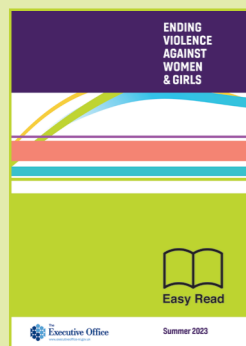


ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS



Easy Read

Contents



This is an easy read version of the plan to end violence against women and girls.

We want to hear what you think about our plan.

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

There is something everyone can do.



Help and Support

If you or someone you know has been affected by any form of violence, you can seek help from:

The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline at any time free of charge by:

- Phone: **0808 802 1414**
- Email: help@dsahelpline.org

If you are in danger right now you should call 999.

If it is difficult for you to talk when you call 999, you can press 55 on the phone to let the police know it is an emergency.

Other help and support can be found in our main document.

Key Terms

Words in bold like this are in a list of definitions at the end of this document.



Links

Words and terms highlighted like [this](#) link to the website.



A plan to end violence against women and girls

This is a plan (called a **strategic framework**) which explains how together we can end all the different types of **violence, abuse** and **harm** against women and girls.



Why do we need a plan to end violence against women and girls?

Violence against women and girls is a big problem. It is one of the most important **human rights** issues in the world today.

Violence against women and girls can happen anywhere. It can happen at home, at school, in our communities, at work and online for example on social media.

Violence against women and girls affects how they live their lives every day. For example, they might change the route they use to walk home, or avoid social media.

Women and girls are more likely to be victims of **gender based violence** than men.

We know that most women and girls in our communities have suffered at least one kind of violence, abuse or harm in their lives. This has a big impact on their lives, our communities and how we live together.



There are some groups of women and girls that may experience more violence. They may find it harder to get help or get justice because of the **barriers** and **discrimination** they face.

This includes women and girls who are deaf and disabled, **LGBTQIA+**, from a different culture or background, in care, older women, those who rely on others for financial support, homeless, suffering from addiction, or living in a rural area which is outside a town or city and makes it harder to get help.



In order to solve this problem we all need to work together. There is something all of us can do to end violence against women and girls.



How big is the problem?

We don't know enough about the different types of violence, abuse and harm that takes place, and what the impact of this is on the lives of women and girls, their families and communities. The collection of this information is one of the things that this plan will do better.

Here is something of what we know.



42 women

across our society have been murdered over the last decade - that is 1 every 3 months

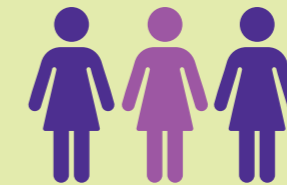
98 out of 100 adult women

have experienced at least one form of **gender-based violence** or abuse in their lives



75 out of 100 girls aged 16

who took part in a survey had experienced street harassment at least one time during their lives



1 out of every 3 women

in the world will experience physical violence or sexual violence or both during their lives



1 out of 2 girls aged 16

have received an unwanted intimate photo or video at least one time during their lives

What is violence against women and girls?

Violence against women and girls includes any type of violence, abuse and harm that is done to women and girls because they are women and girls. It includes:

EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

Is when someone says or does something that scares you, confuses you or makes you feel bad about yourself. It is also called emotional abuse.



HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Which are sexual behaviours carried out by children and young people and which are harmful to themselves or others.



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Is when someone makes sexual comments about another person or touches them sexually without their consent.



STALKING

Is when someone won't leave you alone or doesn't respect your privacy. This can happen in person or by using technology.



PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Is when someone hurts your body on purpose. It is also called physical abuse.



FINANCIAL ABUSE

Is when someone controls your money.



So called HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE

Is where violence or abuse may be linked to beliefs that a family or community has about respect.



ONLINE VIOLENCE

Is when someone is violent or abusive to you on the internet or social media.



COERCIVE CONTROL

Is when someone uses controlling behaviour so that the victim is frightened or made to do things they don't want.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Is when someone forces you to do something sexual without your consent or agreement. It is also called sexual abuse.



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Is when someone makes a person do sexual acts for drugs, food, money or a place to stay.



DOMESTIC ABUSE

Is when someone uses violence or threats to scare their partner or another family member that they live with. They do this to harm, punish, frighten and control them.



EVERY DAY HARM

Includes bad attitudes and beliefs about women and girls, sexual jokes and language, street harassment and when you are treated badly or unfairly because you are a woman or girl.



What causes violence against women and girls?

Negative **culture, attitudes and beliefs** that exist in our community that see and treat women and girls differently to men and boys. This means that life for women and girls is more difficult and they don't feel safe.

These attitudes and beliefs can lead to behaviours which harm women and girls and also make violence more likely to happen and be accepted.

By changing these attitudes, beliefs and behaviours we can stop the violence taking place.



What about Men and Boys?

Men and boys have a very important role to play to change bad attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls. They can set a good example and be great role models for other men and boys to follow.

They can do this by treating women and girls equally and with respect, pointing out bad behaviour by others and having good relationships with women and girls in their lives.



What did the Government decide?

A group of people from different backgrounds who have lots of different experience, should work together to make a plan to end violence against women and girls.

They decided that the best way to help stop the violence, abuse and harm is to focus on what causes it.



Our vision is a society that is free from all forms of violence, abuse and harm against women and girls.

The vision is what we want to achieve or see happen in the future.

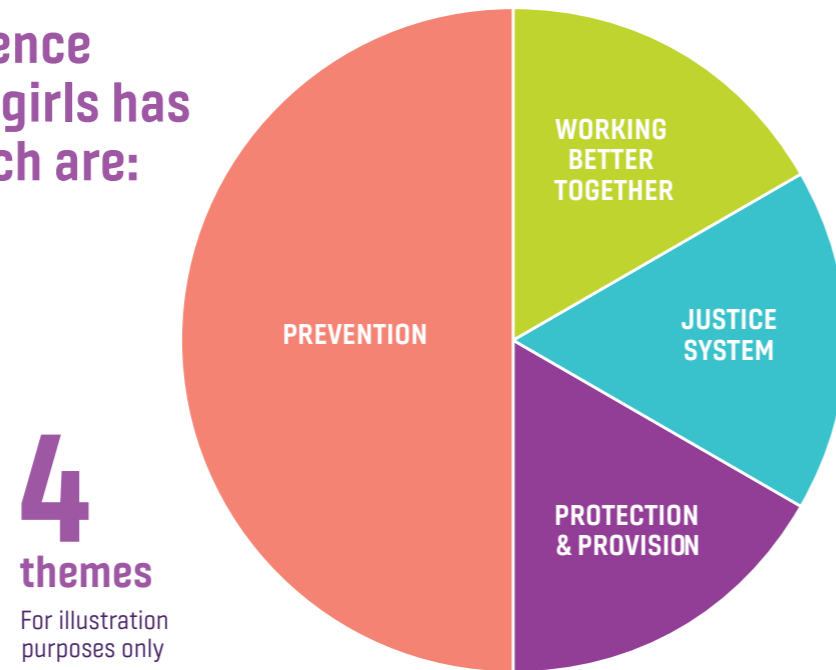
This is our vision, does this work?

Yes No Don't know

What do you think?

Empty text box for user input.

The plan to end violence against women and girls has 4 main themes, which are:



There are 6 big changes we need to end violence against women and girls

Prevention

- 1 Everyone in our community understands what violence against women and girls is, and works together to stop it
- 2 Everyone in our community is able to form healthy and respectful relationships
- 3 Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere



This might include teaching children, parents and carers to be more kind to each other

Protection and Provision

- 4 Women and girls who experience violence are well looked after by support systems



Support systems are people and organisations who can listen and provide care for women and girls

The Justice System

- 5 The community trusts the justice system to help women and girls who are **victims** of violence against them



This is the group of people responsible for the law e.g. police, judges etc.

Working better together

- 6 All organisations and government should work together to end violence against women and girls



This is about talking to each other and sharing ideas.

Do you think these changes will work to end violence, abuse and harm against women and girls?

Yes No Don't know

Is there anything else you would like to add?



We have chosen to look at Prevention and focus our work on this area.

Prevention can stop violence from happening in the first place. Prevention activities include education and campaigns, and making places like our parks, and public transport safer.

If we do more prevention, will this help to end violence, abuse and harm against women and girls?

Yes No Don't know

Is there anything else you would like to add?



How will the plan turn into action?

We need everyone to work together so that over time changes will happen.

Lots of people, groups and organisations will be involved in turning this plan into action including sport clubs, faith groups, businesses, schools, universities, youth groups, local government, places where we socialise and transport providers, everyone has a role to play.

There is an action plan which lists the things we can do to start to make these changes happen.

By preventing violence we can make a future that is safe for all women and girls. We can make it more respectful and equal for everyone.

There is something everyone can do. Let's get started.

Do you have anything else to add?

Key Terms

Throughout the document you will see certain words and terms highlighted like **this**. Here are explanations of those terms.



Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.



A **barrier** is something that blocks you from getting something you need.



Consent is when you say it is ok for someone to do something.



In this plan **culture, attitudes, and beliefs** means negative ways of thinking about how women and girls should live, behave and be treated.

These attitudes and beliefs have become normal in our society and are part of our culture. They are also called social norms and expectations.



Discrimination is when people treat you badly because you are different to them.



Gender Based Violence is violence, abuse or harm that is done to someone because of their gender.



Harassment is behaviour that upsets or frightens another person or makes them feel stupid.



Harm is a term used to describe physical or emotional ill-treatment which frightens, upsets or affects the development of an adult or child.



Human Rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world. Human rights are there to protect everyone.



LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more.



A **Strategic Framework** is a plan that explains how we will make changes in our communities over a long time.



In this plan, a **victim** means someone who has been affected by any of the types of violence abuse and harm against women and girls.

Thank you for taking part in this survey

Your answers will help the Executive Office decide on the final plan.

We need your answers back by **Tuesday 3rd October 2023**.

You can send your response to us:

By e-mail: EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Or by post:

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate,
A5.18, The Executive Office
Castle Buildings,
Stormont Estate,
Belfast BT4 3SR

EASY READ

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS



EVAWG@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk
www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls