



Violence against women and girls (VAWG) newsletter

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I am pleased to introduce the winter edition of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) newsletter – my first as Minister of State for Crime Prevention.

Today (25 November) marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – an ambition to which this Coalition

Government remains committed to realising and an ambition that I am personally committed to as a Minister.

To make progress towards this end, I am pleased that we are announcing the national roll out of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare’s Law) after running successful pilots. These initiatives empower victims and are an important tool for preventing and tackling violence.

In the coming weeks we will be re-launching the Teenage Relationship Abuse campaign, and challenging employers to take up the Responsibility Pledge to support people at work who may be victims of domestic violence and abuse.

We know that our ambition will not be realised without a truly collaborative approach – frontline professionals, campaigners, charities, the police, health and local Commissioners all have a vital role to play. The dedicated commitment of so many people working across the UK is what makes real change possible where it matters – supporting victims, tackling perpetrators and preventing violence in the first place. Only by working together will we end violence against women and girls.

Thank you.

Norman Baker MP
Minister of State



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On 25 November, the Home Secretary announced her intention to roll out nationally both Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) across England and Wales from March 2014. This follows the successful conclusion of two pilots to test these provisions, meeting two core commitments set out in the Government’s updated Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Action Plan. Tackling domestic violence and abuse is one of the Home Secretary’s key priorities, and the Government is committed to ensuring that the police and other agencies have the tools necessary to tackle domestic violence, to bring offenders to justice, and ensure victims have the support they need to rebuild their lives.

Domestic Violence Protection Orders are a new power introduced by the Crime and Security Act 2010, and enables the police to put in place protection for the victim in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident. Under DVPOs, the perpetrator can be prevented from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days, allowing the victim a level of breathing space to consider their options, with the help of a support agency. This provides the victim with immediate protection. If appropriate, the process can be run in tandem with criminal proceedings.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme introduces a framework with recognised and consistent processes to enable the police to disclose to the public information about previous violent offending by a new or existing partner where this may help protect them from further violent offending. The DVDS introduces two types

of process for disclosing this information. The first is triggered by a request by a member of the public (“right to ask”). The second is triggered by the police where they make a proactive decision to disclose the information in order to protect a potential victim (“right to know”). Both processes can be implemented within existing legal powers.

This is Abuse

To raise awareness of abuse within young people’s relationships the Home Office has run two successful campaigns since 2010; the Teenage Relationship Abuse and Teenage Rape Prevention campaigns. The campaigns aim to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships and encourage teenagers to re-think their views of violence, abuse, controlling behaviour and what consent means within their relationships. The campaign is supported by the [This is Abuse website](#) where young people can get further help and advice on these issues.

Since 2010 there have been over 1 million visits to the This is Abuse website and comments left by teenagers on the discussion forums indicate that the campaign is contributing towards changing attitudes and behaviour.

“I’ve broken up with my boyfriend of nearly 6 months. After watching this video, the exact words of ‘you’re pathetic, are you gonna go cry to your friends’ echoed in my mind. He has said those exact words to me on many occasions. He put me down, stopped me from talking to my friends who were boys, checked my inbox, my texts, physically pushed me around. I don’t see why I didn’t see this before.”

The campaign is due to re-launch in early December. If you would like to receive a copy of the Campaign Brief



with further information, including details on how to order campaign materials so you can support the campaign in your local area, please email VAWGcampaigns@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Update on Domestic Violence Pledge

The Violence Against Women and Girls action plan sets out a joint action for the Home Office and Department of Health to develop and publish a **Pledge** for all employers to sign as part of the Public Health Responsibility Deal. The Pledge commits those who have signed up to having a comprehensive corporate policy to support staff experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

To discuss how employers can sign up to the Pledge and support staff experiencing domestic violence and abuse, the Government Equalities Office is holding an event on 25th November 2013 (this evening), the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls. The event will provide an opportunity for representatives from Government, the Third Sector and industry to hear about the importance of providing support for victims of domestic violence and abuse in the workplace and how they can sign up to the Pledge.

Female Genital Mutilation – Home Office Update

In November 2012, we launched a one year pilot of the ‘Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation’ leaflet. Having sent out over 37,000 copies, the pilot has now concluded and we have carried out a review of the evaluation questionnaires. Feedback we received overwhelmingly told us that the ‘statement’ has been widely accepted by FGM affected communities and was considered to be a valuable means to help practitioners

start conversations about FGM. Many survivors of FGM find it difficult to talk about their experience so the leaflet has provided an opening for professionals to discuss the issue with individuals.

On that basis, we are delighted to announce the continuation of the ‘statement’. A number of improvements have been suggested and we propose making some minor modifications. To do this, we will bring together a small focus group of voluntary sector and relevant government departments to discuss ways we can enhance the content.

In the meantime, there are still plenty of leaflets in stock. To order copies, please email FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk with your name, address, quantity and which languages you require. As well as English, the leaflet is available in Somali, Swahili, Turkish, Arabic, Amharic, Farsi, Urdu, Tigrinya, French and Welsh.

In June 2013, the Home Office joined forces with the NSPCC and Metropolitan Police Service to establish a dedicated FGM Helpline, with its own telephone number (0800 028 3550) and email address (fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk). The helpline was set up to provide advice to anyone who is concerned about FGM.

FGM awareness raising project – funded

The Home Office has successfully bid for funding from the European Commission to fund a project raising awareness of FGM in the UK. The EU contribution to the project is approximately 300,000 Euros (approx £250,000). Aims of the project include: raising awareness and understanding of FGM, promoting the message to victims that help on FGM is available, and signposting and promoting the new FGM helpline.

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New CPS Guidelines – Child Sexual Abuse

On 17th October 2013, the CPS issued guidelines ([link](#)) setting out a fundamentally new approach prosecutors will take to cases of child sexual abuse. The guidelines make it clear that the ‘model victim’ does not exist. By shifting the emphasis away from the credibility of the victim to the overall allegation including that of the defendant, the CPS will ensure that victims are believed, treated fairly and delivered justice.

The guidelines are supported by:

- a joint protocol for information sharing ([link](#)) to ensure that all relevant evidence is gathered and that juries consider the strongest possible case;
- the roll out of dedicated Rape and Serious Sexual Offence units across the CPS;
- the establishment of a network of specialist child sexual abuse prosecutors;
- the CPS VAWG assurance system to oversee and encourage continuous improvement in the handling of child sexual abuse cases.

The CPS’s work on child sexual abuse is one part of wider efforts to respond to VAWG. For example, on 28 October the CPS published a second Action Plan setting out further actions to tackle Female Genital Mutilation. These have been developed in close collaboration with the police, other Government departments and third sector organisations. In addition, a programme of training is being developed by the CPS to further support prosecutors dealing with VAWG cases including on issues such as teenage relationship abuse, domestic violence against older victims, honour-based violence and forced marriage.

Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups

The sixth and final report of the Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s two-year national Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups will be published tomorrow (Tuesday 26 November) alongside two other reports commissioned by the Inquiry. The final report focuses on effective practice in addressing child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups and provides a child-focused framework which has been developed for all those involved in planning, commissioning and delivering services for sexually exploited young people. The two other reports are on a two-year study undertaken by the University of Bedfordshire into the sexual violence experienced by young people in gang affected neighbourhoods, and also research carried out by London Metropolitan University into children and young people’s understanding of consent to sex.

Launched in 2011, the first report of the Inquiry looked specifically at the sexual exploitation of children in care and was published following a request from the Secretary of State for Education. This was followed by the interim report of the Inquiry, which was published last November and which provided the most accurate figures to date on the scale of child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups in England. It found that 2,409 children and young people were confirmed victims of child sexual exploitation in gangs or groups in the 14 months from August 2010 to October 2011. The Inquiry also identified that between April 2010 and March 2011 there were 16,500 children in England who were at high risk of child sexual exploitation. Importantly, the report included an evidence-based list of the factors indicating which children and young people are at high risk of sexual exploitation.

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Earlier this year the Office of the Children’s Commissioner published research commissioned by the Inquiry into the impact on young people of viewing pornography which found a correlation between risky behaviour and viewing pornography and also between having violent thoughts and watching violent media.

All reports will be available at www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Sex Offender Management changes in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill

On 8 October the Government tabled amendments to the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill which will make it easier to restrict the activities of anyone who poses a risk of sexual harm to children or adults. The proposals build on an amendment tabled by Nicola Blackwood MP and were developed in consultation with partners including the police, National Crime Agency (NCA) and National Offender Management Service. The UK has some of the toughest powers in the world to deal with sex offenders. Subject to the passage of the Bill, these new measures will tighten the system further to make it as robust as it can be, streamline and clarify the processes involved, and increase the flexibility for front-line professionals to exercise their judgement and discretion.

