


The Labour Party

Jeremy Corbyn
Leader of the Labour Party

Southside, 105 Victoria St,
London, SW1E 6QT
0345 092 2299 | labour.org.uk/contact

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End Violence Against Women Coalition
104 China Works
Black Prince Road
London
SE1 7SJ

06 December 2019

Dear Sarah Green,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 15th November 2019.

You are absolutely right to say that violence against women is not inevitable, but it is enduring because of women's persistent inequality, which has been exacerbated by cuts in vital public services over the last ten years.

Nowhere could this be clearer than with Rape conviction rates, now so low that women's organisations warn it is "effectively decriminalised". Be it through austerity or callous policies, our justice system is letting too many people down. This year, we announced a fully independent review into how our justice system is handling rape. A Labour Government will better resource police, prosecutors and victim support services so that more rape victims can have the confidence and support to come forward.

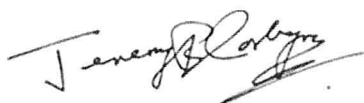
As you know, Labour has committed to ratifying the Istanbul Convention, and will go further by ensuring specific measures for BAME and migrant survivors. Indeed, earlier this year our women's conference passed policy to end the detention of asylum-seeking women and the detention of survivors of gender-based violence.

Ending violence against women and girls will be a priority for a Labour government, and will be a primary focus of our new Department for Women and Equalities. We will ensure all our public services – including the criminal justice system, welfare, housing, schools, health and immigration departments – have the resources to deliver on this priority. This new Department will take a holistic approach, including renewing and improving the cross-government Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

We will create a safer society for women and prioritise domestic abuse as a health issue, introduce 10 days of paid leave for survivors of domestic abuse, and ensure women's refuges receive the long-term, sustainable funding they need. Misogyny and violence against women and girls will become hate crimes. We will also ratify the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment as part of the transformative extension of workers' rights and protections that will be carried out by our Ministry of Employment Rights. Labour will ensure schools have not only the support but the resources to deliver high-quality Relationship and Sex Education.

Finally, on behalf of the Party and my shadow cabinet colleagues with whom I know you work closely, thank you for all that you do to create a safer society for women and girls.

Yours,



Jeremy Corbyn
Leader of the Labour Party

