



Home Office

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls 2021 – 2024 Government Call for Evidence

**Partner Pack
December 2020**



Information for partners

The government has launched a nationwide Call for Evidence to inform our new strategy for Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

The Call for Evidence started on the 10th December 2020 and will close **19th February 2021**.

Crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls, such as sexual violence, stalking and FGM have devastating consequences.

Over the last ten years, newer forms of violence against women and girls such as cyber flashing, revenge porn, and so-called 'upskirting' have also emerged.

This Call for Evidence will help us respond to these social and technological changes and inform our new Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, which will be published in Spring 2021.

Your support

We need your organisation's help to promote this Call for Evidence and ensure we keep victims at the centre of our approach.

We therefore want to hear views from as many people as possible.

- **ANYONE can respond.**
- **Including people who have been directly affected by these awful crimes, or have friends, family and colleagues who have been.**
- **Or they may work for organisations that provide support to victims and survivors such as frontline professionals and policy experts working in social care, education, law enforcement, local government, public health and healthcare.**

This pack provides

- Details on the [gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard](https://www.gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard) site which you can direct people to
- Information on our approach to gathering evidence and the surveys we are asking people to respond to via [gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard](https://www.gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard)
- Example messaging you can use to help support and promote this Call for Evidence across social media and internal channels

If you have any questions or comments on the campaign, please contact the Home Office VAWG consultation team on:

VAWGStrategy2021@homeoffice.gov.uk

Understanding VAWG

The term "violence against women and girls" (VAWG) means acts of violence or abuse that disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviours covered by this term can include sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, so called 'honour-based' abuse, force marriage and FGM, as well as many others.

We recognise that these crimes affect many people from a variety of backgrounds. We would like to understand more about these crimes so we can better understand the true picture in society.



Our approach to the public survey

We have launched an online survey which people can respond to found here [gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard](https://www.gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard) which should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

All responses to the questions will be anonymous and no-one will be able to know who participated.

The survey includes questions about crimes which can be distressing.

If respondents have been affected by the questions and would like to seek support, information on organisations will be provided at the end of the survey (detailed at the end of this pack).

We want to reach out and gather evidence from as many people as possible, especially those people who do not normally engage with Government consultations or people who feel underrepresented in previous strategies, or who feel their circumstances are not supported by existing services.

The survey will encourage people to share their views on:

- **The types of crime that comes under the term VAWG (Violence against women and girls)**
- **Whether these crimes are increasing in incidence (individually or as a whole)**
- **Which groups are most affected by them**
- **What are the new and evolving forms of VAWG crime that need to be confronted**

Everyone aged 16 or over is welcome to contribute to the Call for Evidence, you do not have to have experienced violence or abuse to take part. There are no right or wrong answers, we want people to give as honest an opinion as they are able to.

Hearing directly from victims

Each person who is affected by VAWG has a unique experience that we can learn from, through examples of good practice that have helped people through their trauma or, sadly, where support was not as good as it should have been.

We are seeking the views of victims and survivors directly as part of this Call for Evidence, through a survey which we will distribute via specialist support services. These organisations will be able to provide direct support to those responding.

Victims and survivors are also welcome to complete the public survey, should they feel comfortable doing so.

Male victims

Despite the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy capturing all victims, we published the **Male Victim Position Statement** in 2019 which recognises the challenges and barriers male victims experience to seeking support, and points to resources which are useful for local commissioners, while maintaining that violence against women and girls is a proportionately gendered crime. It is in our commitment to male victims of these crimes that we would like responses to the call for evidence to better consider how these crimes affect male victims.



What you can do to support the Call for Evidence

Help us promote this Call for Evidence and encourage people to share their views and experience via the public survey. Please promote the public survey with messages in your social channels and internal channels.

Example messaging

The Government has launched a nationwide Call for Evidence from the public to inform its new strategy to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls. Share your views: [gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard](https://www.gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard)

Violence against women and girls can devastate lives. Help inform the Government's strategy to tackle these crimes by completing a short online form here: [gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard](https://www.gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard)

Be heard. The government has launched a nationwide survey to inform its new strategy to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls. Share your views: [gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard](https://www.gov.uk/homeoffice/VAWG-be-heard)

And please follow and help promote Home Office social media activity **#VAWGBeHeard**

This will include explainer videos and comments from:

- **The Home Secretary Priti Patel**
- **The Minister for Safeguarding and Vulnerable People Victoria Atkins**
- **The Independent Government Adviser on Tackling VAWG Nimco Ali OBE**

Plus, infographics and notifications alerting people:

- **To the survey and the need for as many people to share their views as possible**
- **To particular topics and issues raised in the survey**
- **To the closing deadline of 19th February 2021**

Support organisations for victims

Beyond the Streets

Beyond the Streets provides a confidential call back service for women who are involved in prostitution and want to explore possible alternatives. Telephone: **0800 133 7870** (call back service) **Email: support@beyondthestreets.org.uk**

Galop

Galop runs a specialist helpline for LGBT+ people who have experienced hate crime, domestic abuse or sexual violence. Telephone: **0800 999 5428** (Monday–Friday 10am–5pm, Wednesday–Thursday 10am–8pm) **Email: advice@galop.org.uk**

Karma Nirvana

Karma Nirvana support victims of so called 'honour-based' abuse and forced marriage. They operate a national helpline to support victims and professionals. Telephone: **0800 599 9247** (Monday–Friday 9am–5pm) **Email: info@karmanirvana.org.uk**

Male Survivors Partnership

The Male Survivors Partnership provides information and support to organisations working with male victims/survivors of sexual abuse, rape and sexual exploitation and provides male survivors themselves with a single point of reference to national and local support services. The National Male Survivors helpline is: **0808 800 5005** (Monday–Wednesday 9am–5pm, Thursday 8am–8pm, Friday 9am–5pm, Saturday 10am–2pm. There is also a text service and online chat function available via Safeline: **<https://www.safeline.org.uk/contact-us/>**

ManKind Initiative

Mankind offer support to male victims of domestic abuse. Their helpline provides both emotional support and practical information. Telephone: **01823 334 244** (Monday–Friday 10am–4pm).

Support organisations for victims

NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood)

NAPAC offers support to adult survivors of all types of childhood abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect. They offer a range of resources for survivors, as well as those who care for and work with them. Telephone: **0808 801 0331** (Monday–Thursday 10am–9pm and Friday 10am–6pm) **Email: support@napac.org.uk**

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by Refuge)

Refuge’s National Domestic Abuse Helpline provides free, confidential support 24 hours a day to victims of domestic abuse and those who are worried about friends or loved ones. Telephone: **0808 2000 247** (24 hours a day) Email (via website): **<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/Contact-us>**

NSPCC / Childline

The NSPCC helpline is staffed by trained professionals who can provide expert advice and support. If you are concerned about a child, if you’re a parent or carer looking for advice, or if you’re a professional in need of information and guidance. Whatever your worry – call the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**, email, or submit the online form. They also have advice about spotting the signs of abuse. You can call Monday to Friday 8am – 10pm or 9am – 6pm at the weekends. It’s free and you don’t have to say who you are. Website– **<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>**

Childline offers free, confidential advice and support whatever your worry, whenever you need help. Counsellors are available to talk to by calling **0800 1111** or via 121 chat between 7.30am and 3.30am every day. Website– **<https://www.childline.org.uk/>**

Support organisations for victims

Rape Crisis England and Wales

Rape Crisis Centres provide specialist support and services to women and girls who have experienced sexual violence. The Rape Crisis National Helpline offers free, confidential emotional support and information. Telephone: **0808 802 9999** (every day between 12–2.30pm and 7–9.30pm) Rape Crisis Live Chat: Live Chat is a free, text-based support service. For more information please go to <https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/want-to-talk/>