The two new orders will replace existing powers in England and Wales and the threshold for risk will be lowered to cover any case of sexual harm, not just cases of serious sexual harm:

- **Sexual Harm Prevention Orders** can be applied to anyone convicted or cautioned for a sexual or violent offence, including where offences are committed overseas. They will replace sexual offences prevention orders and foreign travel orders; and
- **Sexual Risk Orders** can be applied to any individual who has done an act of a sexual nature and who, as a result, poses a risk of sexual harm in the UK or abroad. They will replace the risk of sexual harm order.

Both powers can place a range of restrictions on individuals depending on the nature of the case, for example, limiting their internet use, preventing them from being alone with a child under 16, or preventing travel abroad.

The basis on which these orders may be made are wider than that for the current orders, which means they can be used to manage risk against adults, as well as children. The available prohibitions are also wider so, for example, foreign travel restrictions can be imposed under either order.

These changes will help ensure that the police and the National Crime Agency have the powers they need to manage those who pose a risk of sexual harm.

Female Offenders update from Ministry of Justice

On 25 October the Ministry of Justice published the Government’s response to the Justice Select Committee inquiry on female offenders and a Review of the Women’s Custodial Estate. These set out our plans to improve the women’s custodial estate by:



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- keeping women closer to home;
- setting up new community employment regimes aimed at getting the majority of female prisoners into work on release;
- improving prison capacity near some urban areas;
- establishing and testing an open prison unit at HMP Styal; and
- assigning responsibility for the delivery of through-the-gate support in all women’s prisons to the new Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC).

We also published a stocktake of women’s community services commissioned by probation trusts for female offenders in 2013/14. This shows that the spread and availability of community services specifically for women has been increasing. These services aim to improve outcomes for women through addressing the issues contributing to offending behaviour. They offer options for the courts to support the completion of community and suspended sentence orders, and to support women in the successful completion of licences. They provide a wide range of support, including assistance with accommodation, financial problems and relationships and support for female offenders experiencing domestic violence.

The Government’s Transforming Rehabilitation programme aims to build on the knowledge and expertise of the women’s community services and to encourage further innovation, by opening out the provision of offender services to a much wider range of providers. It will also introduce supervision and support for all offenders serving sentences of less than 12 months, which will particularly benefit women, many of whom receive short custodial sentences. Women are also more likely than men to have complex needs and vulnerabilities for which they need help if they are to turn around their lives.

Launch of Commissioning Process for Rape Support Fund 2014

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have launched a new funding commissioning process for rape support services. The commissioning process was launched on 10 October jointly with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

Since 2010/11 the Ministry of Justice has been working in partnership with the voluntary sector to provide stable funding to existing rape support centres and to develop new rape support centres in areas lacking provision.

New funding arrangements from 1 April

The current funding arrangements for the majority of rape support centres will end in March 2014. This means that a tendering process is now underway to identify providers to run the centres from **1 April 2014**.

To ensure that there is no interruption in support provision, the commissioning timetable has been established to ensure there is a smooth transition into a new funding cycle from April. This funding is designed to sustain existing centres rather than to set up new centres.

MoJ are making available £4m in the new funding cycle and £1.26m will be available per year for London through MOPAC. This will be for 2 years funding with the option to extend for a further year.

Applying for the funding

We have drawn up criteria (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/procurement>) that service providers will have to satisfy in order to qualify for the funding from both the MoJ



and MOPAC’s Rape Support Funds, following work to unify the application process for providers of rape support services.

The London funds are ring-fenced for providers of support centres situated in London – centres outside of London will not be eligible for the London funding stream. London service providers can apply for both the London and national funding streams through a single application. Application packs and processing instructions are available on the MoJ procurement system, Emptoris: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/procurement> **The closing date for applications is noon on Friday 29 November.**

Queries can also be made to victims.fund@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence – Future Funding

As you are aware the Home Office have funding in place for DV/SV/VAWG services until end March 2015. In addition to the Home Office funding and the Ministry of Justice Rape Support Fund, the consultation and response “**Getting it right for victims and witnesses**” committed to a proportion of the additional revenue that will be raised from offenders being specifically allocated to DV/SV services. Our assessment is that this should be up to £2m of the additional revenue, subject to potential receipts. To align with Home Office fund timing and in response to the assessment we have undertaken to date, we are developing proposals to allocate this money through a fund in the short term which the Ministry of Justice is likely to commit until end March 2015 in line with the Home Office timing. The Ministry of Justice will be engaging with Police and Crime Commissioners, victim and witness service providers as well as those with a

wider interest on these proposals during November. If you would like to be part of this engagement please contact the Ministry of Justice victimservicescommissioning@justice.gsi.gov.uk.

Vulnerable and Disengaged Young People Fund – Cabinet Office

The **Vulnerable and Disengaged Young People Fund**, a new funding stream through the Cabinet Office Centre for Social Action, has up to £2m to help grow ambitious social action programmes to support England’s most vulnerable young people. It will be administered by the Social Investment Business on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

Organisations can apply for a development, evidence or scale-up grant from **8 November until 6 December 2013**. Successful organisations will have a strong track record of reaching and creating positive impact for the most vulnerable young people as well as be able to demonstrate strong evidence of need. Applications can come from the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, public bodies (for example Local Authorities) and businesses with a social mission or a clear objective in their corporate social responsibility policy towards increasing social action, or businesses involved in the delivery of public service.

The grants will fund work with young offenders, young people in care or leaving care, and other groups of disengaged and vulnerable young people.

The Fund will focus on improving the outcomes of society’s most vulnerable young people, including academic performance, work outcomes, reducing reoffending and improving health outcomes. It will

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consider proposals from social action based projects supporting young people as well as those that involve social action opportunities for young people. Applicants can either apply for funding for new projects or to further develop existing programmes.

Applicants will be able to attend one of four **workshops in London and the north of England in November 2013** to help them make the most of the application process.

More information on the Vulnerable and Disengaged Young People Grant Fund including criteria and how to apply is available at www.sibgroup.org.uk/youth.

Asylum Support Policy Bulletin 70

The Home Office arranges accommodation for asylum seekers, under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Asylum Support Policy Bulletin 70 (see link) sets out what should be done if any of the accommodated persons find themselves the subject of domestic violence.

The general thrust of the policy is that alternative accommodation should be swiftly arranged when supported persons find themselves subjected to domestic violence. This is primarily done by the providers who are contracted by the Home Office to supply supported asylum seekers with accommodation.

The policy is currently being reviewed, with a view to updating the policy to account of changes that have taken place since its original publication.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylum-support-bulletins/accesstosupport/>

CAADA: An update on the work of the MARAC Development Programme

National MARAC Scrutiny Panel

Perpetrator behaviour should be systematically managed to help ensure victim and child safety, discussion at the very first National MARAC Scrutiny Panel has agreed. The meeting, which was chaired by the Home Office and attended by a range of experts, explored how MARACs can improve outcomes for victims by taking corresponding actions to address the risks posed by perpetrators.

The new MARAC Scrutiny Panels are to be held on a biannual basis, with each one built around a specific theme. New CAADA guidance for MARAC Chairs and representatives on **addressing the behaviour of alleged perpetrators** has been created in light of the Panel’s inaugural discussion.

New research to evaluate outcomes of IDVA/MARAC model

The outcomes of MARAC cases receiving IDVA support are to be explored in a pioneering new **CAADA study**. The project will follow the outcomes of families (including victims, perpetrators and any associated children) discussed at MARAC, with the aim of establishing how families are supported and whether their use of services – including the police, health and children’s services – changes following IDVA/MARAC support. The study builds on an **earlier CAADA pilot**, which reviewed victim contact with the police following the MARAC meeting, compared to the same time period before the MARAC.



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New MARAC videos for professionals

CAADA has created a series of video resources for practitioners attending and referring into MARAC. The short films cover a range of topics, such as the role of the MARAC and the importance of risk identification. The videos are available to [view for free on the CAADA website](#).

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Development Programme is managed by CAADA, and provides support and resources to MARACs. The programme’s aim is to help improve MARACs’ effectiveness at a local, regional and national level and is funded by the Home Office until 2015. For more information, visit [the CAADA website](#) or, for the latest programme updates, [subscribe to the charity’s newsletter](#).

CAADA – Update on the Young People’s Programme

Around 100 specialist practitioners have begun their training to become Young People’s Violence Advisors, as work on the Young People’s Programme continues. The Advisors (YPVAs), which have been nominated by local authority safeguarding teams across England, will offer support to young people aged 13 and above experiencing a range of intimate partner abuse.

Launched in May 2013, the Young People’s Programme is a joint project, run in partnership between national charities Barnardo’s, IKWRO, Leap Confronting Conflict, the Marie Collins Foundation and CAADA. 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. Data will be

collated on the impact of interventions by YPVAs to help shape policy and support service commissioners.

In addition to equipping YPVA learners with the skills and expertise to risk assess and safety plan for this vulnerable group, the programme’s training also covers timely issues such as sexual exploitation, gang-related violence, cyber stalking, ‘honour’-based violence and forced marriage through additional Continuing Professional Development modules. The training has been provided free of charge, thanks to funding from the Department for Education.

For more information about the Young People’s Programme, contact programme manager [Sally Steadman-South](#) or [visit the CAADA website](#).

New Leaf: a joint young people’s project targeting relationship abuse

New Leaf

New Leaf is an innovative new domestic abuse service tailored specifically for young people in Greenwich. Funded by Big Lottery, the project runs for three years, starting in September 2013.

Recognising that young women experience more domestic and sexual abuse than any other age group, New Leaf is aimed at young people aged 13 to 19 and combines:

- Little Fish Theatre Company’s innovative theatre workshops and arts programs tackling domestic abuse and supporting healthy relationships;
- Her Centre’s one to one and group support for young women experiencing abuse;
- TRYangle Project 2011’s one to one and group work with young men to challenge their use of abuse.



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New Leaf’s project goals include:

- Raising awareness of boundaries in healthy relationships so young people are aware of what constitutes harmful behaviour within a relationship and can identify when they are at risk;
- Supporting young women to break free of violent or abusive relationships through one to one support, group work, and counselling and providing them with practical support to stay safe;
- Working with young men to help them understand the impact of actions on partners, learn to control their behaviour and demonstrate non-violent solutions to conflict situations;
- Equipping professionals with skills and knowledge to respond effectively to young people’s experiences of abuse and to increase referrals to domestic abuse services.

Through this collaborative approach, New Leaf works holistically to engage and empower young people, promote positive relationships, prevent abuse and support those experiencing abuse.

Refuge launches training and qualifications for domestic violence practitioners

National domestic violence charity Refuge has launched two nationally accredited qualifications for domestic violence practitioners, in conjunction with SFJ Awards. These qualifications were accredited by OfQual in 2012, and allow those who work with survivors of domestic violence to gain formal recognition of their hard work, experience and expertise.

There are two levels of qualification, in line with the national Qualifications and Credit Framework. The Level 2 award consists of two units and is aimed at those who work in health, police and social services supporting survivors of domestic violence. The Level 3 award, consisting of three units, is aimed at practitioners working in front-line domestic violence services. It covers all the skills, knowledge and understanding required for undertaking risk assessments, determining survivors’ needs and progressing interventions.

Refuge also offers a specialist training programme designed to help practitioners reach the expected standard to participate in the Level 2 or 3 courses.

Whilst demand is such that we are not yet able to offer ‘open’ courses, we are welcoming enquiries from groups of employees, and/or from employers, seeking training. We can also explore how this might be extended to include the relevant qualification where this is also of interest.

For more information on the training programme and awards, please contact Refuge’s Brenda Spink on 020 7395 7758.

Karma Nirvana

National award winning charity Karma Nirvana has recently set up the national Survivor Ambassador Panel. This panel provides survivors of honour based abuse and forced marriage the opportunity to voice grassroots experience and perspective on work in the field. The panel seeks to raise awareness on the issues and to help increase reporting. Another key priority for the panel is to improve professional practice thus improving responses to all victims and survivors. Saliha, speaking on behalf of the panel, stated “I am on the panel to speak on behalf



of the many victims and survivors who don't have a voice, especially those with a disability. I hope to continue speaking as a survivor to raise awareness of Karma Nirvana as a lifeline to provide help".

National Stalking Helpline – Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Preparations are already underway for National Stalking Awareness Day 2014 and we wanted to share with you some of our plans for the campaign.

This year's theme is going to focus on employers and ensuring that if an employee is being stalked, or is a stalker, that companies have policies in place that are both effective and supportive to the victim. Our work on the Helpline means we hear a variety of such cases. This ranges from situations where those affected by stalking are concerned about how their employer will react to being told that they are being stalked, or cases where the stalker is a co-worker. However, we have also had calls from employers wanting to know what they can do to assist when an employee who is being stalked has come to them for help. It is clear that this is therefore a problem area where both victims and employers want to know what support is available.

This year we want to increase our social media presence and we plan to keep a regular blog to update our supporters of what we are doing in preparation for the NSAD14. We hope this will not only be interesting to our current followers, but will also generate greater interest in the day itself from people who are otherwise unaware of our role and the service we provide. If you are interested in supporting the day or would like more information than please email Kristiana Wrixon at kristiana.wrixon@suzylamplugh.org

Paladin – National Stalking Advocacy Service

Stalkers steal lives and also take lives if their behaviour remains unchecked and they are allowed to escalate. This has often resulted in serious violence, rape and, in some cases, murder.

