focused on reaching young people and in December last year, we re-launched the This is Abuse campaign to help change young people’s attitudes. The campaign’s aim is to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. It encourages them to re-think their views of violence and abuse and the meaning of consent within their relationships, and signposts help and advice. Crucially, a significant focus of the campaign is targeted at boys: providing support to help them identify and challenge abusive behaviour and emphasising the importance of consent.

This campaign is contributing to the wider cultural awareness that violence is unacceptable, and that it is never the victim’s fault. Since we first launched the campaign in 2010, there have been over a million visits to the website and visits have increased significantly this year. Inside this newsletter is a contribution from the Home Office Communications Team giving more background behind the refreshed campaign. I am proud of our collaborations with Hollyoaks and MTV in particular – these credible voices are really reaching young people.

The work set out in the Action Plan builds on the momentum of the last three and a half years in changing attitudes to violence against women and girls in society and delivering positive action for the better. I

am committed to working with you all to make a real difference to the lives of women and girls, both nationally and internationally.

Thank you.

Norman Baker MP

Minister of State



International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

To mark International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation on 6 February, the government announced a range of measures to combat this harmful practice in the UK and internationally.

Ministers met charities and stakeholders at a roundtable to discuss future work to end FGM, and signed a declaration to signal their ongoing commitment.

It will now be mandatory for all NHS hospitals to provide information on patients who have suffered, or are at risk of, FGM. Recorded centrally, it will help provide more information on the incidence and prevalence of FGM.

Following a successful Home Office bid for European Commission funding, a £100,000 FGM Community Engagement Initiative was launched. Charities can bid for up to £10,000 to carry out community work to raise awareness of FGM.

DFID has appointed a consortium of leading anti-FGM campaigners to deliver a global campaign to end FGM. The consortium will work across Africa to bring about a transformation in attitudes towards FGM by:

- Working with Diaspora communities within the UK to help them use their skills and resources to support efforts to end FGM in their countries of origin.
- Bringing together key leaders and organisations across Africa as part of a global movement to end FGM.
- Promoting increased political will and funding in affected countries to tackle FGM.
- Supporting a network of grassroots activists across Africa to speak out for change and supporting communities who are already working to end the practice.

- Strengthening and supporting national coalitions against FGM within 10 focal countries, providing them with expertise needed to bring about change.

An external tender for a new e-learning package for frontline professionals has also been launched. Once developed, this free resource for professionals such as teachers, nurses, police and border force staff will serve to increase awareness of FGM.

Department of Health - Update

FGM Mandatory data collection from acute trusts:

On International Zero Tolerance to FGM Day, 6 February, Jane Ellison MP, Minister for Public Health, announced that acute trusts will report prevalence of FGM, which is the first step in a wider range programme. From April this year NHS hospitals will be required to record:

- if a patient has had FGM
- if there is a family history of FGM
- if an FGM-related procedure has been carried out on a woman - (deinfibulation)

By September this year, all acute trusts must report this data centrally to the Department of Health on a monthly basis.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-measures-to-end-fgm>

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NICE Guidance on Domestic Violence

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence published new guidance on 26 February on Domestic Abuse and how health services, social care and the organisations they work can respond effectively.

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH50>

Violence and Health and Wellbeing boards: a practical guide

This briefing provides practical information on the role health and wellbeing boards can play in preventing and tackling violence, in collaboration with community safety partnerships and other local partnerships. It gives examples of innovative work local areas are already implementing. The briefing was developed by a working group including the NHS Confederation, the Department of Health, the Home Office and Public Health England.

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/Pages/Violence-health-wellbeing.aspx>

Supplementary Sex and Relationship (SRE) advice

On 28 February 2014 Brook, the Sex Education Forum; and the PSHE Association produced supplementary sex and relationship (SRE) advice <http://www.brook.org.uk/index.php/information/sre-supplementary-advice>.

The supplementary advice is designed to complement the Government’s statutory SRE guidance. It addresses some of the issues that have been created by the development of technology and the increase in our understanding and evidence around some aspects of SRE. It is a short,

straightforward document – that provides a definition of high-quality SRE and provides information about organisations that can provide advice and support. It then uses a Q and A format to address a range of questions that teachers frequently ask including how to ensure SRE is linked to the rest of the curriculum. Other content includes: healthy relationships and sexual consent; violence, exploitation and abuse; risks associated with the availability of technology; pornography, online safety and ‘sexting’.

This is Abuse campaign

The ‘This is Abuse’ campaign re-launched on 5 December 2013 and is targeted at 13-18 year old boys and girls with the aim of preventing them from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. It encourages teenagers to re-think their views of violence, abuse, controlling behaviour and what consent means within their relationships. Since the campaign launched in 2010 there have been over 1 million visits to the [This is Abuse website](http://www.thisisabuse.org) and comments on the discussion forums indicate that the campaign is contributing towards changing attitudes and behaviours.

This year we have worked in partnership with the popular teen soap Hollyoaks, to produce two new adverts with two Hollyoaks characters, Patrick Blake (Jeremy Sheffield) and Maxine Minniver (Nikki Sanderson) who have been involved in an abusive storyline which has been running since the summer. The first advert shows that not all abuse is physical and the second advert focuses on consent within a relationship.

We have also worked in partnership with MTV to create adverts with celebrities such as Example, Jason Derulo and the Wanted who are calling out relationship abuse and encouraging teens to take a stand. The adverts ran across



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all MTV channels and online during January with a call for teenagers to #callitout and to visit a dedicated microsite on the MTV website which housed more information, interactive quizzes and links to get further help and support. The microsite is still live and you can view it at: www.mtv.co.uk/callitout Campaign activity will run throughout March and we have produced a campaign brief which gives further background to the campaign, along with details on how you can order the free support materials. If you would like a copy of the campaign brief please email:

VAWGCampaigns@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict: 10-13 June 2014

The Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, will co-chair the **Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict** at the ExCel Centre in London’s Docklands between 10-13 June 2014.

This will be the largest Summit ever held on this subject, bringing together the governments of the (currently) 140 countries who have signed the **Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict** launched by the Foreign Secretary at the UN in September last year, as well as legal, military and judicial practitioners and multilateral organisations.

The aim of the summit is to create irreversible momentum towards ending sexual violence in conflict. We will use the summit to launch the new International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict as a practical tool to help improve accountability and encourage its widespread use. In addition, we hope to secure agreement to revising military doctrine and training; improving peacekeeping training; providing new

support to grassroots organizations and improved support for survivors; and forming new partnerships to support conflict-affected countries.

The summit will include a wide range of civil society organisations and will also be open to the public, who will be able to attend and take part in a series of Fringe events.

The Fringe will run over two days, from the morning of Tuesday 10 June until the evening of Thursday 12 June. The Fringe will include film, theatre performances, exhibitions and panel discussions, bringing together leading figures and experts from around the world to share their experiences and expertise. It will be informative and interactive, with a strong digital element and will cover a range of broader topics linked to sexual violence in conflict, such as: women’s rights and participation; children in conflict; international justice; men and boys and security and justice.

Alongside the Fringe and Summit will be a series of global events hosted by British Embassies and High Commissions to raise public awareness and support for the issue.

Go to our [website](#) for more information and regular updates on the Summit, or email us at PSVI@fco.gov.uk with suggestions on how you could be involved. You can also follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/EndSexualViolenceInConflict #TimeToAct

Crown Prosecution Service – update on actions on falls in referrals.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Annual Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Crime Report for 2012-13 ([link](#)) outlined that three out of four prosecutions for



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VAWG now result in a conviction and that conviction rates for domestic violence and rape were at their highest recorded levels for the second year running. The report also outlined falls in the numbers of flagged cases of domestic violence and rape referred from the police to the CPS for a charging decision.

In September 2013, a roundtable meeting between the CPS, Home Office, National Policing leads for rape and domestic violence and other interested parties was held to consider the possible reasons for the reduction in referral rates.

A six-point action plan was released by the Solicitor General following the meeting which included an action for the Director of Public Prosecutions and the National Policing lead for rape, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt, to convene a joint-National Scrutiny Panel to further investigate the fall in the number of rape cases referred. In preparation for the panel, a sample of police forces was contacted to better understand variations in the volume of rape referrals. The Panel is scheduled to meet in April and the findings will be published shortly thereafter.

Details of other actions from the roundtable meeting are:

- Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary to share the Terms of Reference of its inspection into the effectiveness of the police response to domestic violence and abuse across England and Wales, and to ensure close liaison with the CPS and the Attorney-General’s Office (AGO).
- Home Office, CPS and AGO to liaise closely with the Ministry of Justice on its work to review the use of out of court disposals, carefully considering their use in the context of violence against women and girls

cases. In addition, the Home Office and the National Policing lead for domestic violence to build an evidence base on any police use of out of court disposals and community resolutions for VAWG.

- CPS to further investigate the proportion of VAWG cases being charged across police force areas.
- Home Office to provide information about the provision of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and their contribution to successful criminal justice outcomes.
- CPS and Home Office to work, with National Policing leads and Police and Crime Commissioners to continue to raise awareness about VAWG including on providing guidance on domestic violence cases where the victim has indicated that they are not willing to support the prosecution.

Ministry of Justice – funding for PCC specialist services

From October 2014 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will assume responsibility for commissioning most support services for victims. On 25 February 2014 the Ministry of Justice confirmed that PCCs will be able to bid for a share of an extra £12 million on top of their budgets for 2014/15, to commission further specialist services for victims of the most serious crimes, such as domestic violence and sexual violence, and support for the most vulnerable victims in our society. The fund will open for bids shortly, with PCCs given the funding as soon as possible. This new fund will sit alongside £4.4 million national funding which will be dedicated to provide 78 female rape support centres across England and Wales with financial support through to 2016 so they can offer specialist services for victims such as counselling, advice and helplines. In 2010 the Government committed to use



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the proceeds from the Victim Surcharge to deliver up to 15 new rape crisis centres and give existing rape crisis centres stable, long-term funding as part of the strategy on violence against women. Since then 13 rape support centres have been set up and the Ministry of Justice will be establishing two new rape support centres in the coming year to meet this target.

Domestic Violence and Abuse – A ‘Pledge’ to support colleagues

In November 2013, the Home Office signed up to the Domestic Violence Pledge, part of the Public Health Responsibility Deal that works to encourage organisations to improve public health and the working environment. The Domestic Violence Pledge publicly states the Home Office’s commitment to having a corporate policy to support victims of domestic violence and abuse in the workplace.

Domestic violence is a dreadful form of abuse – and is not acceptable within our society. The Home Office is committed to supporting those colleagues who are victims of domestic violence and abuse, or who may be worried about their colleagues, and has a commitment to create a supportive environment to encourage those experiencing abuse to seek help, information and advice.

The Home Office provides support to victims of domestic violence and abuse or those worried about their colleagues through the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). The EAP is the main provider of independent support to staff. It provides a confidential self-referral service – independent from HR and line management.

The Violent Crime Unit will also be holding a VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Awareness Week

in the Home Office where members of the Unit will be able to provide information on the work the Government is taking to tackle domestic and sexual violence. This will include the work we will be doing as part of our commitment to deliver on the Domestic Violence Pledge.

If you would like further information on the Home Office support available for victims of domestic violence and abuse or are worried about any of your colleagues, you can contact the Employee Assistance Programme on **0800 917 7395**. Further information can be found below:

The Employee Assistance Programme

<https://www.hoeap.com/>

Public Health Responsibility Deal:

<https://responsibilitydeal.dh.gov.uk/pledges/pledge/?pl=46>

Refuge’s specialist outcomes monitoring system available to practitioners

The national domestic violence charity Refuge has created a unique outcomes monitoring system called REMIT. Refuge is pleased to announce that it is now working to make this system available to all organisations working with survivors of gender-based violence.

REMIT can help organisations to evaluate the effectiveness of specialist services for victims of domestic violence and other types of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Through REMIT, Refuge can produce bespoke, evidence-based reports on a wide range of outcomes which can help demonstrate effectiveness to funders and commissioners.



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REMIT can, for example, measure how a particular service has helped to reduce risk; how it has impacted on women and children’s experiences of abuse; and how it has affected their feelings of safety.

REMIT can also track various criminal justice outcomes. REMIT has, for example, shown that in 2012/13, Refuge supported 759 women to report to the police. In the same reporting period 329 clients’ cases proceeded to court and, in 60% of cases, the perpetrator was found guilty.

The extensive data captured by REMIT also informed a Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis of Refuge’s services. The study, undertaken by the New Economics Foundation in 2013, was designed to measure the impact generated by Refuge’s specialist services in one year for three sets of stakeholders: women, their children, and the state. Three of Refuge’s specialist services were analysed: refuges, community outreach services and independent domestic violence advocacy.

The SROI study showed that Refuge’s services generated more than £33 million in social value during 2012/13, and that every £1 invested in these services generated a social return of £3.54.

If you would like to submit an expression of interest in receiving REMIT, or to find out more, please email Brenda Spink on brenda_spink@refuge.org.uk. Please note that Refuge can provide training, support and technical assistance with the use of REMIT, as well as expert data analysis and production of comprehensive outcomes reports.

MsUnderstood Partnership

Who is the MsUnderstood Partnership

MsUnderstood is a partnership between the University of Bedfordshire, Imkaan, and the Girls against Gangs project to address young people’s experiences of gender inequality. For further details about the partnership, visit www.msunderstood.org.uk. The partnership has been funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to deliver a three year programme of work on peer-on-peer abuse: teenage relationship violence, peer-on-peer exploitation, and serious youth violence.

Peer-on-Peer abuse: The challenge we all face

Research indicates: that one in three girls experience sexual violence from a partner; one quarter of child sexual exploitation cases are perpetrated by young people under the age of 18; and girls and young women associated to street gangs and other violent peer groups are up to nine times more vulnerable than other young women entering the criminal justice system. Amid this growing body of evidence, and with the change of the definition of domestic abuse to include 16 and 17 year olds, and the expressed inclusion of girls and young women in the Government’s violence against women and girls action plan, local services are tasked with meeting the challenge of addressing violence and abuse in young people’s relationships and peer groups.



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Meeting the Challenge

In August 2013 the MsUnderstood Partnership opened an application process for local areas across England to bid for strategic and operational support to address peer-on-peer abuse. In total 40 local areas bid for support to improve what they do, take a proactive approach, and to be at the forefront of developing a response to this issue. This level of interest demonstrates that this truly is a national challenge.

Of the 40 local areas who bid for support Buckinghamshire, the North London Cluster (Haringey, Hackney, Islington, Camden, Barnet and Enfield), and Sheffield were chosen as the first three sites: demonstrating commitment across their agencies to meet the challenge of peer-on-peer abuse. Work starts this month, and following a local area audit each site will receive a bespoke programme of support which could include: review/development of strategy or protocols, development or delivery of training and other tools, and evaluation of services.

Contact details

For further information about the work of the MsUnderstood Partnership please contact info@msunderstood.org.uk

IKWRO - winners of our True Honour Awards and research into police handling of ‘honour’ based violence

IKWRO is delighted to announce the winners of the True Honour Awards 2014, held in London on 24 January 2014, in memory of Banaz Mahmood who was murdered in an ‘honour’ killing. The awards recognise those who take

a stand against ‘honour’ based violence and nominees included survivors, campaigners, front-line professionals, an academic and victim support groups.

This year the judges chose three joint winners; Pavanpreet Kaur Athwal, Jagdeesh Singh and Sarbjit Kaur Athwal, who through tragedy have come together to bravely fight for justice for Surjit Kaur Athwal; their mother, sister and sister-in-law, who was murdered in an outsourced ‘honour’ killing, and to campaign for all who face ‘honour’ based violence.

A special award was also presented to Karma Nirvana in celebration of 21 years of incredible passion committed to the fight against ‘honour’ based violence.

A Bystander Intervention Toolkit for Universities

Public Health England are commissioning the University of the West of England (UWE) in Bristol to develop resources to address sexual coercion and domestic violence in university settings. The resources will support universities in England to implement an evidence based bystander intervention programme.

The team of Law and Criminology researchers, led by Dr Rachel Fenton and Dr Kieran McCartan, will be conducting a literature review, facilitating a student-led evaluation of the Scottish “Get SAVI” programme, and developing guidance for use across England. The guidance will be available for universities to adapt according to their individual demography.

While the data tells us that violence against women is a significant problem in university populations, a mapping exercise conducted by the team at UWE has revealed



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that very few universities in England currently undertake prevention programmes with their students. This is in contrast to universities and colleges in the US, who are mandated under a number of laws and funding agreements to implement prevention programmes on their campuses.

There is a growing evidence base for the success of bystander programmes in addressing the cultural and social context for violence against women. Bystander programmes achieve this by raising awareness, encouraging attitude change, and giving students the tools they need, such as confidence and mental scripts, to intervene when they witness or become aware of unacceptable behaviour from others. The team at UWE are being advised by local, national and international stakeholders as they develop the resources and are keen to build on the project in the longer term.

For further information please contact Rachel.Fenton@uwe.ac.uk

NSPCC to hold vital child protection summit

The NSPCC is to bring together key players from the child protection and safeguarding world in a bid to intensify the battle against child cruelty.

“How safe are our children?”, which will take place from the 1-2 April 2014 at the Royal College of Physicians, will be the most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK.

Leading politicians, the police and social workers will all come together to decide how issues such as neglect, online safety and sexual abuse can be better tackled.

The special summit will also give agencies the opportunity to question and share their experiences with child protection experts including the Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders.

NSPCC’s Head of National Services, Peter Watt said: “It is absolutely crucial that professionals in social work, education, health and law know how they can work together to better tackle child cruelty.

“This summit will help us learn from past experiences so we can step up the action being taken.

“Never before has child protection been more in the forefront of people’s minds and now is the time to come together as a nation to end these crimes.”

This year’s conference features a host of high profile expert speakers including;

- Edward Timpson MP, Minister for Children and Families
- Alison Saunders, Director of Public Prosecutions
- Sue Berelowitz, Deputy Children’s Commissioner
- Damian Green MP, Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims
- Tristram Hunt MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education
- Andrew Webb, President of The Association of Directors of Children’s Services
- Peter Wanless, CEO NSPCC

To book a place or for more information please call 020 7825 2545,

email nspccevents@nspcc.org.uk or visit http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Applications/survey_internet/scripts/TakeSurveypower.aspx?rx=true&surveyID=259



National Stalking Awareness Day

National Stalking Awareness Day is on 24th April and this year’s campaign is called ‘Working Without Fear’. As part of NSAD the Suzy Lamplugh Trust are holding a free conference in central London thanks to the generous support of City of London Police and Simpson Millar Solicitors.

The conference is aimed at employers, police and support workers and will educate and inform delegates about what can be done to support and protect those who are being stalked at work, either by a colleague or someone external to the workplace.

If you would like to register your interest or for more information on both the event and the campaign please email: info@stalkinghelpline.org

We are also currently in the process of writing a guide for employers on stalking in the workplace which will be available to download from our website www.stalkinghelpline.org in the coming weeks.

Welsh Women’s Aid

All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline

Receiving nearly 30 000 calls a year, the All Wales Helpline continues to go from strength to strength and will soon be celebrating a decade of supporting Wales with its 10 year anniversary this April. With thousands of calls being received each month, the Helpline is also planning a pilot for organisations to refer direct, which is planned for rollout nationally and multiagency in 2014. The bilingual Helpline is available 24/7 on 0808 80 10 800.

Children Matter

The Children Matter project, managed by Welsh Women’s Aid, covers the whole of Wales with our dedicated Children and Young People Development Coordinators, each covering one of four regions. We work with partner organisations to deliver services to Children and Young People across Wales who are affected by domestic abuse, including a grant scheme. The team have been piloting the new updated S.T.A.R (Safety, Trust and Respect) Young People Programme for 14-25 year olds since the beginning of 2013, and are now pleased to be rolling this out for delivery. This is a preventative pack which aims to raise awareness of respectful relationships through discussions around various issues relevant to young people today. If you are interested in delivering this new program in your area, please contact admin@welshwomensaid.org.uk.

Please check the Welsh Women’s Aid website for more information www.welshwomensaid.org.uk

Young people’s attitudes to forced marriage and its gendered differentials: new research by Eaves for Women

Eaves for Women has just published some new research funded by FCO on forced marriage. The research investigated young people’s views:

- On forced marriage,
- On government’s responses to it – notably criminalisation,
- On their understanding of the gendered nature of the issue,
- On what they see as the causes and motivations for the practice and what they would like to recommend in solution.

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Some of the findings are as may be expected:

There is a recognition that:

- It is hard for boys to ask for help for this issue not only because services are targeted at females but also due to feeling embarrassed as a male to come forward as a victim.
- That some of the harms for women are more far-reaching including rape, sexual and reproductive rights, contraction or cessation of social, personal, professional and educational options.
- That the mental health impacts (for men and women) are probably equally as traumatizing.
- That the pressure brought to bear is mainly emotional.
- That while the theoretical distinction of choice and consent between forced and arranged marriage is well known, the reality is very much harder to discern for young people particularly where it is emotional pressure.

Some of the findings make sense but may be less obvious:

- Eighty five percent of survey respondents either agreed or partially agreed that boys may find it hard to resist a forced marriage because they are expected to be enforcers for their siblings – this really highlights the role of young men both as perpetrators and as victims.
- Parents’ strategies to persuade a male or female child reflect gender stereotypes such as appealing to a man’s sense of adulthood, respect and power as a married man and highlighting that a young woman is being selfish if she does not comply.
- Males are more likely to go through with the marriage and live their life or to feel more confident about obtaining a divorce.
- There is a near unanimous support for the principle

of criminalisation but a lack of confidence as to its practical application and that the issue needs suitably nuanced responses.

- The culture of respect for one’s elders and the belief that they know what’s right and do the best for you is powerful and makes it difficult for young people to challenge the practice.

Some are more surprising:

- Young women were more likely to perceive their parent’s motives as benign which could be an additional factor in their susceptibility to emotional pressure.
- Young women showed extremely high empathy with male victims in some cases considering it worse for men. Young women had much higher tolerance or expectation that women will experience abuse and violence as “part of their lot”.
- Males are much less likely to expect or want third party intervention, seeing it as a family matter and seeing the responsibility being on the victim to resist the pressure.
- Despite being able to see that the impacts for women are often more far-reaching, yet very few participants addressed the issue as a matter of gender discrimination and inequality.

The full report can be downloaded at: <http://i2.cmsfiles.com/eaves/2014/01/It’s-a-Human-Rights-Abuse-e06b0a.pdf>

Independent Advisory Board supports LimeCulture CIC

An Independent Advisory Board has been set up to provide LimeCulture Community Interest Company (CIC) with strategic oversight and guidance to support



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the organisation moving forward. The Advisory Board, chaired by Baroness Gould of Potternewton, is made up of a range of highly skilled individuals from different professional backgrounds, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to support LimeCulture as it develops as a leading sexual violence organisation.

The Board met for the first time in September 2013 and is keen to support the continued growth of this specialist sexual violence organisation through its training and development programmes. The Board has prioritised LimeCulture’s commitment to supporting a professional response to sexual violence and to improving the competence and confidence of frontline professionals and their organisations in supporting victims of sexual violence.

LimeCulture is now the leading provider of ISVA training, having now trained over 100 ISVAs since their ISVA Development Programme was established in 2011. The Board requested that LimeCulture continue to focus on supporting this important workforce and an Advanced ISVA Development Programme is being developed for experienced ISVAs, to further support the professionalisation of their role.

In January, LimeCulture launched ‘Achieving Excellence’, an Independent Service Review programme, which analyses and evaluates all aspects of a service. The review identifies what services are being delivered to victims of sexual violence (and to what standard), areas of good practice and areas for improvement with recommendations of how to achieve excellence in service provision. This process can be used by services to provide independent evidence to Commissioners/ Funders as to the quality of their service. LimeCulture conducted an Independent Service Review of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in January and feedback

from NHS and Police & Crime Commissioners about the process has been excellent.

Karma Nirvana Forced Marriage Roadshows

We are pleased to announce that the fourth round of Karma Nirvana Roadshows will be taking place from May to July. With support from the Forced Marriage Unit via the Domestic Programme Fund these events will be focusing on the impending criminalisation of forced marriage. The presentation will explain the new law and how victims/professionals can use the law to protect victims as well as ensuring general awareness related to victim’s experiences and best practice. Every event will be attended by a survivor who will be sharing their personal journey to highlight the issues.

We wish to use these Roadshows to raise awareness before the school holidays. It remains the case that young people remain our highest at risk group and many will be at risk before the summer holidays and raising awareness at this time of year is significant to the prevention of abuse and being taken abroad.

If you would like to have a roadshow focusing on the criminalisation of forced marriage please do register your interest at your earliest convenience. These roadshows are delivered at no cost to your organisation and we are limited to delivering 21 roadshows across the UK. This number of events also marks 21 years of our work.

Please register your interest with our Project Manager on a.manota@karmanirvana.org.uk



Prison Reform Trust

The Prison Reform Trust’s three year programme to reduce women’s imprisonment is raising awareness of the extent to which women in prison may have been exposed to emotional, physical or sexual abuse as children and/or as adults, and how this may have been a factor in their offending. Coercive relationships, a lack of financial independence and responsibility for children add to the pressures on women, who can become trapped in a vicious cycle of victimisation and offending. The Soroptimists UK are working with the Prison Reform Trust to map local women’s services, identify gaps in provision and help ensure effective responses to women in contact with the criminal justice system. For further information contact jenny.earle@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

Women’s Aid Federation of England - update

Women’s Aid Annual Survey 2013

The Women’s Aid Annual Survey of around 200 domestic violence services across England was published in December 2013. The survey is the most comprehensive collection of such data in the country and provides information on the types of services provided and the thousands of women and children they support and the challenge they face every year.

You can read the key findings and the full survey at: [Women’s Aid Annual Survey 2013](#).

Virtual world, real fear – Women’s Aid report into online abuse, harassment and stalking

On Valentine’s Day Women’s Aid published Virtual world, real fear – Women’s Aid report into online abuse, harassment and stalking. The report was written following the online stalking conference Women’s Aid hosted in September 2013.

The key messages, key recommendations and full report are available at

[Virtual world, real fear – Women’s Aid report into online abuse, harassment and stalking](#).

[Upcoming launch of the APPG on Domestic and Sexual Violence Inquiry into women’s access to justice](#)

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence, for which Women’s Aid is the secretariat, conducted an Inquiry into Women’s Access to Justice: From Reporting to Sentencing. The Inquiry had over 140 written responses, nearly 50 of which were from survivors of domestic violence, and two very well attended expert evidence sessions in Parliament in November.

On Monday 10 March the Inquiry report will be published and launched in Parliament at a meeting of the APPG on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The report contains a detailed exploration of women’s access to justice; from their first contact with the police right through their journey within the criminal justice system.

The report will be available for download from the website from 10 March. Please contact appg@womensaid.org.uk for information on how to attend the report launch on Monday 10 March.

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Launch of Women’s Aid Standards

In February 2014 the Women’s Aid National Quality Standards were launched. The Women’s Aid Standards sit within an overarching VAWG and Inter-Personal Violence (IPV) sector framework that incorporates Rape Crisis England and Wales, CAADA, Imkaan and Respect service standards.

The Women’s Aid Standards are a key development in the ending domestic violence sector specifically; enabling domestic violence organisations to further demonstrate their quality and specialism. Dedicated specialist services addressing domestic violence will be accredited against these standards by a panel of independent assessors.

Please visit the Women’s Aid website for further information

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100350002§ionTitle=National+Service+Standards>

Women’s Aid National Training Centre

Qualifications for the domestic violence sector – Award, Certificate and Diploma in Tackling and Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence/Abuse

The Award is suitable for those new to the sector, volunteers and professionals whose work brings them into contact with domestic abuse and sexual violence in intimate partner relationships.

- The next Award begins in May 2014 in Bristol

Certificate

This Certificate is aimed at professionals who have been working in the domestic and sexual violence sector for at least two years and who have practical experience of supporting survivors. On completion of the Certificate you will become a registered Domestic Abuse Prevention Advocate (DAPA). This qualification also covers the skills and knowledge that are relevant to the IDVA role.

- The next Certificate begins in April 2014 in London

Diploma

The Diploma is aimed at experienced practitioners who have completed the Certificate and wish to specialise in particular areas of work within the domestic and sexual abuse/violence sector.

- Course dates TBC

For more information and to secure a place see our [training site](#).

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) -a personal view by Frank Mullane, AAFDA.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are informing the record of violence against women and girls. First, they are re-balancing the ‘forensic narrative’ a term used by Dr. Jane Monckton-Smith to describe the record created by the criminal justice system about a domestic homicide. The former noticeably lacks the victim’s voice and the context. Domestic Homicide Reviews are revealing in detail, the huge difficulties and compromises that victims, usually experiencing coercive control and the majority of



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them being women, have to surmount simply to stay alive. They provide context to help the reader understand the reality of a life undermined and ended by abuse.

Second, these reviews are showing that achieving separation and long term safety usually requires enormous trust to be placed in a system that does not always know and understand the best way to safely achieve these goals.

Third, they are supporting a previous finding that victims disclose to family, friends and community members often before, or instead of, to criminal justice or other support agencies. Some reviews have revealed information disclosed to friends which is unnervingly prescient. The importance of reviewers seeking out where abuse is disclosed cannot be over emphasised as a victim may never seek help from another.

AAFDA help families with these reviews, and others including Inquests, IPCC and Mental Health Inquiries. I have quality assured around 140 of these reviews and been consulted on over 60. Unfortunately, I detect that engagement of reviewers with family, friends and community members in a number of reviews, is of a token nature. These individuals should not just be allowed the opportunity to be involved in these reviews, but to be integral. That means having the opportunity to influence scope, content and impact, including by addressing a review panel meeting. It also means that they should be kept well informed on a timely basis unless they prefer otherwise.

Frank Mullane is Director of AAFDA www.aafda.org.uk and a member of the Home Office panel that quality assures these reviews. The views expressed above are his own.

Update from CAADA

A new study from CAADA has found that two thirds of children exposed to domestic abuse had experienced direct child abuse, in addition to witnessing the abuse of a parent. Despite this, only half (54%) of the children exposed to domestic abuse were known to Children’s Social Care.

In a sample of 877 children receiving support from four specialist domestic abuse services, a clear link between domestic abuse between adults and direct harm to children was found. 62% of children in the research had experienced direct abuse, for example emotional abuse, physical abuse and / or neglect, in addition to witnessing the abuse of a parent. 28% experienced direct physical abuse. In the majority of incidences, the child abuse was perpetrated by the same person responsible for abusing the adult victim: usually the child’s father or mother’s male partner.

The research, outlined in a new policy report entitled **In plain sight: effective help for children exposed to domestic abuse**, also found that:

- Children are suffering multiple physical and mental health consequences as a result of witnessing domestic abuse: 52% of the children had behavioural problems, 39% had difficulties adjusting to school and 60% felt responsible for what was happening at home.
- A quarter of the children displayed abusive behaviour: this usually occurred once their exposure to adult domestic abuse had stopped. This behaviour was frequently directed towards their mother, sibling or friend, and rarely towards the main perpetrator of domestic abuse.



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- Although only half the children were previously known to children’s social care, 80% of the children were known to at least one public agency. They were therefore ‘in plain sight’ and able to be identified.
- Children’s health and wellbeing outcomes significantly improved after support from specialist children’s domestic abuse services, and abusive behaviour also dropped from 25% to 7%.
- Children were less likely to experience direct harm if the parental domestic abuse had ended.

In a series of recommendations aimed at commissioners and social care leaders, the report calls for local areas to:

- Create a network of nominated lead professionals on domestic abuse and safeguarding across all agencies who work with families, with a shared understanding of risk assessment.
- Provide linked specialist domestic abuse services for adults and children.
- Monitor provision and outcomes for children exposed to domestic abuse.

For more information on the policy report, or to download the research which supports it, visit www.caada.org.uk

CAADA – Update on the Young People’s Programme

Young People’s Violence Advisors (YPVAs) and nominated agencies across the country have begun collecting data from young people who have experienced intimate partner violence and abuse, as part of the new **Young People’s Programme**.

The data collection will enable CAADA and programme partners to more clearly profile young people at risk of abuse, and to identify effective care pathways and

interventions. Local agencies will benefit by developing relationships with partner agencies through a shared understanding of local needs and promoting good practice. The data will be collated into a national dataset used to influence national and local policy.

The Young People’s Programme was launched in 2013 by CAADA in partnership with Leap Confronting Conflict, Barnardo’s, IKWRO and Marie Collins Foundation. The Programme supports local areas to develop and strengthen responses to young people experiencing intimate partner abuse, with the aim of establishing clearer care pathways between children’s safeguarding and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

To extend the reach of the programme, CAADA and partners are also providing *Young people and relationship abuse: train the trainer* courses to 100 multi-agency frontline practitioners across the country which is available free of charge thanks to the Department for Education. This training will help these professionals improve early identification of relationship abuse among young people.

For more information about the Young People’s Programme, contact programme manager **Sally Steadman-South** or **visit the CAADA website**.

Manor Gardens – Work on Ending Female Genital Mutilation

The Health Advocacy Project at the Manor Gardens Centre in Islington (www.manorgardenscentre.org) has been doing community-based prevention work on FGM in London for over 4 years. We train and support a team of community advocates from FGM-affected communities, many of them FGM survivors themselves, who work with a specialist FGM Midwife to tackle FGM



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through education and information, to support survivors to get the assistance they need and protect all girls and young women from the practice. Through our community workshops, delivered in the community’s own language, we provide both women and men, young and old, with information about the effects of FGM on physical and mental wellbeing, the legal status of FGM in the UK and how survivors can get support.

By working directly with women we have seen the need for more tailored services for FGM survivors and in particular services that help them to address the mental and emotional health consequences of this practice. For this reason we have been working with our community advocates and the Maya Centre, a women’s counselling service, to provide a support group and counselling service. For more information please visit: <http://www.mayacentre.org.uk/dahlia-project-survivors-fgm/>

We believe that not only is FGM a human rights violation but should also be seen as a mainstream child protection issue that all statutory professionals understand and respond to. So we train professionals working with children and young people (including teachers, social workers, health visitors and the police) so that they have a greater understanding of FGM and what they should be doing to protect the girls and young women that they have contact with. By providing clear and relevant information and the direct perspective of one of our community advocates we can empower professionals to protect young girls.

CIS’ters Training Seminar “How To Listen So Children and Young People Will Talk”

The Training Seminar will explore issues relating to how Children and Young People try to communicate with those around them that things are not ok. The Seminar will also highlight the impact on Children or Young People who are sexually exploited and will benefit anyone who works with or cares for children and young people, whether a parent or a professional. A flyer for the event is attached: <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/media/148024/how%20to%20listen%20so%20childrenyp%20will%20talk%20-%2028%20april%202014%20v2.pdf>