



Violence Against Women

“Violence against women in all its forms is a human rights violation. It's not something that any culture, religion or tradition propagates.”

Michelle Bachelet (Former President of Chile)

There are many myths and assumptions surrounding violence against women, that not only prevent effective and robust responses to perpetrators, but also reduce the opportunity for women to “identify, avoid and escape” (Wise Women) such violence and abuse.

In the period 2017/18 in Scotland, convictions of abusers tried in court dropped to 39%, the lowest conviction rate since 2008/09. Four years after the publication of the Scottish Government’s Equally Safe Strategy, millions of pounds allocated to violence against women services and the emergence of social movements, such as the #metoo campaign, women and children, (43% of those successful convictions were crimes against under 18s), were failed once again by the court system.

In line with International law, the Scottish Government has recognised violence against women and girls as an equality issue. In 2016/17, 79% of those experiencing domestic violence, rape and sexual assault were women. Of the men affected by these crimes, the vast majority of the perpetrators were also male. Violence against women and girls is not just a gendered crime because women and girls are at higher risk of this violence and abuse, but because the vast majority of abusers are male, 92% convicted of domestic abuse are male, regardless of sex of those abused.

The impact on women’s lives can be extremely debilitating. Fear, shame and guilt all impact on women’s ability to overcome their experiences. This can make them vulnerable to targeting by other abusers. 96% of women accessing Wise Women had experienced more than one form of violence against women.

For other women strong social networks, the right kind of support and the opportunity to use their experiences positively for others, taking forward a “Survivor’s Mission” (Judith Herman, Trauma and Recovery), can change their understanding of their experiences and allow them to overcome the impact of violence and abuse in their lives.

Wise Women provides services for women from across communities, regardless of their experience of violence and abuse, however 94% of those attending services report having experienced this at some point in their lives. Wise Women strive to provide a variety of opportunities to support women in their recovery and ensure their voices are heard to influence the development of services across Scotland.

In the period 2016 / 17

- 59,541 reported incidents of Domestic Abuse.
- 4821 reported incidents of sexual assault.
- 1878 attempted / rapes reported.
- There were 5105 reported incidents in Honour Based Crime across the UK in 2015.

EVENT RESULTS

THEME: Abuse and violence in the home, on the streets, in the workplace, in the name of honour or as a weapon of war are often part of women's daily lives and sadly, often accepted and expected as a part of women's lives.

This Summary outlines women's discussions, ideas and opinions on how we can address and challenge issues surrounding Violence Against Women.

PARTICIPANTS: Total of 106 women from local communities, representing a wide range of backgrounds, identified 105 actions, over 3 sessions. **(02.02.10 / 21.11.12 / 18.11.15)**

TOP FIVE PRIORITIES VOTED BY PARTICIPANTS (NUMBER OF VOTES)

2 nd February 2010	21 st November 2012	18 th November 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we make perpetrators more visible and answerable? 21 votes • Open Space event specifically for young people/women. 18 votes • Immigration training for people so they understand what to do if they have a woman with no rights. 17 votes • More HR information – individuals and groups. Training to raise awareness (Human rights – violence against women). 17 votes • Recognition of experience based learning and developing services to accommodate this. No hierarchy or them and us attitudes. 15 votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review criminal justice system and sentencing. 38 votes • Totally independent enquiry (body of experts) into any major establishments, who have been colluding in covering up. Establishments such as religious care homes, police, judiciary, government, NHS, BBC, - Leading to prosecutions. 27 votes • Education in schools about self-worth, assertiveness training. Healthy relationships, what marriage actually is and legal rights. 21 votes • Stop looking at dead offenders. Look at /for perpetrators who are currently abusing children now. 19 votes • Stop cuts to women's organisations and projects who can help women. 19 votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More funding to support groups like women's aid/rape crisis. Raise awareness. 29 votes • Recruit more females to support victims within the CJS. 21 votes • Set up more safe havens for kids in the form of youth groups, after school clubs, to escape from it and build up a strong confidential relationship to support them. 20 votes • Re-instate full access to Legal Aid. 19 votes • Campaign for re-instatement and increase of benefits that directly assist women. 19 votes

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RESULTS

2 nd February 2010	21 st November 2012	18 th November 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education/Awareness/Consultation. 136 votes • Training. 55 votes • Campaigning/Lobbying. 31 votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal change/institutional change or action. 158 votes • Education/Awareness raising. 83 votes • Individual action/mindset change. 28 votes • Campaigning/Lobbying . 26 votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised action. 94 votes • Education/Training/Awareness raising. 89 votes • Individual action/mind-set change. 52 votes • Structural change. 32 votes

DETAILED RESULTS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

2 nd February 2010	21 st November 2012	18 th November 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we make perpetrators more visible and answerable? 21 votes • Open Space event specifically for young people/women. 18 votes • More HR information – individuals and groups. Training to raise awareness. 17 votes • Immigration training for people so they understand what to do if they have a woman with no rights. 17 votes • Recognition of experience based learning and development services to accommodate this. No hierarchy – them and us attitude. 15 votes • Challenge/boycott the media moguls i.e. images of women/good male role models. 14 votes • Proactive preventative work from young age – individual add on. 13 votes • Ongoing training for personnel at court – expand dedicated domestic abuse court. 13 votes • Services need to address role/impact of unpaid workers. Consult with services users re: this. Record findings and use to target funding. 11 votes • Action document on human rights. 10 votes • Contact councillor/SMP and complain. 10 votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review criminal justice system and sentencing. 38 votes • Totally independent enquiry (body of experts) into any major establishments, who have been colluding in covering up. Establishments such as religious care homes, police, judiciary, government , NHS, BBC, - Leading to prosecutions. 27 votes • Education in schools about self-worth, assertiveness training. Healthy relationships, what marriage actually is and legal rights. 21 votes • Stop cuts to women’s organisations and projects who can help women. 19 votes • Stop looking at dead offenders. Look at /for perpetrators who are currently abusing children now. 19 votes • Compulsory English classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Takes decision away from controlling partner/family ○ Empower women through education ○ Reduces isolation/access to help and support. 16 votes • Trafficking has to be attended to internationally. UN law to effect this change. 15 votes • Monitoring sites where trafficking thrives. Choosing and being careful on social sites. Holding these institutions responsible. A law to put women’s rights first before men’s pleasure – as regards prostitution being legal. Equal access to jobs, welfare etc. would help reduce the menace. 13 votes • Activate law reforms to thoroughly check on traffickers. Make more stringent laws on trafficking – just like security. 12 votes • Better information provision from NHS, UKBA and schools and grassroots level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FGM discussed in schools and antenatal care ○ UKBA to provide information on support services and D.V. concession. 11 votes • Make our religious leaders accountable. 11 votes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More funding to support groups like women’s aid/rape crisis. Raise awareness. 22 votes • Recruit more females to support victims within the CJS. 21 votes • Build up a strong confidential relationship to support them. 20 votes • Campaign for re-instatement and increase of benefits that directly assist women. 19 votes • Re-instate full access to Legal aid. 19 votes • Empowering all women. 18 votes • Education – exploring myths surrounding rape e.g. going into schools) Defining what ‘rape’ actually is. Challenging false perceptions of individual adult’s e.g. honest adverts about what rape is. Raise awareness of third party reporting. 16 votes • More education from an early age and for men and women. 13 votes • More safeguards surrounding porn sites and access to them. Have organisations like Rape Crisis or Wise Women educate young people, the dangerous effects of porn. 12 votes • Educate in schools about violence on social media. Teach them the effects that can happen, the consequences of what happens – once online, always online. 12 votes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To take the onus of responsibility from the victim to the perpetrator. 10 votes	
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