



END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Deeds or Words?

**Analysis of Westminster Government action to
prevent violence against women and girls**

End Violence Against Women Coalition

About the End Violence Against Women Coalition

The End Violence Against Women (EVAW) Coalition campaigns for governments at all levels around the UK to take urgent action to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. We are the largest coalition of its kind in the UK representing over seven million individuals and organisations. A full list of members is on our website.

Acknowledgments

A wholehearted thanks to all the members of EVAW, the EVAW Prevention Network and the EVAW Board who contributed their time and expertise to this report, in particular Liz Kelly, Marai Larasi and Janet Veitch. We are grateful to Comic Relief for its generous support of this project and to Amnesty International UK for its support in hosting EVAW.

Report authors

Holly Dustin, EVAW Director

Holly Shepherd, Prevention Coordinator

Other EVAW staff

Sarah Green, Communications and Campaigns Manager

Ruth Mason, Business Manager

EVAW Co-Chairs

Professor Liz Kelly, CBE and Marai Larasi, MBE

EVAW relies on the generous support of individuals and charitable trusts to fulfil our objectives to achieve a vision of a world without violence against women and girls. If you share our vision and would like to support our important work, then please make a donation by visiting: www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk

Deeds or Words? Analysis of Westminster Government action to prevent violence against women and girls

Published by the End Violence Against Women Coalition

Copyright © End Violence Against Women March 2013

ISBN 978-0-9558609-6-6

End Violence Against Women
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Methodology	6
Analysis against ten key areas of action	7
EVAW Priorities:	
1 Develop and implement a cross-governmental gender equality strategy	7
2 Ensure universal delivery of a ‘whole school approach’ to prevent violence against women and girls across the primary and secondary education system	9
3 Ensure funding for specialist VAWG services to deliver prevention interventions	12
4 Invest in research, monitoring and evaluation of prevention interventions . .	14
5 Produce long-term, targeted and evidence-based public awareness campaigns	15
6 Facilitate and fund community mobilisation to challenge VAWG	17
7 Promote leadership at all levels to champion gender equality.	20
8 Tackle the sexualisation of women and girls in media and popular culture. .	21
9 Commission the voluntary VAWG sector to deliver quality training on violence against women and girls to a range of agencies as part of vocational qualifications and ongoing professional development	24
10 Target interventions to ensure prevention of violence against women and girls addresses intersections of gender with other social inequalities such as race, disability, socio-economic status, age, sexuality and gender identity	25
Conclusions and Recommendations	27
A Programme of Work to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (Westminster Government)	29
Appendix A Letter to the Home Secretary	31
Appendix B Letter from the Home Office	32
Appendix C Organisational members of EVAW’s Prevention Network	35

Introduction

Globally, as well as here in the UK, we have witnessed a ‘watershed moment’¹ in our understanding of the extent and impact of violence against women and girls. Far from being just a problem that other countries face, it is clear from ongoing abuse scandals that this is a huge problem on our own doorstep. Cases involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of girls by groups of older men in towns across England², and the ongoing revelations related to Jimmy Savile’s prolific sexual offending have lifted the lid on a problem that, like Savile’s own abuse, has been ‘hidden in plain view’. Internationally, the brutal group rape and murder of Jyoti Singh Pandey in Delhi in December 2012 and the repeated rape of an unconscious female student by her peers in Steubenville, Ohio in August 2012, show us that this is a universal problem, which may manifest itself in different ways across contexts, continents and cultures but is, at its core, still fundamentally about violence against women and girls (VAWG).

VAWG is recognised globally as a human rights violation and the United Nations’ UNITE campaign³ prioritises action to end VAWG. The UK has various international obligations to prevent VAWG before it happens, including under the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into domestic law under the Human Rights Act), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and most recently the Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (which the UK has signed but not yet ratified). It has an obligation to change attitudes, cultures and stereotypes that perpetuate gender inequality under both CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action. Further, in 2010 the United Nations Human Rights Council, of which the UK is a member, adopted a resolution entitled, ‘Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in prevention’ which urges governments to adopt a series of comprehensive measures aimed at preventing violence against women. Domestically, there is child protection legislation and the Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies to take steps to promote equality between women and men which should include action to prevent VAWG.

As elsewhere in the world, women’s groups in the UK have a proud history of campaigning for governments to take action on VAWG. Women’s groups and others came together to form the End Violence Against Women Coalition in 2005 to campaign for more strategic and integrated approaches to all forms of violence against women and girls around the UK and for governments to comply with international and domestic obligations. At the time that EVAW was established, the Scottish Executive (now Government) was the only national government taking steps towards a more strategic approach to VAWG. However, as a result of our members’

1 http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/articles/the_criminal_justice_response_to_child_sexual_abuse_-_time_for_a_national_consensus/

2 “I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world” The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups Interim report November 2012 http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_636

3 <http://endviolence.un.org/>

evidence-based and authoritative campaigning, there are now VAWG strategies in Wales, Westminster, London and several local areas.

In Westminster, there is cross-party commitment to the VAWG strategy, *Call to end violence against women and girls*⁴, which is based on the principles of equality and human rights. The strategy is led by the Home Office and championed by the Home Secretary who chairs a cross-government Inter-Ministerial Group on VAWG and there are regular VAWG stakeholder meetings. The strategy has four principal goals, the first of which is to “prevent such violence from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it”.⁵ Like the first VAWG strategy published in 2009, this marks a critical shift away from previous policies on specific forms of VAWG which were siloed and focused on reactive responses once violence had happened. We have historically lacked an overall vision of a world where women and girls could be safe and a plan to ensure that all survivors have access to specialised women-led support services.

Call to end violence against women and girls was published in November 2010 to mark UN Elimination of Violence Against Women Day (25th November) and VAWG Action Plans have been published annually to mark International Women's Day on 8th March. Two years on from the first Action Plan, our expert members decided the time was right to carry out an audit and analysis of the action that has been taken so far to deliver against the goal of preventing VAWG. We have considered government work on primary prevention in the domestic context, i.e. preventing VAWG before it happens, against the ten key areas for action set out in *A Different World is Possible*, our 2011 report on preventing VAWG, developed with our network of prevention experts.⁶

We recognise that work on VAWG prevention is being carried out in the broader political context of a Coalition Government that is pursuing a localism agenda, with implications for centrally driven policymaking. In recognition of this new landscape, EVAW launched its **Schools Safe 4 Girls** campaign⁷ in the autumn of 2012 to encourage parents, students and local activists to work with their local schools to ensure that VAWG and gender equality is addressed throughout the curriculum and in all relevant policies. The Labour Party has responded by committing to making Sex and Relationships Education compulsory⁸ and there is some cross-party support for this approach.

Internationally, there is high level interest in the prevention agenda. The 57th Commission on the Status of Women has just concluded as we publish this report with the theme being VAWG prevention. Our Co-Chair and Imkaan Executive Director Marai Larasi was a member of the expert group that has recommended⁹ a global implementation plan to end VAWG, alongside a global advocacy campaign.

