

Elected Member Masterclass

Engaging Men in Tackling Violence Against Women

Violence Against Women

- ▶ Domestic abuse
- ▶ Sexual assault
- ▶ Rape
- ▶ Childhood sexual abuse
- ▶ Stalking
- ▶ Harassment

▶ Harmful Traditional Practices:

- ▶ - Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- ▶ - Forced marriage
- ▶ - Dowry related abuse
- ▶ - 'Honour' killings
- ▶ - Female infanticide

▶ Commercial Sexual Exploitation:

- ▶ - prostitution
- ▶ - pornography
- ▶ - internet brides
- ▶ - trafficking
- ▶ - sexual slavery

How big a problem is this?

- ▶ One incident of domestic abuse recorded in Scotland every nine minutes... with children witnessing it in 80% of cases.
- ▶ 1 in 4 women worldwide will be subject to domestic abuse in their lifetime. (WHO 2002)
- ▶ Two women in the UK are killed every week by a current or ex-partner.

How big a problem is this?

- ▶ Nearly one in four women will experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime. (WHO 2002)
- ▶ 1,690 rapes recorded in Scotland in 2013-14; up to 1 in 8 are actually reported. (Police Scotland)
- ▶ The conviction rate in 2009 was around 7% of reported rapes in Scotland. (COPFS)

Why involve men?

- ▶ Gender does not equal women\girls....
- ▶ ‘Men’s violence’ rather than ‘male violence’
- ▶ ...Need to examine what are the factors in men\boys lives


Why involve men?

- ▶ Comprise half the population...and more than half the power
- ▶ By ignoring men, we assume this is a women's issue
- ▶ We can gain a consensus on the issues

Equally Safe - Locally Safe

Preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.

Callum Hendry
Anni Donaldson



National Violence Against Women Network

Equally Safe

“The strategy recognises that women and girls are at risk of such abuse precisely because they are female and it aligns with the UN definition of violence against women that includes the girl child, reflecting that the risk is present throughout life.”

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon

There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.

The wider Global context

- ▶ The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (2011)
- ▶ The Global Platform for Action (1995)
- ▶ The Human Rights Act (1988)
- ▶ The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

The wider Scottish context

- ▶ Gender Duty
- ▶ Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (2013-2017)
- ▶ GIRFEC
- ▶ Curriculum for Excellence (2002)
- ▶ Equally Well (2008)
- ▶ Early Years Framework (2009)
- ▶ Early Years Collaborative (2012)
- ▶ National Parenting Strategy (2012)
- ▶ Strategy for Justice in Scotland (2012)
- ▶ Getting Our Priorities Right (2013)

Scottish Government definition

“Gender-based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”

Key priorities

- ▶ Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
- ▶ Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
- ▶ Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and promoting women's safety and wellbeing
- ▶ Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

“... prevention is the *only* approach if we are to achieve our aim of a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals, regardless of gender, live **Equally Safe.**”

Prevention

“Equally Safe will see a step change in emphasis on preventing violence from occurring in the first place, and where it does occur intervening at the earliest possible stage to minimise the harm caused.”

Priority 1

Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls

- ▶ Positive gender roles are promoted
- ▶ People enjoy healthy, positive relationships
- ▶ Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violence and abusive behaviour.

“ When adopting a prevention-focus approach will be to raise awareness of what constitutes violence and abuse, what underpins it and that it is unacceptable in any form.”

Priority 1

- ▶ Based on your knowledge and the role of your organisation what are your agencies priorities in relation to prevention?
- ▶ How might that be taken forward by locality violence against women groups locally?

Priority 2

Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically

- ▶ Women and girls feel safe, respected and equal in our communities
- ▶ Women and men have equality of opportunity particularly with regard to access to power and resources.

“Research shows that societies in which women’s participation is valued, and where there are fewer economic, social or political differences in power between men and women, have lower levels of violence.”

Priority 2

- ▶ Based on your knowledge and the role of your organisation what are your agencies priorities in relation to equality?
- ▶ How might that be taken forward by locality violence against women groups locally?

Priority 3

Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and promoting women's safety and wellbeing

- ▶ Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated
- ▶ Women and girls access relevant, effective and integrated services
- ▶ Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls, and respond effectively.

“Early identification is essential to eliminating violence and its subsequent negative consequences in women’s lives.”

Early Intervention

“... a trend most evident with regard to domestic abuse where the tendency towards repeat abuse highlights the importance of acting early to prevent further harm or abuse.”

Priority 3

- ▶ Based on your knowledge and the role of your organisation what are your agencies priorities in relation to early intervention?
- ▶ How might that be taken forward by locality violence against women groups locally?

Priority 4

Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

- ▶ Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated
- ▶ Men who carry out violence against women and girls are held to account by the criminal justice system
- ▶ Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal justice system.

A key question

“What opportunities are there for intervention once a perpetrator is identified by whatever means.”

Violence Against Women Joint Strategic Board

- ▶ A phased approach
- ▶ Transformative programme of action
- ▶ First phase (2014 - 2015)
 - Primary Prevention
 - Capacity and Capability
 - Justice
 - Accountability
- ▶ Expert working groups in each areas will develop recommendations for (2015 - 2018)

Working Groups

- ▶ Identify gaps in current activity
- ▶ Drawn from wide range of partners

“...will be expected to report on their progress regularly to the Board, aiming to have programme underway and first report on progress By International Women’s Day 2014.”

Early Commitments


- ▶ Support more robust and effective service delivery and planning arrangements.
- ▶ Completion of roll-out of MATAC groups
- ▶ Development of Performance Framework for MATACS
- ▶ Development of system for managing violent offenders
- ▶ Pilot of Disclosure Scheme - “Clare’s Law)
- ▶ Challenging all employers ... to support those who maybe experiencing or at risk of violence or abusive behaviour.
- ▶ Encouraging and supporting the development of strategic commissioning.
- ▶ Ensuring that key national strategies reflect and stat bodies are aware of and committed to their role in achieving our aim.
- ▶ Actively taking forward the 9 recommendations made in “Tackling FGM in the UK”

Contact Details

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A large version of the National Violence Against Women Network logo, featuring three overlapping purple ovals with a purple bar across the middle containing the text "National Violence Against Women Network".

National Violence Against Women Network

Scottish Government definition

- ▶ *‘VAW as actions which harm or cause suffering or indignity to women and children, where those carrying out the actions are mainly men and where women and children are predominantly the victims’*

Functional and Expressive Violence

- **Situational Couple Violence -**
 - *Perpetrated in equal numbers by men and women*
 - *Violence that is expressive*
- **Intimate Terrorism -**
 - *Perpetrated overwhelmingly by men*
 - *Violence that is functional/instrumental*
- **Violent Resistance -**
 - *Perpetrated overwhelmingly by women* (Michael Johnson)

So while men may be the problem...

**...not all men abuse women and they
need to be part of the solution!**

White Ribbon Campaign

- ▶ Started in Canada in 1991
- ▶ Exists in over 50 countries



White Ribbon Pledge

‘ I pledge not to...

▶ Commit

▶ Condone

▶ Remain Silent

...about violence against women in all its forms’

White Ribbon Scotland National Speaker Network

- ▶ Trained 150+ men throughout Scotland
- ▶ Deliver public presentations or educational workshops/engage colleagues and communities to take action
- ▶ Build capacity of the campaign in local areas/organisations with outreach capacity

White Ribbon Areas



Gender Based Violence Bystander Programmes

- ▶ Traditionally focus is on victims or perpetrators
- ▶ Bystander programmes an innovative approach to challenging attitudes
- ▶ All bystanders potential allies in preventing gender based violence

GET SAVI
Students Against Violence Initiative

Gender Based Violence Bystander Programmes

- ▶ Bystander does not commit or condone violence
- ▶ ...however inaction may contribute to the violence

'The Bystander Effect'

- ▶ Case study: Kitty Genevese
 - Attacked outside her home, left for 30 mins before her attacker returned
 - Somewhere between 12-38 people saw part of the attack
 - An ambulance was called shortly after the second attack

‘The Bystander Effect’

- ▶ “Someone else will do something about it”
- ▶ “It’s not my problem”
- ▶ Safety (paramount)
- ▶ Social/peer pressure (esp. amongst men)

- ▶ What can we do or say?
 - Get SAVI
 - MVP Scotland

GET SAVI
Students Against Violence Initiative

Elected Member Briefing Note

- ▶ Engaging Men in Tackling Violence Against Women...
- ▶ Why? - engage men as positive role models/bystanders/peer educators/leaders
- ▶ Tackle resistance - doesn't affect men/understand privilege
- ▶ Human rights issue
- ▶ Challenge negative attitudes/raise awareness
- ▶ Opportunity, rather than shame/guilt

Elected Member Briefing Note

- ▶ What is the issue for Elected Members?
 - Affects all areas - are you aware of prevalence in your area?
 - LA VAW Partnerships working to deliver National and Local Strategic Outcomes - do they have support/resources?
 - Could you publicly endorse the initiatives we have discussed?
 - Could you encourage debate/raise awareness amongst Elected Members/colleagues to engage more men?
 - Are there events which you could attend/support?

Elected Member Briefing Note

- What would you like to do?
- How can we support you?
- Contacts - www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk
- Local VAW Partnerships - contacts available from info@improvementservice.org.uk