Paladin – the new National Stalking Advocacy Service CIC was established in the spring of 2013 following the highly successful campaign in Stalking Law Reform Inquiry in Parliament spearheaded by Laura Richards and Harry Fletcher. On the 8th March 2012, the Prime Minister announced stalking would become a criminal offence. The law was changed on 25th November 2012 and, through the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 was amended to include two new stalking offences: Section 2a prohibits a person from pursuing a course of conduct that amounts to stalking and Section 4a prohibits a course of conduct relating to the offence of stalking involving fear of violence or serious alarm or distress (Home Office Circular 018/2012).

Paladin not only saves lives, it will also save money by ensuring a coordinated response and the appropriate support of victims. Our specialist Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs) ensure high risk victims of stalking are supported and that a co-ordinated community response is developed locally to keep victims and their children safe. The aims of the service are:

- Provide strategic advocacy to high risk victims of stalking
- Establish a network of victims who have endured stalking, providing mutual support and empowerment
- Provide test case advocacy aimed at changing law and practice through the courts

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- Campaign based on extrapolating from our case work experiences
- Provide training
- Provide post-legislative scrutiny

How to refer a case:

If you need to refer a case to Paladin or need advice, you can contact us by phone, email or by post. Agencies can refer victims to us for advice and support by using our referral form available on our website. Victims are also able to self-refer using our Self-Referral form available on our website. These forms allow our ISACs to make an assessment of risk, as well as understand the level of support required. We have also developed advice leaflets for all agencies, the Police and for victims which include the ‘Golden Rules’, as well as giving clear practical advice on the ‘Do’s and Don’ts’ that are available on our [website](#).

Training:

We also offer bespoke in-house training tailored to your needs and service. If you are interested, please contact us at info@paladinservice.co.uk

Contact Details:

Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk
Telephone: 0207 840 8960
Address: P.O. Box 64640, London, SW8 9DJ
Twitter: [@paladinservice](https://twitter.com/paladinservice)
Website: <http://www.paladinservice.co.uk>

Limeculture – ISVAs group

LimeCulture has recently launched a new group on Facebook especially for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs). The new facebook group, named

‘Network of ISVAs’ can be found by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/groups/isva.network>. To join the group, ISVAs will need to click on the ‘Join Group’ button at the top right hand side of the page.

The purpose of the ‘Network of ISVAs’ is a private space where ISVAs can chat with their peers, share ideas and learn from each other. The description for the group reads: ‘The aim of this group is to bring together Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs). This group is a place where ISVAs can ask questions, discuss and share ideas and experiences, help one another and learn from each other. Whether ISVA services are located in the Voluntary and Community Sector, SARCs or Statutory Agencies, the ISVAs play an integral role in providing support and responding to those who have been raped or sexually assaulted. For this reason, ISVAs are an important workforce and this group is intended as a place where ISVAs can network’.

LimeCulture is a huge supporter of ISVAs and the work that they do in support of victims of sexual violence. Following a range of discussions with ISVAs (including a series of focus groups in 2012, discussions with over 90 ISVAs who have undertaken the LimeCulture ISVA Development Programme and the ISVAs that attended Knowledge and Network: An Event for ISVAs in April 2013), one of the things LimeCulture is very concerned about is the isolation and lack of peer support that a number of ISVAs have reported. LimeCulture feels strongly that ISVAs deserve to be able to access support from their peers, seek advice and learn from the experiences of other people doing the same job.

LimeCulture are keen to establish a formal National Network of ISVAs (that is properly managed and resourced) and have been discussing this with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and other potential funders to



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support the development of such a network. However, as an interim solution, LimeCulture have established the Network for ISVAs in the hope that ISVAs will find this facebook group a useful tool to get in contact with each other. Unfortunately, it does mean that ISVAs will only be able to access this group if they have a Facebook account. It is the hope of LimeCulture that ISVAs will run this group themselves and use it to post ideas, suggestions, solutions and chat to other ISVAs from different parts of the country. In the first week of the group being established 38 ISVAs from around the UK joined the group and are already discussing their practice.

Rape Crisis

At the beginning of October, Rape Crisis England & Wales, the sexual violence charity for women and girls, reported that calls to its national helpline had risen by 40% in the year since the ITV documentary revealing Jimmy Savile’s prolific sexual offending was first broadcast. Since October 2012, the national Rape Crisis helpline had received 78,000 calls, compared to 55,000 during the previous twelve months. Over 60% of those who use Rape Crisis services are seeking support around events that took place three or more years ago and the large increase in calls is partly due to the high numbers of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse turning to Rape Crisis. Local Rape Crisis Centres have similarly reported increased need and demand for their specialist services.

