



Violence against women and girls in the UK



**Our report
2022 to 2023**

What is violence against women and girls



We are **End Violence Against Women**. We want to stop people from hurting women in any way.



Violence against women and girls includes things like:

- **abuse.** This is when someone does something to hurt you or make you feel bad
- being harmed by someone you live with
- being made to do something you don't want to do





- being raped or experiencing sexual violence. This means being forced to have sex or do sexual things



- being threatened, pestered or followed by someone



- being bullied, or someone making you feel scared or ashamed

About this report



This report was written in January 2023. It tells you what violence against women and girls looks like in the UK.



We have looked at all the information about violence against women and girls.



We have talked to women's groups and organisations.



We have listened to the views of women from different ethnic groups and disabled women.



We have brought together all of the information we found in this report.



We have some ideas about what the Government should do to stop violence against women and girls.



When we say **women** in this report we mean **women and girls**.

Why women experience violence



Violence can happen to anyone. But women and girls are more at risk.



Violence is usually done by men towards women.



Women are not always treated fairly. Our laws do not always protect women from violence and abuse.



Women don't often report when violence against them happens.



Women are less likely to get justice and support for crimes done against them.

What needs to happen



Last year we wrote another report. It said what needed to happen to stop violence against women.



Lots of these things still haven't happened. There are lots of different reasons why.



For example, in the last year we have had lots of changes in our Government.

This means we are still waiting for new laws to be passed to protect women.



Here are the 9 things we think need to happen this year.

1. Money to help women and organisations



The UK is having a **cost of living crisis**. This is when the prices of things like energy and food go up but wages stay the same.



Women often have less money than men.



Having less money puts lots of stress on to women, and they need more help.



The Government needs to make new laws that protect all women and girls from abuse.



We need to make sure women don't live in **poverty**.

Poverty means not having enough money for things like housing or food.



Benefits need to go up and women need enough money to be able to live a good life.



Women need support with money when they have to leave their home because of abuse.



Services that support women need more money so they can run well.

2. Protect women's rights



The Human Rights Act is a law that protects people in the UK. It says what their rights are.



This law is used to make sure everyone is treated fairly and gets what they need.



The Government want to change this law and make new law called **The Bill of Rights**.



We are really worried that this new law will take away peoples rights. It may not protect all women and girls from harm.



We want the Government to keep the Human Rights Act.

3. Write a new law called “The Victim’s Bill”



A **victim** is someone who has suffered a crime or abuse.



When cases go to court they look at the victims rather than why the person did the sexual abuse or rape.



There needs to be a new law called a Victim’s Bill. This will change the way women and girls are treated by the law.



This new bill should make sure all women and girls are treated fairly.



It could give victims rights and make sure they get the support and protection they need.

4. Stop violence against women and girls happening online



Lots of abuse happens on the internet. Online abuse includes things like being threatened, bullied, pestered, or sharing pictures online.



Social media companies like Facebook don't do enough to protect women from abuse online.



We want changes made to the law to protect women when they are online.

5. Changing the way the police deals with violence against women and girls



Changes need to happen in the way women are treated by the police and law.



It has been found that there is **racism** in the police and some bad attitudes towards women.



Racism means being treated badly because of the colour of your skin or country you were born in.



Women who have been raped have said that police don't always treat them properly.

They don't always use the right words or speak to them in the right way.



We think all police services need to change how they work with women and girls.



The police must look at how they support women and girls. They need to be honest about what needs to happen to make things better.

6. Support for migrant women



Migrants are people who come to a different country to get a better education, job or are escaping danger



The Government needs to look at how they treat migrant women and girls.



There have been changes to our laws on people coming in to the UK.

We think these changes are unfair.



The way migrant women are treated often puts them at more risk of violence and harm.



Migrant women should:

- feel safe and protected



- feel able to report crimes that have happened to them



- know their rights and be treated fairly



- be able to use the **Domestic Violence Rule**. This is a rule that supports women who are being harmed in their own home

7. Make changes to the Istanbul Convention



The **Istanbul Convention** is an important law.

Countries around the world follow this law.



This law has lots of rules about keeping women safe and protecting women's rights.



We want the Government to:

- follow the rules of the Istanbul Convention properly

and

- make the rules part of our laws in the UK



In 2022, the Government agreed to follow some parts of the Convention. But not all of it.



This means migrant women will not get the same support as women who were born in the UK.



We want all women to get the same support and justice no matter where they are from.

8. Teaching people about violence against women and girls



We must make sure people know about violence against women and girls.



We want people to understand how it affects women and why it needs to be stopped.



We want organisations to learn how to support women well.

9. Support for schools and colleges



In 2021 there was a report that said violence and abuse happened to girls in schools and colleges.



There is still lots of work to do to protect women and girls.



Schools need to work together with parents and local communities to make sure schools are safe for girls



Thank you for reading our report.

How to contact us



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