4 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/>

5 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-paper?view=Binary>

6 http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/19/a_different_world_is_possible_report_email_version.pdf

7 <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/education>

8 <http://www.labour.org.uk/yvette-cooper-speech-to-labour-party-annual-conference-2012,2012-10-03>

9 <http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Report-of-the-EGM-on-Prevention-of-Violence-against-Women-and-Girls.pdf>

Methodology

In order to analyse action by the Westminster Government to deliver on its priority objective to prevent VAWG in the domestic context, we wrote to the Home Secretary on 7th August 2012 to inform her that we would be carrying out this work (Appendix A). We said that we would be reviewing the prevention initiatives, against the ten key areas of action set out in *A Different World is Possible*, within the strategy, accompanying action plans, and UK Government's 7th Periodic State Report to the UN CEDAW Committee. We requested any other documents or further evidence of action held by the Home Office or any other Government Department so that we could consider this in our analysis.

We received a response from the Home Office VAWG strategy team on 20th September 2012 (Appendix B). Although our request should have been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, we were disappointed that we did not receive any supporting documentation and that the response did not appear to comply with the Act.

The analysis and scoring was carried out by members of the Prevention Network. The Network includes expertise from across all areas of VAWG including sexual and domestic violence, child sexual abuse, sexualisation and violence that disproportionately impacts on Black and Minority Ethnic women and girls such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and 'honour' based violence. It includes frontline service providers, academics, NGOs and campaign organisations so draws on a breadth of expertise and knowledge from across different sectors.

The analysis considered the evidence/documentation we had against each of the ten areas for action set out in *A Different World is Possible*, with a scoring range of 0-10: giving each area a score out of ten. Where we knew that work was taking place to prevent VAWG but had no evidence, we have tried to include this, however, we relied primarily on the published documents and the information disclosed under the Freedom of Information request. We gave a score in each section, 0-3 where there was little evidence of work being carried out, 4-6 where there was some evidence, and 7-10 for strong evidence. The score was particularly low where there was evidence of regression in action to prevent VAWG.

Westminster government's overall score of action to prevent VAWG = 24 out of 100

In the sections that follow we examine each of the ten areas of action in more depth, explaining the scoring and assessment process.

Analysis against ten key areas of action:

EVAW Priority 1: Develop and implement a cross-governmental gender equality strategy

- Women are three and a half times more likely to be subject to domestic violence if they find it impossible to find £100 at short notice.¹⁰
- Thirty-one percent of the funding to the domestic violence and sexual abuse sector from local authorities was cut between 2010/11 to 2011/12, a reduction from £7.8 million to £5.4 million.¹¹
- Around one in twenty survivors of domestic violence and serious sexual assault attempt suicide.¹²

The points above show some of the links between VAWG and women's poverty, ill-health and lack of voice, and there is much evidence to demonstrate that VAWG is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. Women's increased representation in Parliament, and over successive governments, has had a clear impact on policy-making on VAWG; for instance, there had never been an All Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence before the large influx of women MPs into Parliament after the 1997 General Election. Therefore the prevention of violence needs to be located in an overarching gender equality strategy. This must include coordinated actions across economic, social, cultural and political life. Achieving substantive gender equality (that is, equality of outcomes) for women and men across social, cultural, economic and political life is critical to ending VAWG.

In order to report on the effectiveness of its policies, the Westminster Government should regularly measure progress on key indicators of gender inequality including the gender pay gap, the gender division of paid and unpaid work, women's representation in public decision-making, as well as the level of public spending to end violence against women and girls. We would also like Government to establish an Independent Observatory, in partnership with the VAWG specialist sector, to monitor the implementation of policy and law, as well as the regional and global human rights standards to which the UK government is a party (see Introduction).

Analysis of Government Progress

We welcome the appointment of Ministers for Women and Equalities and a Cabinet-level lead on Women and Equalities. We also welcome the Government Equality Strategy, *Building a Fairer Britain*.¹³ This is not, however, a specific Gender Equality Strategy and does not set out a long-term or comprehensive plan to address women's inequality in

¹⁰ Walby S., and Allen J., 2004. *Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey*. London: Home Office.

¹¹ J Towers and S Walby, *Measuring the impact of cuts in public expenditure on the provision of services to prevent violence against women and girls*, Northern Rock Foundation, Trust for London, Lancaster University, 2012

¹² *Protecting People, Promoting Health* Department of Health <https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2012/11/Violence-prevention.pdf>

¹³ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/equality-strategy-publications/equality-strategy/>

the round, and is particularly weak with respect to women who experience multiple forms of disadvantage. Moreover, VAWG as a cause and consequence of women's inequality is not embedded in the Equality Strategy which, in turn, is not linked to the Government's VAWG strategy, *Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls* and Action Plans.¹⁴ Similarly, it is disappointing that other government work relevant to VAWG is not more clearly connected, such as the *Ending Gang and Youth Violence*¹⁵ reports and the Troubled Families agenda. We note that there is little or no work of substance on other related equality areas such as race or disability.

We are also disappointed that the delivery machinery that supports the Equality Strategy has been weakened or removed altogether in some cases and this is a matter that the UN has raised with the UK Government.¹⁶ Examples of this include the loss of the Women's National Commission, the Equality and Human Rights Commission's funding and remit being significantly reduced, the Government Equalities Office being downsized and taken into the Home Office (now moved to the Department for Culture Media and Sport), the loss of Regional Development Agencies and regional offices, the loss of the Public Service Agreement on Equality and the proposed weakening of the Public Sector Equality Duty and Equality Act 2010. We are also disappointed in Government's intention to undertake less disaggregation of data. The Government has been warned repeatedly that these moves will undermine the good work that is taking place to address VAWG, and will mean a loss of transparency that will make it more difficult for the public to hold government and statutory bodies to account for their work on VAWG.

We were pleased that the Government signed the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. This needs to be swiftly followed by ratification and implementation.

Score: 2/10

Key recommendation: Establish an Independent Observatory on violence against women and girls in the UK

¹⁴ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-paper>

¹⁵ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/ending-gang-violence/>

¹⁶ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/55/CEDAW-C-GBR-Q-7.pdf>

EVAW Priority 2: Ensure universal delivery of a ‘whole school approach’ to prevent violence against women and girls across the primary and secondary education system

- Sexual bullying and harassment are routine in UK schools. Almost one in three 16-18 year-old girls has experienced ‘groping’ or other unwanted sexual touching at school (YouGov).
- One in three teenage girls has experienced sexual violence from their boyfriend (NSPCC).
- Over 20,000 girls under 15 are at high risk of female genital mutilation in England and Wales each year (Forward). The risk is highest for those in primary school.

Education policy needs to address two inter-related factors; attitudes to gender and to VAWG are formed early, and young people are particularly at risk of specific forms of VAWG. Therefore schools, educational institutions and other youth settings are critical, both for supporting young people at risk of, or experiencing abuse, as well as helping to shape healthy, equal and respectful attitudes and behaviours to prevent abuse in the first place. We believe that a ‘whole school approach’¹⁷ to preventing VAWG should be developed by all primary and secondary schools (including Academies and Pupil Referral Units) and that this model should also be adopted throughout further and higher education.

Individual schools have clear responsibility for safeguarding children, and the Secretary of State for Education retains overall responsibility for children’s welfare and safety, including protecting children from all forms of VAWG. VAWG should be explicitly included in relevant school policies, including bullying, behaviour, child protection and safeguarding. Schools, colleges and universities should be required to collect and report data on all forms of violence against young women and girls. There should be a statutory obligation on schools to address VAWG and gender equality in the curriculum, in particular in Personal Social Health and Economic education (PSHE), Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and Citizenship. The Department for Education’s VAWG Advisory Group recommended to Ministers, as part of the Review into PSHE, that work with young people should include teaching about sexual consent, respectful and equal relationships, tackling gender stereotypes, sexualisation and pornography, and this should be done from primary school age in an age-appropriate manner. The Department has since disbanded this advisory group.

Experts on violence against women and girls believe there must be clear communication, direction and guidance from central government, and specific leadership from the Department for Education, about how to respond to, and work to prevent, all forms of VAWG. The Department for Education should have an identified senior policy lead that is responsible for developing and implementing a department-wide action plan on VAWG; ensuring training is provided for teaching and non-teaching school staff and governors to increase awareness and build the skills to challenge VAWG and liaising with stakeholders in the VAWG sector and other experts.

17 *Freedom to Achieve: Preventing Violence, Promoting Equality: A Whole School Approach* Womankind 2010 http://www.womankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/WKREPORT_web-24-NOV-2010.pdf

Ofsted has recently announced that it will be inspecting schools for their work to tackle female genital mutilation (FGM); this should be extended to all schools (not only those that are deemed to be in high risk areas) and should also cover all forms of VAWG. A thematic inspection on schools in relation to how they address VAWG could help accelerate work in this area.

Analysis of Government Progress

In the evidence before us, including the Home Office's letter in response to our request, we were disappointed to find little work being carried out to implement a whole school approach to preventing VAWG across the education system in England. There have been a number of evaluated pilots of good practice but this work has been patchy and done without coordinating leadership from the Department for Education.

The Department for Education is considering including the teaching of sexual consent as part of PSHE which has been under review since 2011. Whilst welcome, a commitment to teaching sexual consent only is too narrow, bearing in mind the breadth of the issues affecting young people. A recent Probation Inspectorate report on boys' sexual offending found that in almost half of the cases the inspectorates looked at, the offenders had exhibited sexually harmful behaviour in the past that had been dismissed or written off by schools and other professionals.¹⁸ Whilst this does not prompt the kind of headlines as high profile offenders, the issues of failure to protect by institutions have parallels. It is also the case that where there are no sanctions, no messages about unacceptability, we are creating contexts of impunity. Without a strong steer from government, the patchy and inconsistent delivery of work to address VAWG may get worse, particularly as some schools remain under the control of the local authority, whilst Academies are now the direct responsibility of the Department.

We remain concerned that there is little stated expertise on VAWG within the Department since their VAWG Advisory Group was disbanded early in 2012 and this has been noted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.¹⁹ The Group had made a number of recommendations to the Department including making a submission to the PSHE Review, however very few of these recommendations were actioned. This is in contrast to other government departments, notably the Department for International Development which has recently announced the establishment of an expert group on women and girls.²⁰ There has also been a disappointing failure to discuss the Department's work to prevent sexual exploitation and other forms of VAWG in parliamentary debates nor have they regularly attended the Home Office-led Inter Ministerial Group and Stakeholder meetings on VAWG. We note that the Department is reducing its guidance on safeguarding which experts²¹ believe will undermine work to protect girls. This is taking place at a time when the sexual abuse and exploitation of girls is a matter of intense public debate and concern.

¹⁸ http://www.hmcpis.gov.uk/cjii/inspections/inspection_no/596/

¹⁹ http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/international/ehrc_cedaw_final_13-09-12.pdf

²⁰ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2013/women-girls-speech-mar13/>

²¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/social-care-network/2012/nov/09/child-protection-guidance-under-threat>

We are surprised and disappointed that the Department for Education has repeatedly failed to send the Home Office's ongoing *This is ABUSE* campaign, aimed at tackling abuse and rape in teen relationships, directly to schools. Leaving it to chance whether schools find out about this excellent initiative means they are less able to plan activities around the campaign and to be prepared to support children and young people who may disclose abuse. Previous forms of communication between the Department and schools have closed; there has been a move away from producing statutory guidance, Teachernet has been decommissioned, and the Training and Development Agency for Schools has been closed. Our experts also did not feel there was sufficient ongoing training on safeguarding around VAWG for teachers and staff.

We welcome the Department for Education's publication of a *Sexual Exploitation Action Plan*²² and joint work on sexualisation following the Bailey Review²³ with Number 10. However we are concerned that the work is not linked sufficiently to the Government's overarching *Call to End Violence Against Women Strategy* and Action Plans. We also regret that the work is not informed by a gender analysis, despite the fact that there is a great deal of evidence that these are gendered issues.

Schools have statutory obligations to prevent bullying, however recent advice²⁴ for headteachers, staff and governing bodies makes very little reference to gender-based bullying such as the scale, nature and impact of sexual harassment/bullying in schools or specialist organisations that can help. Furthermore, the advice states that schools do not have to record bullying incidents. This presents significant barriers to schools themselves, as well as Ofsted, in monitoring the effectiveness of their anti-bullying policies, and assessing prevalence, or whether children feel safe at school.

We warmly welcome work by the Department for International Development to tackle VAWG overseas. This includes the Theory of Change for Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls model²⁵, increased funding of research and innovation (including on VAWG prevention), and establishing an Expert Advisory Group on Women and Girls.²⁶ We believe that this approach should be consistently applied across government, and that VAWG prevention work in the UK should be similarly funded.

Score: 0/10

Key recommendation: The Department for Education and Home Office develop a programme of work on preventing violence against girls and young women

22 <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/a00200288/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation>

23 <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/CM%208078>

24 <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/p/preventing%20and%20tackling%20bullying%202012.pdf>

25 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/how-to-note-vawg-1.pdf>

26 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Speeches-and-statements/2013/Justine-Greening-A-renewed-focus-on-girls-and-womens-rights/>

EVAW Priority 3: Ensure funding for specialist VAWG services to deliver prevention interventions

- A global study has concluded that feminist movements hold the key to deep change on violence against women.²⁷
- Funding for VAWG prevention work in the UK is ad-hoc or non-existent.²⁸

There has been a plethora of initiatives to prevent violence and abuse; however they suffer from short-term funding and a lack of investment in outcome research. Sexual abuse, forced marriage, domestic violence and other forms of VAWG are deeply gendered problems which require a gendered response. A commitment to sustainable funding for specialist women's organisations to deliver this work is essential, otherwise it will forever be seen as a luxury or an add-on to the core work of supporting survivors. The Westminster Government should allocate dedicated and sustainable funding for VAWG organisations, including specific funding for independent BME women's groups, to design and implement prevention interventions. This should include funding for research and evaluation.

At present, it is only the innovative and forward thinking schools that directly commission and fund specialist VAWG organisations to carry out prevention work in schools. This must change so that all schools view this as an essential part of the community work they fund and deliver.

Dunraven School in South London works with arts organisation Tender to raise issues about domestic and sexual violence and promoting positive relationships through interactive workshops with the students as well as in teacher training. This has had a noticeable impact - on students' behaviour; on staff awareness and confidence in challenging difficult situations between students; and works to create a healthier learning environment.

Analysis of Government Progress

We were not informed by the Government of any central funding of prevention work, although we welcome centralised funding of some VAWG services including rape support services and note that funding of helplines²⁹ delivers secondary prevention work. The Home Office provides dedicated funding to improve services for young people at risk or victims of sexual violence and exploitation by gangs. However this is not specifically for prevention work and there is currently no secure, sustainable, universal provision for prevention work by VAWG services.

²⁷ 'The civic origins of progressive policy change: combating violence against women in a global perspective, 1975-2005', *American Political Science Review*, Volume 106, Issue 03, August 2012)
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?decade=2010&jid=PSR&volumeld=106&issuelid=03&iid=8675828>

²⁸ *A Different World is Possible: Promising practices to prevent violence against women and girls* End Violence Against Women 2011
http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/20/promising_practices_report_.pdf

²⁹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/vawg-funding/>

We warmly welcome the excellent local initiatives around the country. Some local areas are funding specialist women's groups to deliver VAWG work in schools. However, this is not being steered from central government, and there is no guidance to local authorities to commission VAWG prevention work. Children's safety, therefore, is a postcode lottery depending on how high this issue is on the local agenda, whether there is a local VAWG strategy, and a strong local women's sector to champion such work linking with concerned and aware parents.

Bristol has a city-wide action plan for addressing all forms of violence against women and girls. Bristol is one of the few cities to maintain levels of funding for VAWG services in the face of the current cuts to local authority budgets, recognising that savings made on paper to already under-resourced but vital services can only lead with immediate effect to increased financial and social cost. In the absence of clear guidance from national government, Bristol's strategic partners are developing a local programme, "The Bristol Ideal", which sets an expectation for all schools and early years settings in Bristol to educate staff and young people about safe, healthy and equal relationships as well as providing the information and resources to enable schools to meet the standard. Pilots have already shown excellent results, and research and monitoring is ongoing, providing a compelling evidence base. All schools and early years settings who meet the standard will be celebrated and recognised. It is hoped that the elements of the Bristol Ideal will be replaced in time by a national standard that ensures the basic right of all young people, wherever they live in the country, to know how to be safe and to flourish in their enjoyment of healthy, equal and respectful relationships.

The Government has promised a package of measures, including funding, to support the creation of a new criminal offence of forced marriage; however it is still unclear whether any of this will fund VAWG sector specialists to deliver prevention work. It is important to prevent a forced marriage occurring in the first place.

We note the contrast with VAWG prevention work overseas funded by the Department for International Development, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative.³⁰

Score: 1.5/10

Key recommendation: Home Office, Department for Education and interested Departments should set up a dedicated VAWG prevention fund

³⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-announces-uk-initiative-on-preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

EVAW Priority 4: Invest in research, monitoring and evaluation of prevention interventions

- Sweden's Crime Victim Fund directs ongoing funding for research on violence against women.³¹
- Innovative work in the UK to prevent violence against women and girls is carried out on a shoe-string budget and with no sustainable funding.³²

There has been little investment in research, monitoring or evaluation of prevention interventions and we believe the Home Office should lead in establishing a cross-government research programme to commission, collate, evaluate and disseminate research on good practice in prevention. One of the first tasks should be to carry out a mapping exercise of prevention interventions in England, including those funded by schools, police forces, local authorities and other public bodies, as well as initiatives in the women's sector.

The Home Office should carry out regular comprehensive surveys on attitudes towards all forms of VAWG, similar to the annual THINK! attitudes to road safety surveys,³³ and develop public campaigns based on the results. We note that there is very little evidence of prevalence of certain forms of VAWG including sexual harassment, female genital mutilation and forced marriage and would urge the Government to invest in research here.

Analysis of Government Progress

We welcome the work carried out to evaluate the Home Office's *This is ABUSE* teenage relationship abuse and teenage rape prevention campaigns³⁴. We are also pleased that the Crime Survey England and Wales now includes regular questions on attitudes to sexual violence which has produced important findings³⁵ for policymaking, and that work is developing on FGM prevalence. However beyond this, it is unclear what investment there has been in research, monitoring or evaluation of prevention interventions.

Score: 1/10

Key recommendation: The Home Office should lead a research programme on VAWG prevention interventions

31 <http://www.brottsoffermyndigheten.se/eng/crime-victim-fund>

32 http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/20/promising_practices_report_.pdf

33 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8087/think-annual-report-2011.pdf

34 <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>

35 <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime/stb-focus-on--violent-crime-and-sexual-offences-2011-12.html#tab-Attitudes-to-sexual-violence>

EVAW Priority 5: Produce long-term, targeted and evidence-based public awareness campaigns

- The annual budget for the Home Office's *This is ABUSE* campaign is approximately £2.2million.³⁶
- The Department for Transport's annual budget for its THINK! Road safety campaign is currently £4million, down from £18 million in 09/10.³⁷

Targeted public awareness campaigns have a critical role to play in tackling the factors that create a conducive environment for the perpetration of VAWG. We recommend long-term investment in evidence-based public awareness campaigns to tackle harmful attitudes and behaviours, learning from the successful approach to drink driving. Work should be developed in close collaboration with the specialist VAWG sector and should address all forms of violence against women and girls. It should target identified age groups and sections of the community, including Black and Minority Ethnic communities. There is an unfortunate history of public bodies producing campaigns that are based on myths and stereotypes and, for example, sending the wrong message by targeting the behaviour of potential victims, so it is important that campaigns do not perpetuate woman-blaming attitudes but are based on evidence about the causes of violence.³⁸ VAWG services should be supported and resourced to respond to increased referrals as a result of public awareness campaigns.

Analysis of Government Progress

We welcome the Home Office's prevention campaigns under the banner *This is ABUSE*, focusing on preventing emotional, physical and sexual violence in teenage relationships. These have been developed in consultation with the VAWG sector, targeting an identified audience and avoiding myths and stereotyping. They have been delivered over a sustained period of time using a variety of platforms (cinema, television, online) and have been evaluated. Other work includes an awareness campaign about Forced Marriage³⁹ by the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit in collaboration with VAWG experts. The Home Office has also produced a statement ('health passport') on FGM⁴⁰ for girls and young women to carry and take overseas which outlines that FGM is a crime and the harms it causes, and a film on FGM on the NHS Choices website.⁴¹

These campaigns have so far been mostly targeted at young people and other campaigns need to be developed to target both other sections of the community and

³⁶ Home Office

³⁷ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/68726/dft-F0009587.pdf

³⁸ See Model of Perpetration of Violence by Hagemann-White et al http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/daphne3/multi-level_interactive_model/understanding_perpetration_start_uinix.html

³⁹ <http://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage>

⁴⁰ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/FGM-declaration?view=Binary>

⁴¹ <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation/pages/introduction.aspx>

professionals. We would also like to see regular public service announcements, such as those on public health issues like smoking and similar, being made about sexual harassment, for example as they are on transport in Washington and other cities.⁴² This work needs to be far better coordinated, and integrated across all policy areas including education.

However there is widespread concern, both in the VAWG sector as well as the education sector, that there has not been a coordinated approach to dissemination of these campaigns and they may not have been distributed as widely as they could have been. In particular, schools and colleges were not directly informed about them and there appears to be a lack of cross-government support. This will have a negative impact on the effectiveness of such campaigns.