To ensure this need is met with consistently high quality provision, member Rape Crisis Centres have now completed the self-assessment phase of the bespoke Rape Crisis National Service Standards (RCNSS). A summary version of the RCNSS for partners, funders and commissioners can be downloaded from the Rape Crisis England & Wales website at: <http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/nationalservicestandards2.php>

AVA Project – Young People Speak Out Against Violence Against Women

There are currently several groups of young people who are choosing to engage with difficult and emotive issues and are keen to make their voices heard.

The Girl Guides, who have a membership of around 500,000 girls and young women in the UK, have been completing a badge called ‘change the story’ which was written by AVA (Against Violence and Abuse). http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/about_us/girls_in_action/ava_change_the_story.aspx

This is to help girls identify healthy and unhealthy relationships and to challenge gender inequality. The girls have been shocked to discover how prevalent abuse in relationships is in this country and wanted to go beyond the badge and do more to raise awareness. As a result, girls around the country are now making films, designing posters and writing letters which they are sending to government ministers to ensure their views are heard.

There is also a group of young feminist activists called the ‘twitter youth feminist army’ who are campaigning for sexual consent to be taught in schools <http://campaign4consent.co.uk/> They are concerned that a generation of young people are not being given the information they want and need about relationships, consent and gender equality. As they say ‘If we make ourselves heard now, we’ll give hope to a future generation, and start paving the road to change’.

It is heartening to see that young people are collectively speaking out about issues that concern them.



Women’s Aid

Inquiry into Women’s Access to Justice:

The All Party-Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic and Sexual Violence have launched their Inquiry – From Reporting to Sentencing – to investigate women survivors of domestic and sexual violence experiences of the criminal justice system. All are welcome to submit written evidence to this Inquiry through the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S63GVK8> the deadline for submissions is Friday 29 November.

Oral evidence sessions are taking place in Parliament on Monday 25 November 10am – 12pm and Wednesday 27 November 9.30-11.20am.

Women’s Aid provide the Secretariat for the APPG, please email appg@womensaid.org.uk for further information and to RSVP to attend either evidence session.

Women’s Aid launches TeenSPEAK

TeenSPEAK is a campaign developed by Women’s Aid that enables young people affected by domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, to voice their concerns and needs to policy makers and professionals actively involved in addressing violence against women and girls and hear their response.

Women’s Aid collected questions from young people who have experienced domestic violence from across England through the Women’s Aid [Hideout](#) website. The questions were used in interviews of leading people in education, government and criminal justice, which were filmed by 3 young survivors and made into 5 short films which are now available for young people to view, comment on and ask questions about through [Women’s Aid Youtube](#).

Please watch and share these videos with professionals and young people to help Women’s Aid reach out to young people around England.

Women’s Aid Annual Survey 2013

Women’s Aid 2013 Annual Survey of our national network of services will be published at the end of November. It is the most comprehensive national survey of domestic violence services in England and will provide information about the number of women and children supported by Women’s Aid national network, and also a more detailed snap shot of those using domestic violence services on a specific day.

Please check Women’s Aid website for more information www.womensaid.org.uk.

True Honour Awards – IKWRO

We are delighted to announce that nominations are open for the third True Honour Awards. The Iranian & Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation (IKWRO) will present a True Honour Award to a person or organisation that has taken a stand against ‘honour’ based violence. By recognising and publicising their outstanding courage and commitment, we hope that we can inspire others to act to help bring an end to ‘honour’ based violence.

This year the True Honour Awards are being held in memory of Banaz Mahmod who was murdered in an ‘honour’ killing.

You can nominate a person, organisation or group for the award by completing the nomination form which is available on our website <http://ikwro.org.uk/2013/10/honour-awards-2013/> and by emailing it to events@ikwro.org.uk. The only criterion is that the nominee has

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made a contribution to the fight against ‘honour’ based violence in the UK. The deadline for submitting the nomination form is 5pm on Friday 6th December 2013.

If your nominee is shortlisted you will both be invited to the gala awards ceremony in London on 24th January 2014 when we will announce the award winner.

Our judging panel is looking forward to receiving your nomination!

We’d like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the True Honour Awards since they began three years ago. If you would like to support the awards, please donate through our website <http://ikwro.org.uk/services/donate/> or contact Sara or Tara on 020 7920 6460 to discuss how you could help.

Ascent

The London Violence against Women and Girls Consortium recently launched its first project; Ascent. Made of up of 22 organisations, the Consortium works in partnership to end violence against women and girls.

This project delivers a range of services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence across London, including prevention work in schools; counselling and advice services; domestic and sexual violence helplines; emergency accommodation for vulnerable women and children; and work with women who are at risk of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. It also provides training and support for the organisations that deliver these often life-saving services to women.

Councillor Paul McGlone, Chair of the London Councils Grants Committee said, “I am very pleased to support the launch of the London Violence against Women and Girls

Consortium. It’s vital that we take a pan-London approach to tackling this important issue – that 22 organisations are now working together with the support of LC will make a huge difference to the lives of thousands of women and girls in the capital who are impacted by these horrendous crimes.”

If you would like more information about Ascent, or about the issue of violence against women and girls in London, please visit the website; www.thelondonvawgconsortium.org.uk

Rewind&Reframe project – by Holly Dustin of the End Violence Against Women Coalition

The last year has seen huge concern about music videos that present sexualised and racialised images of women and promote harmful stereotypes. There is much evidence to suggest that sexualisation provides a conducive context in which violence against women and girls flourishes by portraying women as constantly sexually available and men as sexual predators.¹

Following a series of reviews, most recently the Bailey Review [<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/healthandwellbeing/a0074315/bailey-review>], the Government is putting in place a series of measures to tackle sexualisation including; tighter guidelines on outdoor ads containing sexualised imagery, age-ratings on video games, restricting children’s access to pornography and criminalising the possession of ‘rape pornography’. It was discussed at the last Inter Ministerial Group on Violence Against Women and Girls chaired by the Home Secretary.

1 Coy, M. (2013) Children, Childhood and Sexualised Popular Culture in J. Wild (Ed) Exploiting Childhood: How Fast Food, Material Obsession and Porn Culture are Creating New Forms of Child Abuse London: Jessica Kingsley



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Now a new project, Rewind&Reframe [<http://www.rewindreframe.org/>], has been set up by the End Violence Against Women Coalition [<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/>], Imkaan [<http://imkaan.org.uk/>] and Object [<http://www.object.org.uk/>], funded by Rosa, to provide a platform for young women to speak out about sexism and racism in music videos. It was launched at an event in Parliament on 11th November chaired by Kerry McCarthy MP and with panellists including the PM’s former adviser on the sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood, Claire Perry MP, Shadow Equality Minister Sharon Hodgson MP, Ikamara Larasi from Imkaan, Graham Hill from the BBFC and Amy Lamé. It came just days after a Netmums survey finding huge parental concern about the issues. [<http://www.netmums.com/coffeehouse/general-coffeehouse-chat-514/news-current-affairs-topical-discussion-12/1017213-why-cant-we-stop-parents-launch-backlash-against-porn-not-pop-videos.html#post10095001>]

The government is taking forward plans to put age-ratings on music videos sold in shops and young women in the Rewind and Reframe project are calling for this to be extended to videos viewed online for consistency and because this is now where most videos are viewed.

Young women are also calling for the music industry to stop creating these kinds of images and for all schools to talk to young people about consensual and respectful relationships and media literacy to counter the harmful messages they receive from the media.

White Ribbon Campaign

The Lord Mayor of York called a high level breakfast meeting to launch York’s work towards White Ribbon status of involving men in violence prevention. The meeting included the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, Chair of the Hospital Trust, Chief executive of Aviva Insurance, and Vice Chancellor of York St Johns University, as well as the Director of the IDAS, Service Provider. The Director of Public Health, Paul Edmondson Jones said “Applying for White Ribbon status was like buying the ticket for the journey of violence prevention – it’s just the start”

On the other side of the Pennines, Blackburn with Darwen earned their White Ribbon award by submitting a comprehensive Action Plan of how they have and will engage men and young men in violence prevention.

Sussex Police are leading the way in their White Ribbon Action Plan, with substantial activities in Peacehaven, Lewes, Eastbourne and Brighton.

White Ribbon have produced a range of 4 new “Bystander” posters for this years 16 Days of Action, designed for young men and which work well in Licensed premises . All of them are viewable in the White Ribbon on line shop.

A local school in Crossley Heath has produced 2,000 White Ribbon calendars of the schools rugby club as positive role models, doing childcare, washing up, elderly care etc. It’s beautifully photographed and a great example of being positive not negative when talking about engaging men and boys in changing attitudes.