Respect

Respect is a domestic abuse organisation which runs a confidential helpline for men and women who are harming their partners and families, as well as a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. Respect Phoneline: Telephone: **0808 802 4040** (Monday–Friday 9am–8pm) **Email: info@respectphoneline.org.uk** Men's Advice Line: Telephone: **0808 8010 327** (Monday–Friday 9am–8pm) **Email: info@mensadviceline.org.uk**

Revenge Porn Helpline

The helpline is a UK service supporting adults (aged 18+) who are experiencing intimate image abuse, also known as, revenge porn. Due to concerns around the Coronavirus outbreak, the Helpline will be operating an email only service for the time being, therefore voicemail messages may not be responded to immediately. Please contact by email on **help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk**: open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

Support organisations for victims

National Male Survivors– Safeline

Safeline's National Male Survivor Helpline is a dedicated service for men and boys in England and Wales affected by rape or sexual abuse and those that support them such as friends and family. Telephone: **0808 800 5005** (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am–5pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8am–8pm and Saturday 10am–2pm) Email (via website): <https://www.safeline.org.uk/contact-us/>

Southall Black Sisters

Southall Black Sisters specialise in domestic and gender related violence, including forced marriage and 'honour-based' abuse. They provide specialist advice, information, casework, advocacy, counselling and self-help support services in several languages.

Telephone: **0208 571 9595** (Monday to Friday from 9–5pm)

Email (via website): <https://southallblacksisters.org.uk/contact-us/>

Stay Safe East

Stay Safe East provides specialist and holistic advocacy and support services to disabled people who are victims and survivors of domestic or sexual violence. Telephone: **0208 519 7241** Email: enquiries@staysafe-east.org.uk

SignHealth

Provides domestic abuse support for deaf people in British Sign Language (BSL). Website: <https://signhealth.org.uk> Telephone **0203 947 2601** Email: da@signhealth.org.uk Text, WhatsApp, Facetime: **07970 350366**

Support organisations for victims

National Male Support Service- SurvivorsUK

SurvivorsUK support men, boys, trans and nonbinary survivors of sexual violence. They offer one to one counselling, ISVA services, and an online helpline. Website: <https://www.survivorsuk.org> (Monday–Sunday 12pm–8pm) **Email: info@survivorsuk.org**

Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Suzy Lamplugh Trust run the National Stalking Helpline, which gives practical information, support, and advice to victims of stalking, their friends, family, and professionals working with victims. Telephone: **0808 802 0300** (9:30am–4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 1pm–4pm Wednesday) Email (via website): <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/forms/national-stalking-helpline-enquiry-form>

The Survivors Trust

The Survivors Trust provides confidential information, advice and support for people who have experienced rape and sexual violence. Telephone: **0808 801 0818** (Monday–Friday: 10am–8:30pm, Saturday from 10am–12:30pm, 1:30pm–4:30pm and 6pm–8:30pm and Sunday from 1:30pm–4:30pm and 6pm–8:30pm) **Email: info@thesurvivorstrust.org** Site: <https://www.thesurvivorstrust.org>

Women's Aid

Women's Aid provides support for women who are experiencing or have experienced physical, mental, sexual or domestic violence or abuse. Live Web Chat: <https://chat.womensaid.org.uk/> (Monday to Friday 10am–4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am–12pm) **Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk**

Support organisations for victims

Bawso (Wales)

Bawso is an all Wales voluntary organisation providing specialist services to black and minority ethnic (BME) women and children made homeless through domestic abuse. Bawso's work extends to providing support to BME women confronted with forced marriage, FGM and so called 'honour-based' abuse.

Telephone: **0800 7318147** (24hr)

Email: **info@bawso.org.uk**

Dyn Wales Helpline

The Safer Wales Dyn Helpline provides free confidential support to men who experience domestic abuse in Wales.

Telephone: **0808 801 0321** (Monday and Tuesday 10–4pm, Wednesday 10–1pm)

Email: **support@dynwales.org**



Home Office

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