

Sarah Green  
Director  
End Violence Against Women  
104 China Works  
Black Prince Road  
London SE1 7SJ

5 December 2019

Dear Ms Green,

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister of 15 November, to which I am responding on behalf of the Conservative Party. It was very good of you to write and to share EVAW's thoughts ahead of the general election.

We are proud of the action we have taken in Government since 2010 to tackle violence against women and girls, including by committing over £100 million over five years to support our Ending Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. We have strengthened the law by introducing new offences for coercive and controlling behaviour, stalking, forced marriage and FGM, and have made 'revenge porn' a specific criminal offence.

As you will know, in March we published our refreshed Ending Violence Against Women and Girls strategy in order to provide further support to victims and survivors, and in September we announced £5 million more to support rape and sexual assault victims in 2020-21, funding a range of services including tailored face-to-face support and counselling.

Our general election manifesto builds on the progress we have made so far and includes major new commitments to tackle VAWG. These include:

- a further boost of £15 million next year to ensure justice for rape victims, to ensure speedier charging decisions, more funding for rape crisis centres, and even more funding for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers;
- support all victims of domestic abuse by passing the Domestic Abuse Bill to ensure, amongst other benefits, that domestic abuse victims are treated properly at court;
- increase support for refuges and community support for victims of rape and sexual abuse, including by further increases to the Victims' Surcharge;
- pilot integrated domestic abuse courts that address criminal and family matters in parallel;
- introduce a Victims' Law, setting out the rights of victims and giving them means of redress if they are let down by the police or other agencies;

- continue to fight crime against women and girls, including rape, FGM and forced marriage;
- support the main carer receiving Universal Credit in order to help give greater independence to individuals, most often women, trapped with coercive partners;
- legislate to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online;
- ensure that no one is put off from engaging in politics or standing in an election by threats, harassment or abuse, whether in person or online.

We look forward to introducing these measures if we win a majority in the new Parliament, so that together we can end the scourge of violence against women and girls and ensure that nobody faces threats or harassment because of their gender.

Thank you again for writing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Cleverly', written in a cursive style.

**THE RT HON JAMES CLEVERLY  
CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY**