

**END
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



Violence against women and girls

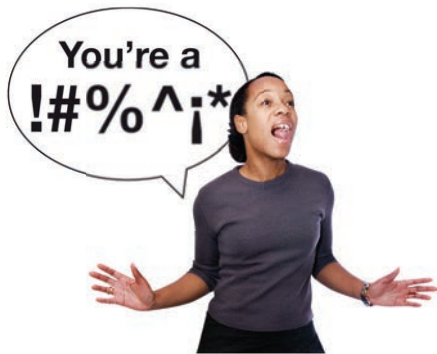


How we want to stop women and girls from being harmed

What is violence against women and girls



A lot of women were hurt or killed in 2021. There were lots of stories about violence against women and girls in the news.



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





- rape or 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



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



In this booklet, when we say women we mean women and girls.

Why women experience violence



Women and girls should have the same chances in life as men and boys.

But women and girls are often treated unfairly. This might be because of their:



- age



- gender or sexuality



- race or religion



- disability



- job or how much money they have



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



Violence is usually done by men towards women.



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



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

How the Government wants to stop violence against women and girls



The Government wrote a new plan about violence against women and girls in 2021.

The plan says how the Government will keep women safe. It includes things like:



- better street lighting and cameras

and



- more police officers on the streets and in local communities



The Government has also updated some other laws that affect women.



But we think these laws do not protect women's **rights** enough.

Your **rights** are things you are allowed to do and how you should be treated.

These laws still allow women to be treated unfairly. Especially women who are:



- from Black and ethnic minority groups



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



- **victims** of abuse. A victim is someone who has had a crime happen to them



We think there is more that can be done to protect women and keep them safe.



We have got some ideas about doing things in a different way.



Our ideas say what we think the Government should do to stop violence against women and girls.

Our ideas about what we want to happen



There are 8 things we think the Government should do:

1. Follow the Istanbul Convention



There is an important international law called the **Istanbul Convention**.



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



Countries who sign up to the Convention agree to follow the rules.



The UK has signed up to the Convention. But there is more work to be done to follow the rules in this country.

We want the Government to:



- follow the rules of the Istanbul Convention properly and as quickly as possible

and

- make the rules part of our laws in the UK



2. Change what people think about violence against women and girls



All women and girls should be treated equally and fairly.

They should be protected and supported against violence, no matter what.

We want to:

- change what people think about women and girls





- teach people about different types of violence against women. And help people understand that violence against women and girls is wrong



- understand why violence happens



- stop people from harming women in the first place



- change people's behaviour to stop them harming women again



- look at how violence and harm affects women and girls



- support people to challenge anything they see that is unfair

3. Give more support

There are lots of expert services who support:



- women and girls who are at risk

- victims of violence or abuse

- women from Black or ethnic minorities



These services do important work. They help women and girls get away from violence and can save people's lives.



We want the Government to give more money to these services. This will mean more women can get the help and support they need.



4. Support and protect migrant women



Migrant women do not get enough support if they experience violence.

We want the Government to make sure migrant women:



- have the same support and protection as other women



- can report violence without the risk of being sent back to the country they are from



- can still stay in this country even if they break up with their partner

5. Protect women online



Violence against women and girls can also happen online. Things like being bullied or pestered, or **sexual exploitation**.

Sexual exploitation is when people are used by other people for sex. This might mean sending pictures of themselves naked over the internet.



The Government is working on a new **bill** about keeping people safe online. A **bill** is an idea for a new law.



We want to make sure the bill protects women from harm online.

6. Work with schools and colleges

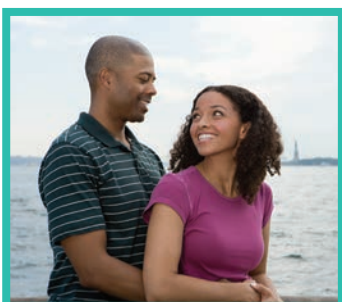


Girls should have the same opportunities as boys at school.



We want schools to work together with parents and local communities to:

- make sure schools are safe for girls
- give advice and information about violence against women and girls
- teach children and young people about sex and relationships



7. Work with the police



We want to change how the police and courts deal with violence against women and girls. To do this, we want to:



- make it easier for women to report violence and abuse



- make sure victims get the right support after a crime



- make sure people who have done the crime are punished properly

8. Give victims more rights



The Government has written a new bill for victims of crime. The bill will help victims know what their rights are.



We think the bill should include:

- making sure the police don't ask for more information than they need



- support for victims to cope and recover after they have experienced violence



Thank you for reading our ideas.

How to contact us



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Email us:
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Look on our website:
www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/contact/