Score: 4/10

Key recommendation: The government should make a long-term commitment to campaigns to tackle all forms of violence against women with a ring-fenced budget, similar to the THINK! Road safety campaign

⁴² <http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/2012/06/28stations/>

EVAW Priority 6: Facilitate and fund community mobilisation to challenge VAWG

- Both adults and young people are most likely to tell a friend or family member about domestic and sexual violence they have experienced.
- Violence is too often normalised in social settings and communities.

Friends and families are often the first place a survivor turns to for support, meaning that communities are the 'first site of response' for women facing violence. However, misconceptions about violence, or prejudicial attitudes can mean that survivors do not tell anyone, or that those they tell feel uncertain how to intervene or respond.

Bell Bajao, which means 'ring the bell' in Hindi, is an Indian campaign to end domestic violence. It is an awareness-raising campaign which urges local residents, in particular boys and men to take a stand against domestic violence, calling on them to intervene if they witness abuse. The campaign features award-winning public service announcements which were broadcast through television, radio and mobile video vans. The campaign also made use of celebrity involvement and an interactive website where people could speak out about domestic violence, and ran a leadership training programme. To date the campaign has reached over 130 million people.

change. Initiatives such as 'bystander' work to build skills in intervening to challenge behaviour and opinions should be embraced. Innovative work is being carried out around the world including India, the USA and Scotland, offering models for the Government to draw on. It also offers the most fruitful strategy for changing norms that legitimise violence in majority and minority communities.

Empowering the community to take a stand against violence is critical for helping to address this. It is also critical for preventing VAWG, as the perpetrators' view of how their behaviour will be seen and dealt with by others influences their decisions to perpetrate violence.

Community mobilisation and leadership at a grassroots level is particularly important for changing attitudes and driving social

The Know-Your-Power™ social marketing campaign is a research project developed and evaluated by the Prevention Innovations department at the University of New Hampshire. The programme runs sessions with groups of university students to teach them how to intervene safely and effectively in cases where sexual assault or intimate partner violence may be occurring or where there may be risk. The groups then help design a poster campaign relevant to their campus to spread the messages more widely. The campaign is also fully evaluated with results demonstrating the efficacy of this program for increasing participants' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours about effective responses to relationship and sexual violence.

GET SAVI (Students Against Violence Initiative) training programme is coordinated by Scottish Women's Aid in collaboration with LGBT Youth, Rape Crisis Scotland, White Ribbon Scotland and Zero Tolerance. The programme aims to give silent bystanders the skills and confidence to stand up and speak out against all forms of gender based violence and abuse. It has been designed for students to use within their own college or university to challenge attitudes and empower bystanders so they can be part of a movement to end all forms of gender based violence. The programme is made up of different resources, presentations and session notes so that it can be picked up and worked with by anyone who wishes to use it. Scottish Women's Aid, in collaboration with NUS Scotland, recently trained a group of students as Get Savi ambassadors, peer educators to deliver the course in their own campus settings.

Analysis of Government Progress

A recently published study on violence against women found that the mobilisation of feminist movements was more significant in driving change on VAWG than the wealth of nations, which parties were in government or the number of women politicians.⁴³ Despite this, there is little evidence of recognition in funding and support for community mobilisation programmes. We note that there are existing initiatives available, such as the Big Society; however these are not being used at present.

Whilst the Home Office did not refer to this in their letter to us, we note that their Innovation Fund⁴⁴ has funded several local projects including Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum's 'Whole Community Approach' pilot project and Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre 'Young People Sexual Violence Prevention Programme'. However leaving this to local initiatives will not be enough to create real change consistently across the country. We also acknowledge that the Forced Marriage Unit has funded

'We Can' was a six-year, six-country South Asian Campaign to End All Violence which aimed to deal with violence against women in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The first phase of the campaign focussed on increasing awareness and the promotion of reflection on violence against women among individuals and groups. Public events were used for this to try and stimulate change at the personal level. Phase two of the campaign aimed to bring different groups and relevant sectors in the community together to build momentum to the process of change. It involved preparing community members to take a public stand and action on violence against women.

⁴³ <http://www.sfgate.com/business/prweb/article/largest-global-study-on-violence-against-women-3902792.php%23ixzz28zIHEoba>

⁴⁴ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/partnerships/innovation-fund/>

grassroots initiatives which are focussed on creating change at community level. This includes programmes which build capacity at community level to challenge attitudes and prevent forced marriages from happening, such as the peer mentoring programme run by Imkaan.

Score: 2.5/10

Key recommendation: The Government should establish a dedicated fund for community mobilisation work based on women's rights to tackle violence against women and girls

EVAW Priority 7: Promote leadership at all levels to champion gender equality

It is critical that leaders and role models at all levels take a public stand against all forms of violence against women and girls whilst promoting gender equality and respect for women. Men and boys have a critical role to play in sending consistent and powerful messages to peers and others about the importance and status of non-violence and gender equality, and that there is more than one way to be a man.

Analysis of Government Progress

The Home Secretary, Theresa May, leads the Home Office's VAWG Strategy at Cabinet level and the Prime Minister, David Cameron, has given his personal backing to action to tackle sexualisation, although it is disappointing that this work is not explicitly linked to the VAWG Strategy or rooted in the principle of women and children's rights. We also welcome international leadership on certain aspects of VAWG including Foreign Secretary William Hague's promotion of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, and International Development Secretary Justine Greening announcement that she will be bringing together donors in a high level event in Autumn 2013.⁴⁵ International Development Minister Lynne Featherstone has represented the UK at this years' Commission on the Status of Women in New York and championed action to prevent violence against women and girls around the globe.

The Prime Minister hosts occasional International Women's Day receptions, and signed the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence in June 2012, and this is awaiting ratification. We also welcome the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's promotion of the *This is ABUSE* campaign. The Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer has most clearly expressed an understanding of the 'watershed moment' we are in in relation to child sexual abuse and other violence against women and girls.

We would like to see leadership on VAWG prevention and gender equality across the rest of government, including from the Ministers for Education, Health and in the Treasury. We would like to see Ministers making links between VAWG and their own portfolios, and recognising the business case for investing in prevention. It would send a strong message for the Palace of Westminster and political parties to develop clear and robust mechanisms for responding to sexual harassment.

We, however, have to note that some of the government's messages and policies around the economy,⁴⁶ equality mechanisms and legislation, legal aid and immigration,⁴⁷ employment protections and welfare reform⁴⁸ are in tension with the aims and content of the VAWG strategy and are likely to undermine women's safety and equality.

Score: 4/10

Key recommendation: The Prime Minister should appoint lead Ministers on violence against women and girls in all Departments and both he and they should make regular public statements about the importance of tackling this problem

⁴⁵ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Speeches-and-statements/2013/Justine-Greening-A-renewed-focus-on-girls-and-womens-rights/>

⁴⁶ <http://www.tuc.org.uk/tucfiles/251/Womenspay.pdf>

⁴⁷ <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/LegalAidBriefing.pdf>

⁴⁸ <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmworpen/writev/576/m02.htm>

EVAW Priority 8: Tackle the sexualisation of women and girls in media and popular culture

- The sexualisation of women and girls in the media provides a conducive context in which VAWG flourishes.⁴⁹ Some groups experience stereotyping that intersects race and gender.
- ‘Sexting’ (that is, sending sexually explicit images via mobile phones) is often coercive and linked to harassment, bullying and even violence.⁵⁰
- Recent research finds significant correlations between men’s use of pornography and sexually aggressive attitudes and behaviours.⁵¹

There is growing evidence about the role that the sexualisation and objectification of women in the media plays in providing a conducive context in which VAWG flourishes.⁵² This includes social media, video games, music videos, advertisements, online pornography as well as traditional media. The End Violence Against Women coalition along with our partners Eaves, Object/Turn Your Back on Page 3 and Equality Now gave evidence⁵³ to the Leveson inquiry in 2012 about the way the British press reports on violence against women in prejudicial style alongside often inaccurate sexist or sexualised portrayals of women.⁵⁴

Addressing the negative impact of this representation of women and girls in the media is a critical element of any strategy to prevent VAWG and is a necessary outcome of post Leveson media reforms. For example, this should include a strengthened anti-discrimination clause in the Editors’ Code of Practice, and allowing expert women’s groups to complain to the new regulator about discrimination against women in the press. The Government should address the lack of consistency across the media in the regulation of sexualised and objectified images of women, in order to ensure that images that would not be broadcast on television or would be subject to the watershed should be restricted in the same way in the print media. In particular, the harmful impact of pornography and gender stereotypes should be addressed through work with young people in schools and other settings including in Sex and Relationships Education and media literacy classes. Consideration should be given to effective means of restricting access to harmful images, including legislating to close a loophole in the extreme pornography legislation that allows images of simulated rape to be viewed lawfully in England and Wales.

It is critical that efforts to address the harmful impact of sexualisation on women and children do not seek to confine or restrict the healthy expression of sexuality for women.

49 http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=EJ964724&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=EJ964724 and http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/daphne3/multi-level_interactive_model/understanding_perpetration_start_unix.html

50 http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforprofessionals/sexualabuse/sexting-research-report_wdf89269.pdf

51 Malamuth, N, Hald & Koss, M (2011) Pornography, Individual Differences in Risk and Men’s Acceptance of Violence Against Women in a Representative Sample Sex Roles 66 (7-8) 427-439; Hald, G, Malamuth, N & Yuen, C. (2009) Pornography and Attitudes Supporting Violence Against Women: Revisiting the Relationship in Nonexperimental Studies Aggressive Behavior 35 p-17

52 M Coy and M Garner Definitions, discourses and dilemmas: policy and academic engagement with the sexualisation of popular culture

53 <http://www.endviolenceagainstawomen.org.uk/preventing-violence-against-women-media-152>

54 <http://www.endviolenceagainstawomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/51/Just-the-Women-Nov-2012.pdf>

Analysis of Government Progress

The UK Government's Submission to the 7th Periodic Review to CEDAW states:

'The role of the media in the portrayal of women is widely recognised by the UK Government, media regulators, broadcasters and the press. However, the UK Government believes that media free from state intervention are fundamental to our democracy. It does not, therefore, seek to interfere in broadcast programme matters or in what a newspaper or magazine chooses to publish.... Whilst respecting the independence of the media, the UK Government welcomes media challenge to stereotypes and portrayal of women in a positive manner.'

We welcome the Bailey Review⁵⁵ into the sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood which made key recommendations, although we regret that an expert women and children's rights organisation was not tasked with carrying out this review. Nevertheless, we welcome the commitment to taking action on this issue and the Prime Minister's strong backing for this agenda, including the recent appointment of Claire Perry MP as his Adviser on Preventing the Sexualisation and Commercialisation of Childhood. Other actions under this agenda include a consultation on restricting children's access to online pornography through the use of filters, a new one stop shop for complaining about products, adverts or media through Parentport, and restricting outdoor adverts containing sexualised imagery near schools.

This has an impact on regulators; the Advertising Standards Authority has responded to sexist and sexualised adverts and Ofcom are developing new guidelines on sexualised music videos and the watershed.

This agenda would be more effective if it was more comprehensive, made links with how women are sexualised and stereotyped, included the print media, had strategies that empowered children and young people to deal with these issues. We believe this work should be grounded clearly in a women's and children's rights perspective. It should be firmly embedded and linked with the Home Office's VAWG Strategy and work on Serious Youth Violence, and the Department for Education's work on Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation.⁵⁶ There are clear overlaps and this should be reflected in how sexualisation work moves forward.

The Home Secretary, Theresa May MP, chaired an Inter-Ministerial Group on Violence Against Women and Girls in October 2011 with a focus on the media and VAWG, with representatives from the music industry and media regulators. This was a welcome first step, but it is unclear what follow-up action there has been, and nor has there been clarity about work with social media corporates to tackle the problem of harassment, abuse and violence that is connected to social media. The case of the naming and abuse of the young woman raped by Ched Evans is an example of this.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/healthandwellbeing/b0074315/bailey-review>

⁵⁶ <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren>

⁵⁷ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/nov/05/ched-evans-rape-naming-woman>

VAWG experts have repeatedly requested closer working between the Home Office, Department for Education and Department for Culture Media and Sport on this issue.

Score: 5/10

Key recommendation: Department for Culture Media and Sport establish an expert working group including VAWG experts to take forward action to tackle sexualisation in the media as part of CEDAW obligations

EVAW Priority 9: Commission the voluntary VAWG sector to deliver quality training on violence against women and girls to a range of agencies as part of vocational qualifications and ongoing professional development

The voluntary VAWG sector has considerable knowledge and expertise which should be utilised in preventing VAWG. The Westminster Government should commission specialist VAWG services to deliver training for all teachers, social workers, police officers, health workers and other professionals. This training should adhere to equality and human rights standards, encompass all forms of VAWG and address issues of multiple discrimination and VAWG. The government should also develop follow-up mechanisms in cooperation with specialist VAWG services to monitor the coverage and standard of training.

This should consist of a combination of basic awareness, how to ask about abuse and manage disclosure, the links between adult and child protection and more specialist training. A key component must be how to integrate prevention into interventions.

Analysis of Government Progress

Under the Ending Gang and Youth Violence strategy funding has been provided to AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) and the Women and Girls Network, to develop specialist services and deliver specialist training to 58 practitioners working with girls and young women affected by gang-related sexual and domestic violence, including the 13 Young People's Advocates.

However training on VAWG prevention remains very patchy, resources become available often only in response to exceptional events (in the case of the *Ending Gang and Youth Violence* strategy this came out of the August 2011 disturbances) rather than a long term pro-active commitment to prevention within interventions.

Score: 2/10

Key recommendation: All relevant departments including Home Office, Department of Health and Department for Education should ensure mandatory and ongoing training on all forms of VAWG for all professionals

EVAW Priority 10: Target interventions to ensure prevention of violence against women and girls addresses intersections of gender with other social inequalities such as race, disability, socio-economic status, age, sexuality and gender identity

- It is estimated that over 20,000 girls under 15 are at risk of female genital mutilation each year in the UK (Forward).
- Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault and rape.⁵⁸
- 38% of rape recorded by the police involves a victim under the age of 16 (NSPCC).

Women and girls with certain characteristics and from some backgrounds and communities are particularly targeted for specific types of abuse. For example, there are particular concerns about vulnerable girls, including those with special education needs and disabilities in mainstream schools and Pupil Referral Units. Prevention initiatives must, therefore, be targeted to address VAWG most effectively, including appropriate responses to vulnerable victims as well as perpetrators. Anti-discrimination should be built into strategies for ending all forms of VAWG to ensure that we have thought through how to communicate both inclusive and specific messages across communities and target groups.

There are several government initiatives and policies that provide clear opportunities for tackling VAWG in an integrated way. The sexualisation agenda which focuses on children has been mentioned above and should be linked to other policies on children including safeguarding (Department for Education). In addition, the Serious Youth Violence work (Home Office) and the Troubled Families agenda (Communities and Local Government) also have clear overlaps with VAWG and provide opportunities to deliver prevention work across different government departments.

Analysis of Government Progress

In their letter of 20th September 2012 the Home Office informed us about government plans to create a specific offence of forced marriage and a campaign on this, and funding was announced earlier in the year to help schools and other agencies spot early signs of forced marriage. The Government has also published a film and pocket guide on FGM, and more recently Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Lynne Featherstone MP, has announced funding of £35 million, some of it focused on diaspora communities in the UK to help change practices in their countries of origin.⁵⁹ Ofsted has stated that it will inspect schools specifically on FGM and the Crown Prosecution Service has published an action plan.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_298904.pdf

⁵⁹ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2013/FGM-UK-to-help-end-female-genital-mutilation/>

⁶⁰ http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_statements/female_genital_mutilation_action_plan_launched/

We are disappointed that the Troubled Families⁶¹ initiative highlights significant violence and abuse in women's lives, yet is ungendered and has no outcome measure on enhancing women and children's safety. This is of real concern because it is a high profile project with central government funding and it will not achieve its goals without addressing the invisibility of perpetrators in many of the interventions. The funding of this programme amounts to £448 million – approximately ten times the amount allocated to the central government funding for VAWG services over the same three year period.

We are also disappointed that the government has decided to bring forward the planned review of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)⁶² which has only recently been introduced in the Equality Act 2010. We believe that this review is taking place far too soon to be an adequate assessment of the Duty's effectiveness. The loss of socio-economic status as an indicator of equality within the PSED is also a missed opportunity to target interventions for groups that experience multiple disadvantage, as is the Government's reduction of current levels of data disaggregation. We share the Equality and Human Rights Commissions' concerns about recent cancellations of official surveys which captured vital information on equality indicators.

Action to tackle bullying, including homophobic bullying, in schools in the Equality Strategy 2010 is welcome. However, there should be a clearer link to gender-based harassment, and tackling harmful constructions of masculinity.

Score: 2/10

Key recommendation: Every government department should have an identified senior lead official and Minister with responsibility for integrating VAWG into relevant policies

⁶¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/helping-troubled-families-turn-their-lives-around>

⁶² <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-act/equality-duty/equality-duty-review/>

Conclusion & Recommendations

In prioritising primary prevention (that is, to prevent VAWG before it happens), the Westminster Government has dispelled the notion that abuse of women and girls is somehow inevitable; a fact of life that we just need to get better at dealing with. VAWG is entirely preventable and the harms that it causes mean that there is a legal, ethical, social, and financial case for doing all that we can to eliminate it.⁶³

When analysing the Westminster Government's actions to deliver primary prevention, our experts identified concrete work which, we hope, will have an impact on harmful attitudes and behaviours. Most notably we were impressed by the long-term commitment to the various campaigns to tackle abuse amongst teenagers under the *This is ABUSE* banner. The government has worked with experts in the VAWG sector to develop the messages; there has been long-term investment in the campaign, and carefully targeted placement of adverts and videos in specialist media.

Unfortunately, however, *This is ABUSE* is one of the few examples of investment in prevention work and the Department for Education's failure to support the initiative is baffling. The contrast between recent statements from the Crown Prosecution Service⁶⁴, Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with the silence from the key department with responsibility for children's safety, the Department of Education, could not be more stark. Moreover, whilst there is good work going on under the VAWG strategy, we have serious concerns that other policy areas risk undermining women's safety and equality and other work has set this out.⁶⁵

Nevertheless, there is cross-party consensus on a strategic and human-rights based approach to ending VAWG. In Wales, the Government has been consulting on legislation to require public bodies to take action on VAWG, including preventative action in schools, signalling the seriousness with which it takes this issue.

The Westminster Government has the building blocks in place to be a global leader on women's safety. The UK has led the way on policies and laws to tackle violence against women and girls, and is looked to for leadership from other countries. Indeed, the UK boasts of its VAWG work in international settings⁶⁶ and funds primary prevention work overseas.⁶⁷

We urge the Westminster Government to be aspirational in its goals for a safer and more equal society where women and girls are not at risk of sexual abuse from partners, family members or groups of older men, where boys do not develop their attitudes towards women from pornography and a sexualised media, where school girls

63 http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44350/1/9789241564007_eng.pdf

64 http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/articles/the_criminal_justice_response_to_child_sexual_abuse_-_time_for_a_national_consensus/

65 <http://www.tuc.org.uk/tucfiles/251/Womenspay.pdf>
<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/LegalAidBriefing.pdf>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmworpen/writev/576/m02.htm>

66 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Speeches-and-statements/2013/Justine-Greening-A-renewed-focus-on-girls-and-womens-rights/>

67 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2012/helping-millions-of-women-and-girls-access-better-justice-and-support-against-violence/>

from some BME communities do not face female genital mutilation or forced marriage, where women and children feel safe in their own homes and women have the right to go about their communities and workplaces without being sexually harassed.

We urge the Westminster Government to build on the foundations it has put in place and develop a long-term, resourced programme of work on preventing violence against women and girls. When it comes to women and girls' safety, it is deeds not words that count.

A programme of work on preventing violence against women and girls by the Westminster Government would include the following actions:

- Establish an Independent Observatory on violence against women and girls in the UK
- A legal requirement for all schools to teach young people about violence against women and girls, gender stereotypes, sexualisation/pornography and media literacy in an age appropriate way from age 5 upwards as part of Sex and Relationships Education and Personal Social Health and Economic Education
- A legal requirement for all schools, colleges and Universities to collect data on all forms of violence against women and girls, including regular surveys of experiences and attitudes, similar to the Federal requirement on US colleges⁶⁸
- Guidance from central government to all schools about the importance of a 'whole school approach' to VAWG and how to deliver this including addressing VAWG in bullying, behaviour and safeguarding policies
- Ongoing training for teaching and non-teaching school staff and governors to increase awareness and build skills to challenge VAWG
- Develop specific strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable girls, girls with mental health problems and disabilities, and those in Pupil Referral Units
- The Department for Education re-establishing an expert advisory group on VAWG
- Department for Culture Media & Sport to similarly establish an expert advisory group on violence against women and girls similar to other government departments
- The Home Office and Department for Education establishing a dedicated VAWG prevention fund including community mobilisation
- The Home Office leading a mapping exercise of VAWG prevention interventions in England including in the statutory and women's sectors
- A cross-government VAWG Research Programme which includes comprehensive research into attitudes to VAWG, prevalence across all forms of VAWG and prevention initiatives
- All relevant departments including Home Office, Department of Health and Department for Education should ensure mandatory and ongoing training on all forms of VAWG for all professionals

⁶⁸ <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/handbook.pdf>

- The government making a long-term commitment to campaigns to tackle all forms of violence against women with a ring-fenced budget, similar to the THINK! Road safety campaign
- Funding for the VAWG sector to respond to increased referrals as a result of public awareness campaigns
- Consistency in media regulation so that sexualised and objectified images that would be banned on television or subject to the watershed would be treated the same way in print media. Gender equality should be mainstreamed in media regulation
- The Prime Minister should appoint lead Ministers on violence against women and girls in all Departments and both he and they should make regular public statements about the importance of tackling this problem
- The Department for Culture Media and Sport establishing an expert working group including VAWG experts to take forward action to tackle sexualisation in the media
- Every government department having an identified senior lead official and Minister with responsibility for how VAWG is integrated into relevant policies
- Guidance for local authorities and other local bodies on commissioning and funding VAWG prevention work
- A legal requirement for all local authorities to develop local VAWG strategies, with a goal of preventing VAWG, in consultation with local VAWG sector
- Ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence Against Women And Domestic Violence

Appendix A

Letter to the Home Secretary

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London SW1p 4DF

7th August 2012

Dear Home Secretary

Government action to prevent violence against women and girls

We are delighted that the *Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls* strategy remains a priority for you. We welcome the publication of updated action plans and we regularly have input through the Violence Against Women and Girls Inter-Ministerial Group and Stakeholder Group meetings. Our members also attend sub-group meetings on specific forms of violence.

We know that, like us, you are committed to ending all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) which is why the priority in the strategy of preventing violence by challenging attitudes and behaviours and intervening early is so important.

We will be working with our expert members to carry out an independent analysis of government initiatives to prevent VAWG in October and will be publishing a report of this analysis soon after. In order to carry out this work we will be reviewing the prevention initiatives of the strategy, strategy action plans and the UK Government's 7th Periodic Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women Report. These will be reviewed against the ten key areas for action on preventing VAWG set out in our report *A Different World is Possible* (2011) which was developed with experts on prevention. The report is attached and we have set out the ten areas at Annex A for ease of reference.

It would be very helpful if you would send us any other documents or further evidence of action held by the Home Office or any other Government Department on their work on the priority objective on prevention so that we can consider this also when we carry out the analysis. We are writing to you as the lead Minister for the strategy. Please send this to us by 30 September to 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA or email holly.dustin@evaw.org.uk. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information about this work.

This letter and any response will be published as part of our analysis.

Yours sincerely

EVAW Director

Appendix B

Letter from the Home Office



Interpersonal Violence Team
Violent Youth Crime and Prevention Unit
Room No: 4th Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF
Switchboard: 020 7035 4848 - Fax: 020 7035 4745 - Textphone: 020 7035 4742
E-mail: public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk - Website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

██████████
End Violence Against Women Coalition
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

20 September 2012

Dear ████████,

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August 2012, to the Home Secretary. Your letter has been passed on to me to reply.

As you know, our commitment to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues this year and on 8 March 2012, the Government launched a refreshed Action Plan - *The Next Chapter* containing 100 actions to tackle VAWG. Prevention remains a key principle of the strategy, which is reflected in the focus of these actions.

The progress of the VAWG strategy is monitored through regular Inter-Ministerial Groups, cross government delivery boards and stakeholder meetings. We will not be publishing a further review of progress until March 2013, in line with our public commitment. Unfortunately we do not have the resource available to complete an interim review to support your analysis. However, I can assure you that the actions are progressing effectively and have been completed in some cases. I have outlined some further activity on the VAWG action plan since the March 2013 publication below, but this list is not exhaustive.

- Launched the second phase of our prevention campaign to tackle teenage relationship violence – with a focus on sexual violence and consent. *(Action 2)*
- The Direct Gov website has been updated to provide better advice to victims on Sexual Violence; we have also created a section on Home Office website signposting to a number of local campaigns to share good practice. *(Action 3)*
- A summer campaign for forced marriage (FM) was launched on 12 July 2012. Three short films were produced on different perceptions and views of FM. The films have been shown on television and hosted on YouTube. *(Action 4)*
- A short film about female genital mutilation (FGM) was launched on the NHS choices website in August 2012. It explains what FGM is, the long lasting damage that it can cause, the legal obligation to safeguard children and where to go for help. The film is aimed at families, young girls, and professionals (not exclusively health professionals) who may come into contact with girls/families who are from FGM practising communities. You can find the film and further information on FGM at www.nhs.uk/fgm *(Action 5)*
- Home Office are currently producing a new pocket guide to the UK law on FGM, which will be available to girls at risk to help them speak out against the practice from this autumn. *(Action 11)*
- The teaching of consent is being considered as part of the review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. The Government intends to publish the outcomes of the review later this year. *(Action 16)*
- The Government response to the Stalking Consultation was published on 24 July 2012. We are currently working towards implementing the new stalking offences which will come into force on 25 November *(Action 78)*
- On the 8 June, the Government signed the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO).
- Plans to criminalise forced marriage were also announced on 8 June. Parliamentary time allowing, the new legislation will be introduced in the 2013/14 session. *(Action 56)*
- The Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) pilot ended on 30 June 2012. All three police forces areas (Great Manchester, Wiltshire and West Mercia) will be continuing to operate DVPOs without funding from the Home Office. A decision on national roll-out will be informed by the evaluation which will report in summer 2013. *(Action 79)*
- An Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA) training package was launched on 3 July 2012, it aims to provide a basic understanding of the function of an ISVA in supporting victims of sexual violence through impartial advocacy, outlining professional boundaries of the role, articulating the law in relation to sexual violence as well information on self care. *(Action 31)*

Preventing Violence

- On 6 July 2012, the Ugly Mugs Pilot scheme was rolled out nationally to help protect sex workers to report incidents of violence. Details of perpetrators are then shared with other sex workers to help improve safety, and can be passed on to the police if the victim consents. The initiative is being run by UK Network of Sex Work Projects. (*Action 67*)
- The domestic violence disclosure scheme began on Monday 16 July 2012 in the Gwent and Wiltshire police force areas, with the Greater Manchester and Nottinghamshire police force areas joining the pilot by no later than 10 September 2012. The pilot will conclude in September 2013. (*Action 95*)
- The summary of responses of the DV definition consultation was announced on the 19th September and the new definition will be implemented in March 2013 (*Action 77*)

I hope the information provide to you will help with your analysis and we look forward to the receiving the report. If you require any further information then please contact myself on [REDACTED]@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Yours Sincerely

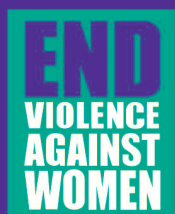
[REDACTED]

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Team
Home Office

Appendix C

Organisational members of the ERAW Prevention Network

Amnesty International UK
Anti-Bullying Alliance
AVA
British Humanist Association
CWASU
Eaves
FORWARD
Imkaan
NASUWT
Nia Project
NUS
Object
Rape Crisis England and Wales
Refuge
Respect
Roehampton University
Sex Education Forum
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre
Southall Black Sisters
TUC
University of Worcester
Welsh Women's Aid
White Ribbon
Womankind
Women's Aid England
Women's Resource Centre
Zero Tolerance



Copyright © End Violence Against Women March 2013

ISBN 978-0-9558609-6-6

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk