

**Z** ZERO TOLERANCE

Preventing Violence Against Women  
**VAW** Prevention  
Scotland



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## **Handle with Care:**

A guide to responsible media reporting  
of violence against women

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Produced by Zero Tolerance  
[www.zerotolerance.org.uk](http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk)

*\*\* Please note that journalists are welcome and encouraged  
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## LEADER

### *Lesley Riddoch, Journalist and broadcaster*

Journalists often feel cynical about anyone with a “cause”. We are trained not to regard any story as “off limits” or any group as requiring “special treatment”. That outlook may be fine for the bulk of news stories or court cases. But it’s an approach that’s led some journalists to subject women who have experienced men’s violence to chronic stereotyping to “spice up” the story. And other journalists have been scared off reporting rape, domestic abuse or sexual exploitation altogether because they feel certain they’ll say or ask the wrong thing. Journalists should know better - and try harder.

This guide is an attempt to lay down some common sense standards and procedures for reporting on men’s violence against women, in all its forms. The proposals for best practice go further than the legal requirements on journalists. They form a handbook of moral guidance.

Journalists may not agree with every word - but the survivors’ perspectives in particular will prompt fresh thinking, and present conscientious journalists with a challenge - how to help change society by reporting men’s violence against women in a more neutral, less “colourful” way.

### *Lesley Orr, Acting Chair, Zero Tolerance*

Zero Tolerance has been working to change societal attitudes to men’s violence against women for nearly twenty years, and in that time we have seen many changes. Most people do now understand that domestic abuse is a matter for public policy and not ‘just a domestic’; Scotland’s sexual offences laws have been re-written; and Scotland now has many strategies, policies and organisations working to end men’s violence against women in all its forms.

However, some media reporting of gendered violence still presents challenges – it can allow such violence to be neatly slotted in with another narrative (the economy, football, alcohol abuse); it can trivialise or sensationalise; and it can over simplify what are very complex issues. It is a critical skill in journalism to assess the accuracy of a story and effectively convey the reality of the experience, as well as the facts. We know many journalists excel at this. However, we still see examples where a story about a woman’s experience of men’s violence is ‘lost in the fog.’ This guide will be a resource to prevent misleading or unhelpful coverage.

We have produced this guide in the hope of engaging in constructive dialogue with the media about ways in which reporting of these issues, which affect so many people in Scotland, can be improved. Many journalists have asked us for such guidance and we hope they will find this a useful reference. The media plays a crucial role in shaping our world; and journalists’ words have a lasting impact. Issues around gender violence should indeed be ‘handled with care’; but with the right approach, the media can make a positive contribution to ending society’s still too high tolerance of violence and abuse.

## STANDFIRST

Violence against women is often in the news, whether it's in the papers, on the radio or on your television sets. Its prevalence in society makes it a 'hot topic' for reporters and its complex nature makes it an interesting issue for feature writers. However, the fact that violence against women is so complex can mean that even journalists with the best of intentions can misrepresent some of the issues. This is particularly true in today's climate, where journalists are under ever more pressure; newsrooms have fewer resources; and production processes are squeezed to deliver more news output for less.

There is much debate about whether the media shapes societal views or simply mirrors them – and in terms of violence against women, whether the media sometimes over simplifies stories because the public is not ready to accept the scale or complexity of the problem; or whether in fact the public takes its cues from the news it reads, hears and listens to every day. One thing is for sure – violence against women is a hugely prevalent and complex social problem, and the media can play a key role in ensuring the public knows and understands that.

Having an awareness of the issues around domestic abuse and violence against women will help journalists to produce better news reports and features. By being open to the evidence, research and sensitivities around the language used when it comes to violence against women, you are more likely to engage the co-operation, not only of the agencies working in this field, but also women who have been directly affected and might be prepared to work with you and provide a first person account.

The media has a vital role to play in increasing public understanding of violence against women and challenging its place in our society. However, even well-intentioned reporting can sometimes perpetuate the problem. A 2009 study found that the media can subtly induce society to justify violence against women, by focusing unduly on assumed 'reasons' or 'causes' for the violence<sup>[1]</sup>.

Media coverage can influence individuals' behaviours as well as their attitudes: for example, distorted coverage of domestic abuse, which suggests that it is a by-product of a messy and difficult relationship of equals rather than an expression of power and control by one person over another, might encourage a woman who is living with abusive partner to stay for fear of not being taken seriously.

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1. 'Mass Media influence on the attribution of culpability and the justification of gender violence', C. Herrera and F. Exposito, University of Granada, June 2009 – published on [http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p314552\\_index.html](http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p314552_index.html)



And women who see media coverage of cases involving false allegations of rape may be less likely to report an incident of rape or sexual violence. There is no reliable empirical evidence that suggests that there are problematic numbers of ‘false’ reports of rape being reported to the police; indeed, the Stern review concluded that: “there were very few [false reports]. A CPS lawyer told us, ‘They are extremely rare. I have been prosecuting for 20 years, and have prosecuted for a false allegation once.’...An experienced police officer had come across two such cases in 15 years.”<sup>[2]</sup> And yet the balance of coverage often seems to be uneven, with undue prominence given to the few cases involving a false allegation. We know that rape and sexual assault are massively under-reported crimes. So these issues must be handled with care.

It is vitally important that the media get their reporting about violence against women right. Those who do so will reap the rewards, in terms of engagement with key agencies, engagement with case studies and ultimately more and better stories. Society also stands to benefit. This guide aims to help improve the quality of the debate about violence against women in Scotland, and to enable journalists to play their vital part in its prevention. Throughout this guide we make a number of recommendations. These are summarised for quick reference on page 4.

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2. A Report by Baroness Vivien Stern CBE of an Independent Review Into How Rape Complaints Are Handled By Public Authorities In England And Wales, The Government Equalities Office and the Home Office 2010, page 40.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

01. Journalists should make good use of case study information and statistical evidence when reporting on sexual exploitation issues (such as prostitution or lap-dancing), to highlight the harms and violence inherent in the sex industry.
02. Journalists should refer to national and international statistics where possible to place individual incidents in a wider social context and provide the 'bigger picture' that readers, viewers and listeners need to make sense of the story.
03. Journalists should carefully choose language when reporting on violence against women and always avoid implying the survivor is to blame; portray perpetrators as real men; and portray survivors of violence as real women.
04. Journalists should conduct all contact with survivors of abuse or violence with respect for their experience, dignity and safety.
05. Journalists should highlight the gendered nature and root causes of violence against women in all reporting.
06. Journalists should be mindful of the lack of convincing evidence for a 'cycle of violence' and avoid making simplistic connections between men's violence against women and their childhood experiences of violence.
07. Journalists should report on rape and sexual violence using data and evidence about the current pattern of victimisation and avoiding myths and stereotypes.
08. Journalists should make careful use of images in reporting on violence against women and ensure the images chosen do not distort the story, contribute to the problem or objectify women.
09. Journalists should avoid implying that alcohol use is a cause of violence against women and instead name the real causes and challenge misconceptions about the links between violence against women and alcohol.
10. Journalists should respect the privacy and dignity of abuse survivors at all times.
11. Journalists should tell the real story and be careful about selecting a narrative when reporting on violence against women as part of another social issue.
12. Journalists should treat violence against women as a serious concern and use an appropriate tone in all reporting.

## DEFINITIONS

### ***What is violence against women?***

Violence against women (VAW) can also be described as gender-based violence. Using a gendered analysis recognises that one of the fundamental causes of violence against women is the unequal power relations between men and women, which lead to discrimination. Gender based violence against women is violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or violence that affects women disproportionately.

The internationally accepted definition of VAW is found in the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women:

“Violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life’ (Article 1).

**The Scottish Government defines violence against women 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. The different forms of violence against women - including emotional, psychological, sexual and physical abuse, coercion and constraints - are interlinked. They have their roots in gender inequality and are therefore understood as gender-based violence”<sup>[3]</sup>*

### ***Violence against women therefore includes:***

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including: domestic abuse, rape including marital rape, incest and child sexual abuse;
- Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere;
- Commercial sexual exploitation, including activities such prostitution and trafficking, pornography, stripping, lap-dancing, and pole-dancing
- Dowry related violence;
- Female genital mutilation;
- Forced and child marriages;
- Honour crimes.

### ***What is domestic abuse?***

It is not unusual for the terms domestic violence and domestic abuse to be used interchangeably. However, the term domestic abuse is most accurately used to describe a pattern of controlling behaviour, which is perpetuated by one partner in an intimate relationship against another.

3. [Safer Lives: Changed Lives](#), a shared approach to tackling violence against women in Scotland, June 2009



Domestic abuse usually takes the form of a pattern of controlling behaviour which gets worse over time. Physical violence and threats may be used to maintain this control, but domestic abuse does not have to include physical violence; it may take the form of psychological, financial or emotional abuse. Whatever form it takes, domestic abuse is rarely a one-off incident.

Abusive partners usually rely on coercion, intimidation and fear to control their partner in an intimate relationship. This can include constantly criticizing a woman, undermining her self-esteem, isolating her from her friends and family and other support networks and restricting her right to wear what she wants, see who she wants and enjoy leisure time as she pleases. However, this list is not exhaustive and control can take many other forms.

In most cases domestic abuse is experienced by women and perpetrated by men. In 84% of all incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police in Scotland in 2008/09 the perpetrator was male and the victim female.<sup>[4]</sup>

**The Scottish Government definition of domestic abuse** *is gender specific, defining domestic abuse as a form of male violence against women.*

*“Domestic abuse (as gender-based abuse) can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour), sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family and friends).”*

There is evidence that domestic abuse escalates in frequency and intensity over time, and may increase at specific points in a woman’s life for example; during pregnancy and following the birth of a child or at particular times such as during separation or divorce.

Domestic violence can be used to refer to violent incidents, usually occurring in the home, which can result in a criminal charge, usually common assault or breach of the peace. At the present time, there is no criminal charge of domestic abuse. (For more information on this see [The Law](#), page 29).

4. Statistical Bulletin Crime & Justice Series: Domestic Abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, 2008-09, pub. 24.11.09, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292984/0090391.pdf>



### **What is commercial sexual exploitation?**

There is no fixed or legal definition of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). However one useful definition is provided in the Scottish Government's 'Safer Lives: Changed Lives' framework:

*“Activities such as pornography, prostitution, stripping, lap dancing, pole dancing and table dancing are forms of commercial sexual exploitation. These activities have been shown to be harmful for the individual women involved and have a negative impact on the position of all women through the objectification of women’s bodies. This happens irrespective of whether individual women claim success or empowerment from the activity. It is essential to separate sexual activity from exploitative sexual activity. A sexual activity becomes sexual exploitation if it breaches a person’s human right to dignity, equality, respect and physical and mental wellbeing. It becomes commercial sexual exploitation when another person, or group of people, achieves financial gain or advancement through the activity.”<sup>[5]</sup>*

There are clear links between CSE and other forms of violence against women. For example a woman in prostitution may be there because of force or coercion from an abusive partner; many women in prostitution have been subject to child sexual abuse in their past; and in some cultures, a failed forced marriage can be a route into prostitution for the woman who is seen as tainted. A vital link is that these have as their root causes the inequality between women and men that also underpins the better understood forms of abuse, such as domestic abuse.

Commercial sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to:

- stripping, pole-dancing and lap-dancing
- prostitution, via massage parlours / saunas, brothels and escort agencies
- phone sex lines and internet sex chat rooms
- pornography
- trafficking
- forced marriage
- mail order brides
- sex tourism

There is still some debate in Scotland on whether these activities constitute violence and abuse and are intrinsically harmful or are just part of an increasingly sexually explicit culture and unable to be prevented. We strongly believe that involvement in CSE is harmful to individuals and that the sexualisation of culture is harmful to wider society and particularly to children and young people. We share the view of academic Gail Dines that “porn use is one of the major public health issues of our time”<sup>[6]</sup> and support all efforts to report it as such.

5. Safer Lives: Changed Lives, June 2009 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292984/0090391.pdf>

6. How Porn is Warping a Generation – New York Post, July 2010: [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/how\\_porn\\_is\\_warping\\_generation\\_of\\_dRhZBsl8CJFGS3ytfMAqI/1](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/how_porn_is_warping_generation_of_dRhZBsl8CJFGS3ytfMAqI/1)

## RECENT PRACTICE

There are many examples of **good practice** in reporting of violence against women. For example:

### **Lucy Adams: Children's views are stuck in the past** *The Herald – 15 February 2010*

*"Children's views on a woman's role within the household and domestic violence seem to have changed little since [the 1950s], according to Nancy Lombard's research. Some 99% of the Glasgow primary schoolchildren asked about violence said it was wrong but when confronted with more detailed scenarios, their views are far more telling.*

*What is perhaps most worrying is not just the children's views about violence sometimes being justified, but their almost innate sense of gender inequality."<sup>[7]</sup>*

Some commendable features of this article include the fact that it generally uses the term domestic abuse rather than domestic violence; it quotes someone working in a key women's agency concerned with domestic abuse; and most crucially it speaks about the root causes of domestic abuse, e.g. in this quote - "It suggests that tackling domestic abuse in isolation, without looking at long-standing presumptions and inequalities in relationships will not work."

There has also been some helpful reporting in Scotland on prostitution issues, such as this article:

### **Godman launches Members Bill to criminalise those who purchase sex** *Cameron Hay, Paisley Daily Express - 3 December 2010 by*

*"A campaigning MSP is hoping to strike a devastating blow to Scotland's sex industry – by calling time on pimps, punters and brothels. West Renfrewshire MSP Trish Godman has launched a Member's Bill to criminalise those who purchase and profit from the vile trade."<sup>[8]</sup>*

*Journalists should make good use of case study information and statistical evidence when reporting on sexual exploitation issues (such as prostitution or lap-dancing), to highlight the harms and violence inherent in the sex industry.*

7. full article available at: <http://www.heraldsotland.com/blogs/scotland-now/lucy-adams-children-s-views-are-stuck-in-the-past-1.1006673>

8. full article at <http://www.paisleydailyexpress.co.uk/renfrewshire-news/local-news-in-renfrewshire/paisley-news/2010/12/03/godman-launches-members-bill-to-criminalise-those-who-purchase-sex-87085-27756209/>

This article is helpful because it mentions the harms inherent in prostitution (and cites for example the fact that 75% of women in prostitution became involved when they were children and 68% meet the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the same range as victims of torture); it mentions that there is an organised sex industry; it does not use denigrating language about women involved in prostitution (such as 'hooker' or vice girl'); and it includes a quote which challenges the assumption that prostitution is a normal aspect of society ("This Bill gives the Parliament an opportunity to challenge the perceived wisdom that implies that nothing can ever be done about tackling prostitution.")

There are many other helpful reports, news articles, features, blog articles etc which help convey the true nature and prevalence of violence against women in Scotland and which challenge unhelpful attitudes and assumptions.

However, there are also too many examples of **problematic and concerning reporting**. We monitored the output of five of the most widely read Scottish newspapers for a period of three months from November 2010 – January 2011 and found, for example:

- » Five articles which used jokey or 'funny' headlines – such as 'Nicked in Knickers', an article about a 34 year old man harassing a 19 year old woman and stealing her underwear; or 'Fire Tartars' – a story about a fire in a brothel. This trivialises the subject matter.
- » Four articles which described the perpetrator or suspected perpetrator of abuse as a 'lovely man' or similar, using phrases like 'a quiet man', 'a lovely guy', 'wouldn't hurt a fly'. These types of phrases serve to mitigate their crimes and explain them as a momentary lapse or out of character, rather than part of a persistent but unrecognised pattern of behaviour.
- » Six articles which covered issues of commercial sexual exploitation with no reference to the dangers or harms – one of which quoted a woman saying it was a time saving way to make money, with no counter argument included in the article about the damaging effects for individuals or society. These kinds of articles can serve to glamorise the sex industry.
- » 25 articles which described perpetrators of VAW as perverts, beasts, paedos, monsters, thugs, brutes etc. These words were often used in the headline and then repeated throughout the body of the article. Describing men who perpetrate violence against women and children as monsters and beasts dehumanises them, sets them apart from 'normal' men, and diverts the reader's attention away from big questions about why some men think it is acceptable to behave in this way. (For more on this see Language, page 15)



There are other concerning examples not picked up during our monitoring period, for example:

- » Much coverage of the Raoul Moat shootings made no mention of his history of violence against his ex-partner Lisa Stobbart and used a narrative of mental ill-health or mental breakdown to explain the story (see for example this profile of Moat which makes no mention of this: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10513994>)
- » An article reporting on a keen angler who killed his wife with his fishing knives. The article focuses to a significant extent on the woman's conduct, reporting for example that 'she had got in contact with [a male] friend from her younger days...who lived in England, and kept in touch by calls, texts, through social networking site Facebook and, on occasion, meetings' and that she had suggested to her husband that if they were to divorce she would be entitled to a share of the marital home and his pension. The article quotes the man as saying finding train times in his wife's purse had been "the catalyst" and that he wished he could turn the clock back and that he loved his wife. The impression conveyed by this article is that he was a good and loving husband who was driven to murder his wife by her behaviour, and does not place this individual crime in a wider pattern of domestic abuse homicides.

It is clear that there is still some way to go until all reporting on VAW issues reaches the highest possible standard.

## FIRST PERSON - CASE STUDIES

Case studies and personal testimony provide a powerful insight into the realities of commercial sexual exploitation.

### Personal account of being involved in prostitution: Angel, July 2009

*"It kills me inside when people talk about prostitution being a 'choice', or 'empowering', or 'harmless fun' for women. Those words don't even belong in the same sentence. In my experience, prostitution was the end result of addiction, self hatred, and years of extreme physical and sexual abuse by my ex-partner which left me feeling I deserved nothing more.*

*... Life as an escort isn't the glamorous, well paid life you read about in women's magazines. Put bluntly, it's being paid to be f\*\*\*ed, and because they've paid, johns [punters] are going to get their money's worth, they expect you to do anything and everything, whatever turns them on. It was frightening – you didn't know what you were turning up to.*

*... When I see all over the media the message that sex work is fun and ok, it hurts me. Being a prostitute is being hurt and hurt and hurt again and being told you like it, you deserve it, and you should lighten up and enjoy it."<sup>[9]</sup>*

### Personal account of being involved in prostitution: 'Katy', July 2010

*"It's not easy and it's not glamorous. It's hard. It's horrible. It's degrading. I wouldn't recommend it to anybody. I hate it. I made the biggest mistake of my life getting into it.*

*I think about it constantly. It's in my head all the time, what I've had to do for money. You get in the car and you have sex for money and then when you've finished and you've just done that for thirty or forty pounds... It's just degrading, it's horrible thinking what you've just had to do with an old man. Some of them are fifty, sixty, seventy years old. It's just horrible.*

*It's just dangerous, really, really dangerous. Anyone who thinks it's a lavish lifestyle and glamorous has got it totally wrong. It's dangerous, it's not a lavish lifestyle, it's not good in any way. Anybody that's thinking about getting involved, please don't. Just please don't."<sup>[10]</sup>*

9. Source: <http://www.demandchange.org.uk/files/Angel%20testimony%281%29.pdf>

10. Source: Money and Power DVD, Aug 2010, available from <http://www.vawpreventionscotland.org.uk/>

### Personal account of being involved in prostitution: 'Stephanie', July 2010

*"A lot of people seem to think we're the dirt of the earth, but we're not, we're just there because we need to be, and we get exploited as much as anybody else.*

*I've heard people say so many times that its glamorous: you're going to meet the man of your dreams, go and get married and live in this big mansion. It doesn't happen. Guys will tell you what you want to hear then you'll never see them again and you'll definitely not get the princess moment. You don't see Julia Roberts on the street, in the pishing rain. Desperate for money.*

*A lot of people think it's easy money, but it definitely isn't. I've been attacked four times, raped twice. There's a lot of danger and nobody would go to work for danger. Every girl experiences violence. A lot of my pals have been through even worse than what I've been through. I think I've actually been quite lucky. I know it seems bad to have been attacked that many times and you feel lucky, but a lot of the girls have had a lot worse than me. It's a weekly occurrence."<sup>[11]</sup>*

### Personal account of being involved in lap-dancing: 'Lucy', 2007

*"I...knew a few dancers at the clubs who had long dreamed of being lap dancers and ...saw it as a route into glamour modelling, celebrity, and thought it was a good way to meet a rich man.*

*While this was how they presented themselves, once you began to dig a little deeper you discovered other things about them. For example, previous relationships involving domestic violence. Ongoing issues with men who controlled them. Drink problems. Self-esteem issues.*

*And for those who believe it is their true calling, perhaps it is impossible to see that actually they are genuinely capable of so much more. That often these women are resourceful, intelligent, funny, entertaining, creative women, who...could actually be doing something else. If they can't see it then there is a bigger problem to blame. There is a problem within our culture which is underestimating them and which is leading them to underestimate themselves.*

*I now realise that lap dancing is one of the hardest things I ever did. I found it tough, soul destroying and it had begun to strip me of my humanity."<sup>[12]</sup>*

11. Source: Money and Power DVD, Aug 2010, available from [www.vawpreventionscotland.org.uk](http://www.vawpreventionscotland.org.uk)

12. Source: Stripping the Illusion testimonies, available from [www.object.org.uk](http://www.object.org.uk)

## DATA AND STATISTICS

Statistics help to mitigate the possibility of giving the impression that individual incidences of violence against women are an inexplicable tragedy with no solution, rather than a systemic feature of an unequal society. In this section we have provided some statistics that you may wish to use to explain the context for individual cases or to examine the wider issues, and some sources for up-to-date statistics and research.

### Good statistical sources on VAW

- *Scottish Government statistical bulletin on domestic abuse:* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292984/0090391.pdf>
- *Scottish Government key facts page:* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women/Key-Facts>
- *Scottish Women's Aid information page including some key statistics:* <http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/understanding-domestic-abuse>
- *Rape Crisis Scotland information page: Facts about sexual violence:* <http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/facts/>
- *UNIFEM facts and figures:* [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/facts\\_figures.php?page=3](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.php?page=3)
- *White Ribbon Scotland facts page:* <http://www.whiteribbonScotland.org.uk/?q=node/22>
- *EVAW facts page:* [http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/pages/the\\_facts.html](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/pages/the_facts.html)
- *Women's Support Project information page on prostitution* <http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk/content/prostitution/205,172>
- *The VAW Prevention Network's directory of researchers is a useful means of identifying contacts who can provide the most recent data on a range of topics:* <http://www.vawpreventionscotland.org.uk/directory/researchers>

*Journalists should refer to national and international statistics where possible to place individual incidents in a wider social context and provide the 'bigger picture' that readers, viewers and listeners need to make sense of the story.*

## ***Some key facts and figures***

### ***Domestic abuse***

- One in five women in Scotland experiences domestic abuse at some stage in her life<sup>[i]</sup>
- Domestic abuse can affect any woman regardless of race, class, age, religion, sexuality, ability, income, lifestyle or where she stays.
- The cost to the NHS in England and Wales for physical injuries caused by domestic abuse is around £1.2 billion a year and mental health care is estimated at an additional £176 million. The total cost to services (Criminal Justice System, health, social services, housing, civil legal) amounts to £3.1 billion.<sup>[iii]</sup>
- In 84% of all incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police in Scotland in 2008/09 the perpetrator was male and the victim female.<sup>[iii]</sup>
- An NSPCC study of young relationships found that a quarter of girls aged 13-17 had experienced some form of physical partner violence<sup>[iv]</sup>
- The Strathclyde Police Domestic Abuse taskforce dealt with 11 homicides and 28 attempted murders in the period 31 March 08-31 March 09.<sup>[v]</sup>

### ***Commercial sexual exploitation***

- 63% of teenage girls would like to be a glamour model<sup>[vi]</sup>
- The UK pornography industry is worth £1 Billion annually.<sup>[vii]</sup>
- A third of 14-16 year olds in one study first saw sexual images online at age 10 or younger and 81% of those looked at porn online at home, while 63% could easily access it on their mobile phones.<sup>[viii]</sup>

### ***Rape and sexual violence***

- In 2008/9, 963 rapes and attempted rapes were reported to the police in Scotland.<sup>[ix]</sup>
- 1 in 7 women students (14%) has been the victim of serious sexual assault or serious physical violence while at university or college<sup>[x]</sup>
- Most rapes are carried out by men known to the woman. Around 54% of rapes are carried out by partners/former partners. Only 17% are by strangers.<sup>[xi]</sup>
- The conviction rate for rape in 2008/09 in Scotland was 4.6%.<sup>[xii]</sup>

### ***Other forms of VAW***

- Forced marriage – 40 cases from Scotland were notified to the Forced Marriage Unit during the period January to October 2008.<sup>[xiii]</sup> No-one knows exactly how many people are forced into marriage each year because many victims don't seek help.
- Child sexual abuse – two recent World Health Organization reports have estimated prevalence at 20% for women and 5% for men<sup>[xiv]</sup>
- One 2005 study by the University of Leicestershire found that 86% of stalking victims were female.<sup>[xv]</sup>

NB: All sources for this section can be found at page [42](#) at the end of this document



## LANGUAGE

Accurate, non-judgemental language is a cornerstone of good reporting. In many areas of reporting social issues, important linguistic advances have been made to prevent offence being caused and improve accuracy. For example, due to increased awareness of mental health issues, few journalists now use the word 'schizophrenic' to convey the idea of something being two-sided, a usage that would once have been widespread. And in reporting on some health conditions such as epilepsy, the practice of labelling a person 'epileptic' (as opposed to the seizures they have) is on the decline.

We understand that in reporting, communication comes first, and that the language preferred by the agencies closest to a particular social issue may at first appear less clear and more complex than other forms of words which quickly convey the key point of a story, and help with meeting word counts. For example, we can understand why a reporter might prefer to talk about 'kids in care' than the agency standard term 'looked-after children', which might not be as meaningful to the readers and listeners.

However, as all journalists know, words can convey powerful messages, and when reporting on violence against women and children, even well-intentioned and responsible journalists can fall into linguistic traps. Here are some to be aware of.

**The survivor or victim is not to blame.** Too many articles focus excessively on the survivor or victim's behaviour and inadvertently suggest that she is to blame for the violence to which she was subjected. For example, one regional newspaper recently reported on a domestic homicide case where a man had killed his wife, and referred to the fact that the woman had been in contact with an old (male) friend and quoted the defence QC who said "the accused found this state of affairs extremely distressing". The accused man was described by a friend as "an absolutely lovely man". The inference in articles such as this is that the woman has somehow invited the violence they have experienced.

**Men who rape or commit sexual violence or domestic abuse are not beasts, monsters, pervers or fiends.** They are ordinary men, usually someone's dad, brother, uncle or friend, who have behaved in a way that we find abhorrent. Labelling the perpetrators of these crimes in a way that suggests they are some kind of animal or 'other' does not help the audience to understand their motivations or to make sense of the crime. A man who is a 'sex-beast' does not warrant further investigation for his evil is inherent and unexplainable; an ordinary man who commits a horrific crime is much more perplexing. For journalists who wish to seek out the truth and explain world events this must begin with removing unhelpful labels.

**Women who sell sex are not vice-girls or tarts or hookers.** They are prostituted women, almost always controlled by a pimp or a drug habit, almost always vulnerable and at the margins of society. To label them in these ways only serves to further dehumanise them. And when they are murdered they are not 'dead prostitutes' or 'murdered prostitutes'; they are women first, and reporting primarily on the way they lived instead of using their names, is a further indignity that would not be thought suitable for reporting the deaths of any other women. And yet this is common practice in the media.

*Journalists should carefully choose language when reporting on VAW and always avoid implying the survivor is to blame; portray perpetrators as real men; and portray survivors of violence as real women.*



When five women involved in prostitution in Ipswich were murdered in late 2006, media headlines included “Man held over prostitute murders” (BBC) and “Prostitute Murders Trial Begins” (Sky News). In Bradford when three women in prostitution were killed in May 2010, headlines included “Man arrested over Bradford Prostitute Murders” (Guardian) and “Ripper cops hold man for 3 Bradford prostitute killings” (Mirror). Few headlines in either case referred to the victims as women.

**Women who have experienced violence or abuse may not wish to be referred to as victims, and may find this label harmful.** A term that more accurately describes the reality of a person who has suffered in this way is ‘survivor’. You could also just use ‘women who have experienced abuse or violence’. It is an important part of surviving and moving on from domestic abuse or other forms of exploitation to be able to move on from victimhood.

**Most agencies working in this field tend to use the term ‘domestic abuse’ instead of ‘domestic violence’,** as this conveys a much wider spectrum of abuse, which can be psychological as well as physical, which represents the experience of many women. Most women who experience domestic violence will also have experienced other forms of domestic abuse prior to the first violent incident, but not everyone who experiences domestic abuse will also experience physical violence in the relationship. Increasingly Scottish organisations with an interest in this issue refer to domestic abuse as a form of ‘coercive control’, a term coined by Dr Evan Stark.

**This is not ‘politically correct’.** This is about really trying to understand the issue and report it accurately in a way that is helpful to public debate. And using language that resonates with the agencies who support and campaign for women who have experienced violence and abuse will vastly improve your relationships with them and is likely therefore to have a positive impact on your access to information and case studies.



**Avoiding the pitfalls**

Try to avoid	Use phrases like
Battered woman/women/wife	Woman/women who has/have experienced domestic abuse; physically abused woman/women.
Domestic violence	Domestic abuse
Abusive relationship	Abusive partner, woman living with an abusive partner
fiend, beast, pervert, monster, paedo, brute	Man, husband, father, son
Sex worker, vice-girl, hooker	Woman in prostitution
Murdered prostitute	Woman who was murdered; use the woman's name
Victim	Survivor
Porn actress/star/starlet	Woman involved in pornography/in the porn industry/ in the sex industry

## USING CASE STUDIES

### ***Good interview techniques***

#### ***Negotiate terms beforehand***

Many survivors of domestic abuse or other forms of VAW will, understandably, be reluctant to talk to a stranger in detail about their experiences. However, by negotiating boundaries and limits with an individual, you might be able to come to an arrangement by which both parties can benefit. With difficult subjects like abuse and violence it can be helpful to outline some of the areas you might want to discuss in order that a woman can gather her thoughts beforehand and think about how to express her experience.

Check in advance whether your editor will agree to changing names and some details of the story in order to protect anonymity and also bear in mind that many women will not want their photograph to appear alongside their story. Where children are involved it is additionally important to consider child protection issues.

If you do plan to bring a photographer, or any other third party, be sure to warn your interviewee in advance in order that they are prepared and are as much at their ease as possible. Similarly, you might want to suggest that they could bring along someone [friend/relative/support worker] who can help them to feel more at ease during an interview.

Let the woman know if you want to record the interview, and ask if this is OK.


#### ***Find a good location***

This may depend to a significant degree of the requirements of your interviewee, who may be concerned about confidentiality issues and might therefore be reluctant to provide you with their address. Please remember that women's refuges are safe spaces for women to live in when they have left an abusive situation and therefore maintaining the privacy of their locations is paramount. The media has responsibility to avoid exposing the interviewee to further abuse, including avoiding actions that might undermine their quality of life or their standing in the community.

#### ***Be prepared to stop and start, or simply just stop***

For some women, talking about their experience can be empowering, and the sense that they might be able to help others can give them a sense of purpose. However, in other cases, talking about what has happened to them can be difficult and, at times, upsetting. For some women it feels like re-living the abuse. Survivors have the right to refuse to answer any questions or not to divulge more than they are comfortable with.

There may be times when a woman needs to take a break, or simply think for a few minutes about how she wants to express herself. Don't be afraid to wait, and let the words come to them in their own time.



*Journalists should conduct all contact with survivors of abuse or violence with respect for their experience, dignity and safety.*

### **Remember**

By their very nature incidences of violence and abuse can be deeply damaging and it can be challenging to find case studies of people that are willing and able to speak openly about these experiences. It may be that you have to find other ways to make a story real and give it a new angle – you might want to involve a vocal campaigner, a powerful new piece of research or a striking image instead.

In many cases, even if anonymity is assured, women still may decline to discuss their experiences. Some women are too busy with daily life to speak to a journalist at short notice, and some are not ready to speak about traumatic experiences, and see those experiences on television or in print. The media can help by giving agencies plenty of notice of their interest in working with a case study.

Ultimately, the media should treat survivors with respect and accord them dignity and protection from further harm.

## COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS & CONCERNS

### *Gender equivalency*

Men experience significant amounts of violence in Scottish society. We do not seek to ignore or to denigrate that experience. However, it is important to avoid falling into the trap of seeking gender equivalency when reporting on issues of violence against women – asking the common question, ‘but what about the men?’ While men do experience domestic abuse, prostitution and other forms of violence discussed in this document, they experience it differently to women.<sup>[13]</sup>

Far fewer men than women experience domestic abuse – currently 84% of reported incidents involve a female victim and a male perpetrator. And as reported incidents represent only a fraction of actual incidents, the real figure is likely to be higher than 84%. The pattern of victimisation is different for men and women in domestic abuse cases – women are considerably more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of violence. For example, one study found that 32% of women who had ever experienced domestic violence did so four or five (or more) times, compared with 11% of the (smaller number) of men who had ever experienced domestic violence; and women constituted 89% of all those who had experienced 4 or more incidents of domestic violence.

Research in Scotland, re-tracing men who were counted as victims of domestic abuse in the Scottish Crime Survey, found that a majority of the men who said that they were victims of domestic violence, were also perpetrators of violence (13 of 22). A significant number of the men re-interviewed (13 out of 46) later said they had actually never experienced any form of domestic abuse.<sup>[14]</sup>

Other forms of violence and abuse discussed in this guide, such as rape, sexual violence and prostitution also affect women in far greater numbers than men, and for different reasons.

All forms of VAW are rooted in gender inequality – the unequal distribution of wealth, power and opportunity between men and women. So while it may be interesting and indeed useful to consider the experiences of men who have experienced certain forms of violence and abuse it is usually a distraction from understanding these issues and reporting them accurately.

*Journalists should highlight the gendered nature and root causes of violence against women in all reporting.*

13. Home Office Research Study 276 - Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey, Mar 2004. <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hors276.pdf>

14. Domestic Abuse against Men in Scotland, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, 2002

*Journalists should be mindful of the lack of convincing evidence for a 'cycle of violence' and avoid making simplistic connections between men's violence against women and their childhood experiences of violence.*

### **Cycle of violence**

Reporters sometimes imply that in some cases of violence there is an underlying cause which can be described as the 'cycle of violence' theory. This theory suggests that adults who behave violently do so because they themselves were raised in violent households - the idea that 'violence breeds violence'.

In fact, there is no proof that 'violence breeds violence' since the research in this field is problematic. For example, one analysis of a study claiming to prove intergenerational transmission of violence found in fact that a current abuser is more than twice as likely to have had a 'non-violent' rather than 'violent' childhood (a ratio of 7:3) and seven times more likely to have come from a 'non-violent' home rather than from a home classified as 'most violent'.<sup>[15]</sup>

There is no known research tracking a large and representative cross-section of child witnesses of domestic violence into adulthood to see what proportions of child witnesses do grow up to use or experience violence. Instead, much of the research is carried out with adults who are known to be violent. Even if all of them (say that they) have witnessed violence as children, this only demonstrates a correlation, not a causal link.

It is important for people who were brought up with violence or who are living in families that are currently abusive to be reminded that human beings always have choices, and hence responsibility for their behaviour; and no-one is predestined to repeat a pattern. (In fact, people who have lived with abuse can have more motivation for avoiding it later in life since they have seen the damage it can inflict.) The media should ensure that any references to perpetrators' backgrounds etc are carefully handled so as not to further the belief that there is a cycle of violence, and so as not to allow abusive men to take refuge in such an assumption. This links to other issues where there is a risk of offering an 'excuse' for violence and abuse – e.g. alcohol consumption (see page page 23 for more on alcohol).

### **Rape myths**

When reporting rape, it is tempting to do so in reference to what many believe is the 'typical' case; a strange man in a dark alleyway dragging a woman into some bushes, probably at night-time, probably with a weapon. Cases where this kind of incident occurs are clearly extremely alarming and generate significant amounts of press coverage.

However, only 17% of all reported rapes are committed by a stranger. This means that 83% of rapes are committed by someone known to the complainant. Sometimes it may be a partner or ex-partner, a relative, a friend or a colleague. Few, if any, of these rapes occur in dark alleyways, or in any of the other circumstances we associate with this crime. Yet the tiny minority of cases which do constitute this type of attack make up the majority of media coverage of rape.

Therefore it is vital when reporting rape to think about whether you are providing contextual information about the very low likelihood of an attack in a public place by a stranger, and creating

15. 'Woman-battering, child abuse and social heredity: what is the relationship?', Stark & Flitcraft, cited in Johnson(ed.), Marital Violence, Sociological Review Monograph#31, 1985.

*Journalists should report on rape and sexual violence using data and evidence about the current pattern of victimisation and avoiding myths and stereotypes.*

awareness of the reality of rape closer to home. It is also important to question whether reporting of the atypical 'stranger rape' cases contains suggestions (either explicit or implied) that women should in some way change their behaviours to avoid such attacks and therefore loses the focus on the men who committed the act.

Other rape myths to avoid perpetuating:

- Men who rape are beasts and monsters, sex-fiends, perverts (see page [15](#) on language) and not ordinary men committing terrible acts
- Men rape when they lose control – rape is a form of control, not a loss of control
- Rape is a crime of lust or sexual passion or desire – it is a crime of violence, abuse and degradation, involving sexual behaviours but primarily motivated by violence and not by sexual desire
- Only young, attractive women are raped – women of all ages, backgrounds and races are raped
- Women who were raped caused it or partly caused it by their dress, drinking or conduct – men are responsible for whether they rape or not and no women ever asks to be raped
- Rape is less serious if a woman is raped whilst involved in prostitution – rape is always rape and women in prostitution are able to withhold consent the same as any other woman
- Rape is a misunderstanding or a situation that got out of control – rape is always a crime, whether he's a relative, friend, acquaintance or stranger
- Rape isn't an everyday occurrence – women are raped every day in Scotland.

### **Images**

Agencies working in the violence against women field are sometimes approached by journalists who want to use a powerful image of a beaten or bruised woman to accompany a news item or feature and hope we can help in supplying such an image. Whilst we understand the power of an image to convey the story, we also see this as problematic for a number of reasons.

Showing women as victims can reinforce the reader or viewer's impression of women as weak and powerless, which can contribute to the very problem we seek to tackle. Likewise, certain images can distort understanding of our concerns; for example, an image of an injured woman to accompany an item on domestic abuse can reinforce the idea that all relationship violence experienced by women is physical, as opposed to emotional, psychological or sexual. And images of women working in street prostitution (e.g. images of women in street-lit alleys or leaning into a car) can distract from the reality of the extent of indoor prostitution.

We urge journalists to carefully consider what images they use in reporting VAW. We also suggest that you consider more generally the ways in which women are portrayed in the media outlets you work with; are women shown as active or passive? Are they objectified, shown in sexualised ways or in ways which suggest women are to be valued purely for their physical appearance? We urge journalists to consider whether readers, listeners and viewers can take media outlets seriously in their concern for women and children who have experienced violence and abuse if they also depict women as sexual or lesser objects in other reports.



## **Alcohol**

Alcohol is not an excuse for or a cause of domestic or sexual violence. Much is written and spoken about the role that alcohol has in incidents of violence against women. The role of alcohol in domestic abuse incidents in particular has been framed in various ways:

- 'Alcohol as an excuse'
- 'Drinking and violence as manifestations of similar underlying problems'
- 'Alcohol use as a means of gaining power and control'

However, research<sup>[16]</sup> into women's own understandings revealed that the majority of women believed that their partners had a choice about how much they drank and how they behaved under its influence. Only 1/3 of incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police involve alcohol.

Although there are particular patterns and consequences of alcohol use in relationships where there is domestic abuse (for example, physical violence is more likely to be at the severe end of the spectrum when the perpetrator consumes alcohol, and women are more likely to report an incident to the police when alcohol is involved), alcohol is not the cause of the abuse and addressing alcohol use alone will not solve the social problem of domestic abuse.

Linking abuse to alcohol consumption allows men to avoid taking responsibility for their violence. And of course, we know that many men are violent towards their partners when they are sober, and that not everyone who drinks alcohol is violent or abusive.

Some reporting on domestic and sexual violence which focuses on alcohol consumption can minimise the seriousness of the abuse, e.g. a regional newspaper reported a man attacking his wife using this phrase: "The sweet taste of champagne turned sour..." – this fails to convey the seriousness of the assault and suggests (if inadvertently) that alcohol was a causal factor. And in October 2009 the media widely reported a senior police officer's remark that "Often alcohol is a common factor in allegations of sexual assault", but few journalists noted that the commonest factor in the recent sexual assaults which had promoted the remark was a female victim and a male perpetrator.

*Journalists should make careful use of images in reporting on violence against women and ensure the images chosen do not distort the story, contribute to the problem or objectify women.*

16. 'Alcohol and Domestic Violence: Women's Views', Galvani, published in Violence Against Women, July 2006 vol. 12 no. 7 641-662

*Journalists should avoid implying that alcohol use is a cause of violence against women and instead name the real causes and challenge misconceptions about the links between violence against women and alcohol.*

if new: in the co  
 covered in primitive lo  
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**priv·acy**, privəsi, 'p  
 alone or undisturbed  
 protected their priva

### **Privacy and dignity**

It is important to balance the public interest in violence against women with respect for the privacy and dignity of those who have experience such violence. This should mean, for example, media outlets, and in particular smaller local newspapers, not including individuals' addresses in crime reports, and being careful not to reveal where someone who has experienced violence or abuse lives, if the report is of an incident in a small settlement where people are likely to be able to identify individuals using small details.

For example, the BBC guidelines on crime refer to the risk of indirectly identifying victims, witnesses or sources, because of what is known as the 'jigsaw effect', whereby separate reports can be pieced together to reveal the identity of the person involved. This is of particular relevance to reporting on violence against women as "the risk is at its highest when reporting sexual crime within the family". (BBC Guidelines).

#### **BBC Guidelines, Chapter 7, Crime and Anti-social behaviour - Editorial principles:**

*"We will seek to balance the public interest in freedom of expression with respect for a victim's privacy and dignity when reporting crime".*

#### **IFJ Guidelines for Reporting Violence Against Women – No. 8. Maintain confidentiality:**

*"As part of their duty of care media and journalists have an ethical responsibility not to publish or broadcast names or identify places that in any way might further compromise the safety and security of survivors or witnesses"*

*Journalists should respect the privacy and dignity of abuse survivors at all times.*

### **A survivor's perspective**

*"When my partner went to court it was recorded in the local paper. I was absolutely hurt and ashamed as they put my full name and address and instead of naming and shaming him it was me that was shamed. When I phoned the paper they said it was public knowledge so they printed it. Maybe something could be done about the press printing your name because it is humiliating for it to happen, without it being made public – it makes it harder to go on."*

*'Anne', survivor of domestic abuse, named in a report in a regional newspaper, 2009*

### **Case study: working with local press**

*One agency in the south of Scotland working with women survivors of domestic abuse told us about their experience of building relationships with the local press after they had reported in detail on one woman's very traumatic experience in one particular incident of abuse. The agency contacted the reporter to convey the woman's extreme distress at having had the details of her abuse reported in this way. The reporter met with the agency and discussed different approaches and is now planning a feature on domestic abuse, with the agency's cooperation. The agency also worked with local police and fiscals to seek to influence the reporting of details of incidents in open court.*

*This experience shows that positive developments can come out of unhelpful reporting - but due to the extremely traumatic impact on the individuals concerned it is always better to avoid this kind of reporting.*

### **The real story and conflicting narratives**

Often an incidence of violence is reported with no mention made of the gender dimension. It only emerges later that a supposedly random murder was actually the culmination of a domestic abuse situation, or that the perpetrator had engaged in other forms of VAW. Recent examples include the June 2010 murder of a woman in a city centre newsagent by her husband, which was initially reported as a random attack, and the June 2010 shootings in Cumbria, which were perpetrated by a supposedly 'ordinary' man who it later emerged had a lengthy history of sexually exploiting women in prostitution. Wherever possible, journalists should be open to the possibility that seemingly one-off crimes may be part of a pattern of abuse, and that perpetrators may have engaged in a number of forms of VAW.

There is a particular risk of mis-reporting in domestic abuse homicide-suicide cases. One commentator, an American Law Professor, has said that media coverage of these kinds of cases can involve "the mechanics of denial" and she refers to the "secondary, routine acts of violence enacted in the media that utterly efface victims of domestic violence, even in death".<sup>[17]</sup>

17. "When reading between the lines is not enough: Lessons from media coverage of a domestic violence homicide-suicide", Elizabeth L. MacDowell, *Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law*, August 2009.

The narrative pursued in reporting these cases often obscures the true message or allows a shadow story to emerge. A very good example is the media coverage of the murders by Karthik Rajaram of his wife, their three sons and his mother-in-law. He then killed himself. This took place in Los Angeles in October 2008, when America was in the midst of a financial crisis. Journalists quickly connected this man's behaviour with the financial climate and headlines included "Murder-suicide in California: A Tragedy of the Financial Crisis?" (Time magazine); "Unemployed man killed himself and five family members over financial woes" (The Daily Telegraph); and "Losses mount, fears overwhelm and a life-ending decision is made" (NY Times).

Facts supporting alternative narratives, namely links to a wider pattern of gendered violence and abuse, both in terms of the family and the wider community, were reported but disregarded. In the months preceding the Rajaram killings, the media prominently reported several homicide cases occurring in the Los Angeles area, all involving women killed by their current or former male intimate partners, yet media reports of the Rajaram case did not reference these crimes or the problem of violence against women in society more generally. And the fact that neighbours heard 'intense' yelling and screaming in the Rajaram home was reported only to add to the narrative about a man on the edge of a financial and personal crisis.

As MacDowell says, "The killings were connected to the larger social structure of the failing economy...any relationship between that structure and intimate partner violence was left unexamined" and ultimately the victims of this murder "were silenced, not only by the violence that took their lives, but also by the narrative acts and omissions of the media".

The recent reporting of spikes in domestic abuse reports around 'old firm' football matches also provide an interesting insight into the issue about narratives. Football does not cause domestic abuse<sup>[18]</sup> but much media coverage made a clear connection. It is understandable that narratives about issues of interest to many readers/listeners/viewers are adopted but journalists should always ask themselves if they are genuinely explaining an issue or making a false connection when seeking to knit together two interconnected but often separate social issues.

*Journalists should tell the real story, be careful about selecting a narrative, and where possible make connections in reporting between the different forms of violence against women.*

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18. <http://www.betternation.org/2011/03/football-does-not-cause-domestic-abuse/>

*Journalists should treat violence against women as a serious concern and use an appropriate tone in all reporting.*

### **Continuum of violence**

It is important to acknowledge that VAW is on a continuum and that there are significant links between the different forms of abuse and violence, e.g.:

- A woman involved in prostitution may be doing so partly due to pressure from an abusive male partner, and may be raped, sexually assaulted or killed whilst in prostitution
- A woman who has been killed by a man may have previously been in a relationship with him and subject to domestic abuse or may have been stalked by him
- There are significant links between domestic abuse and child abuse. In one study of 206 cases of child abuse, domestic violence was found in 40% of the cases of child sexual abuse, and 55% of the cases of physical abuse of the child<sup>[19]</sup>. For a child, witnessing domestic abuse is in itself a form of abuse.
- The sex industry actively grooms children for sexual exploitation. Many women involved in prostitution began doing so when they were children - up to 70% of women in prostitution begin selling sex before they reach 18 and the global average age of entry is only 13-14<sup>[20]</sup>.

### **Inappropriate humour or tone**

We are aware of a number of examples of reporting domestic or sexual violence in which humour has been used inappropriately. For example in 2009 a Scottish regional newspaper included the headline “Decorator admits pasting” – making light of a serious physical assault on a woman by her male partner.

And in July 2008 a national charity included in its magazine an article on Indian women forced through economic circumstances into prostitution which was headed, ‘Anybody fancy an Indian?’. This trivialised gender-inequality and poverty driven prostitution and dehumanised the women involved. We see this as inappropriate and deeply regrettable, particularly when the intention was to describe the activity as harmful.

A now notorious example of the inappropriate use of a light-hearted comment on sexual violence is the May 2010 ‘Zoo’ magazine problem page in which the advice given to one correspondent was that if his ex-girlfriend would not see him, he should “cut your ex’s face and then no-one will want her”. Zoo magazine apologised and stated this phrase had been included in error, but many will see this as a clear example of the way in which sexual violence is routinely trivialised.

### **Reporting on sexual activity in under 13s**

Coverage of ‘sexual activity’ where the person is under 13 years of age is too often ambiguous about the fact that this is sexual violence. Someone aged under 13 is incapable of consenting to sex, as per the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, which comes into force on 1 December 2010, and reporting should therefore be mindful of this and in particular should never blame or criticise a person under 13 for sexual activity, or its results, including early teenage pregnancy.

19. Hiller and Goddard, 1990

20. Home Office report, ‘Paying the Price: a consultation paper on prostitution’, 2004.

An example of unhelpful reporting in this area is the media frenzy that surrounded a pregnant 11 year old girl in 2006. Tressa Middleton gave birth at 12, making her a tabloid sensation for being 'Britain's youngest mum'. The tone of most of the reporting of her pregnancy was extremely condemnatory, focusing on her substance use, behaviour and chaotic life. Four years later it was reported that Tressa became pregnant as a result of having been raped by her then 16 year old brother. The rape was not a one-off, but part of a wider pattern of abuse, which had started years earlier.

Once the true facts emerged, Tressa was quoted as saying "All those people out there think I'm some kind of slut, but they don't know how it really was, I was 11. I didn't even know what sex was."

Journalists should remember that any sexual activity with someone under 13 is always sexual violence and against the law.

### ***Forced and arranged marriages***

Forced marriage is a form of violence against women. Most cases involve young women and girls aged between 13 and 30 years, although, there is evidence to suggest that as many as 15% of victims are male.

It is important however, when reporting on this issue, to be clear about what is and is not forced marriage. In arranged marriages the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether to accept the arrangement remains with the individuals and there is no coercion. In forced marriage at least one party does not consent to the marriage and some element of duress is involved. It is important to maintain this distinction.

It is also important to note that forced marriages can happen to anyone, from anywhere, and any cultural or religious background. Often the assumption is made that this is only an issue for certain communities e.g. Muslim women or women with South Asian backgrounds. In fact forced marriage can affect anyone. Forced marriage is not a religious issue; every major faith condemns it and freely given consent is a prerequisite of Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriages. It is important that reporting of this issue avoids stigmatising any one community or faith group.

In some cases the difference between a forced and an arranged marriage may be semantic. In a January 2007 report, Sigma Huda, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Aspects of the Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children stated that "[a] marriage imposed on a woman not by explicit force, but by subjecting her to relentless pressure and/or manipulation, often by telling her that her refusal of a suitor will harm her family's standing in the community, can also be understood as forced."<sup>[21]</sup>

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21. U.N Doc A /HRC/4/ 23, 24 January 2007

## THE LAW

Please note this section mainly refers to Scots law. There are significant differences between the legal system in Scotland and those in other parts of the UK. In summary, the law on VAW in Scotland is as follows:

### ***Domestic Abuse***

In Scotland a range of legislation, both criminal and civil, exists to protect those experiencing domestic abuse and their families.

### ***Criminal law***

The majority of those domestic abuse incidents reported to the police and subsequently by them to the Procurator Fiscal are dealt with as a criminal common law assault.

Other common crime types associated with domestic abuse include:

- Murder and culpable homicide
- Serious assault and attempted murder
- Uttering threats
- Rape and attempted rape
- Indecent assault
- Vandalism
- Crimes against public justice - includes perjury, contempt of court, bail offences and failing to appear at court
- Common assault - also sometimes termed petty assault or minor assault
- Aggravated assault, including assault with a weapon
- Breach of the peace
- Breach of a non-harassment order
- Breach of standard or special bail condition
- Assault on a constable in the execution of his duty

At the present time, there is no criminal charge of domestic abuse and domestic abuse is not defined in law.

### ***Civil law***

The courts can grant what are referred to as “protective orders” under various acts and the common law.

An interdict is a civil court order where the court instructs a person not to do something, prevents them from continuing a particular course of action and can stop them being in a particular place. It can be obtained under the common law or under the provisions of the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981.

**Key domestic abuse legislation:**

- **Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001**- allows a “power of arrest” to be attached to an interdict, which allows a police officer to arrest the person who has breached the interdict, but this does not lead to criminal proceedings due to the breach.
- **Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010** - specifically s.38 which amends the common law on breach of the peace to provide that it is a statutory offence for a person to behave in a threatening or abusive manner where the person does so in the circumstances specified in that section.
- **Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981**- Provides access to “domestic interdicts” or “matrimonial interdicts” which prevent the named party from entering a matrimonial or family home; and any residence occupied by the applicant; and any place of work of the applicant; and any school attended by a child in the care of the applicant. Also provides access to “exclusion orders” which, if granted by a court, suspends the rights of the named party to live in their matrimonial or family home. These are wide-ranging orders granted to protect the applicant and any child of the family from any conduct, including threatened or anticipated conduct, which causes the applicant and any child physical or mental injury.
- **Protection from Harassment Act 1997**, which provides for Non Harassment Orders. These prevent someone from harassing a third party. Can be obtained through the civil courts or the criminal courts and breach is always dealt with as a criminal offence.
- **Human Rights Act 1998** which upholds universal human rights including the right to life and to respect for private and family life and protection from torture or inhuman or degrading treatment
- **Criminal Justice Act 1998**
- **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**- introduced anti-social behaviour orders. Also covered under the **Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004**
- **Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1995 (as amended)** – covers bail conditions, breach of bail.
- **Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2010** – this law, passed in March 2011, and enacted April 2011 aims to increase access to justice for those experiencing domestic abuse and to enable police and prosecutors to provide a more robust response to breached civil protection orders. The Bill removes the requirement to show a course of conduct for a non-harassment order to be granted in domestic abuse cases; and creates a new criminal offence of breaching a domestic abuse related interdict.

**Prostitution**

The act of prostitution is not in itself illegal but various laws criminalise activities around it. It is an offence to cause or incite prostitution or control it for personal gain, to run a brothel and to loiter for the purposes of soliciting sex on the street. In Scotland it is also an offence to ‘kerb-crawl’ and to seek the services of a prostitute.



### ***Key prostitution legislation:***

- **Prostitution (Public Places) Scotland Act 2007** which makes it an offence to solicit a prostitute or loiter for the same purpose – this goes further than prostitution law in the rest of the UK
- **Sexual Offences Act 2003** (which applies UK wide) and which criminalises brothel keeping
- **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982**, section 46(1), which makes it an offence to loiter in a public place, solicit in a public place or importune any person in a public place for the purposes of prostitution

In Scotland there is some evidence that some local authorities are tolerant (we suggest unduly) of indoor prostitution. For example, Edinburgh City Council grants ‘saunas’ and ‘massage parlours’ public entertainment licences, in accordance with the provisions of the Civic Government Act (Scotland) of 1982, despite the wide range of evidence that these are places where indoor prostitution occurs.

It is notable that currently there is no offence in Scotland of using someone engaged in prostitution – it is still the person involved in prostitution who commits the offence, not the person who pays for her (or his) sexual services. Attempts to change that situation, e.g. via the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 have so far not been successful. In 2010, Trish Godman MSP consulted on a proposed member’s Bill - the proposed ‘Criminalisation of the Purchase and Sale of Sex (Scotland) Bill’ – and we expect that the issue of criminalising purchasers of sex will be raised in the fourth term of the Scottish Parliament.

### ***Pornography***

The Criminal Justice and Licensing Act 2010 s.42 contains new provisions on extreme pornography. It creates a new offence, criminalising the possession of extreme forms of pornography. This is defined as material which is obscene, pornographic and extreme, and extreme acts are those which depict in an explicit and realistic way:

- An act which takes or threatens a person’s life
- An act which results, or is likely to result, in a person’s severe injury
- Rape or other non-consensual penetrative sexual activity
- Sexual activity involving (directly or indirectly) a human corpse
- An act which involves sexual activity between a person and an animal (or the carcass of an animal).

This law only applies in Scotland. In the rest of the UK the relevant legislation is s.63-67 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. The most significant difference between the law for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Scottish law is that the Scottish offence covers all obscene pornographic images depicting rape or other non-consensual penetrative sexual activity. The Scottish offence also covers images which depict an act which results or is likely to result, in a person’s severe injury, which is wider than the English law, which covers only images depicting an act which results or is likely to result in serious injury to a person’s breasts, buttocks or genitals.

In terms of pornography which is not deemed ‘extreme’, the key legislation in the UK is the Obscene Publications Act 1959. For the purposes of that act, an article (which can be any matter to be read, looked at and/or listened to) is deemed to be obscene if its effect is to “tend to deprave and corrupt”

people who read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied in it. The OPA makes it an offence to publish such material or possess it with the intent to publish, but it is not an offence to possess such material for one's own use. In practice, very few publications/DVDs etc ever fall foul of this legislation, even though many people would judge the current output from the UK and international pornography industries as depraved and seriously harmful. This Act does not extend to Scotland.

In Scotland, the two most relevant pieces of legislation are:

**Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005:** this Act prohibits the sale, publication and possession of indecent images of children under the age of 18. (It amended s.52 and 52A of the 1982 Civic Government Act.)

**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: (s.51)** this Act makes it an offence to display obscene material or to have it with a view to its eventual sale. There is a three year maximum sentence. The term "obscene" is not defined; but the common law test to apply is whether the material is calculated to deprave and corrupt persons open to depraving or corrupting influences. Again, possession alone only becomes an offence if an under-18 is featured.

**Indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981** – controls the display of indecent material.

### ***Stalking***

New provisions in the **Criminal Justice and Licensing Act 2010** make it a criminal offence to engage in a course of conduct (such as 'phoning someone, interfering with their property or keeping them under surveillance) with the intention of causing harm to someone or of arousing apprehension or fear in them, including fear for their own safety or for the safety of any other person.

### ***Rape and sexual violence***

The **Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009** made several important changes to the laws concerning rape and sexual assault in Scotland.

Previously, rape was a common law crime, defined as "the carnal knowledge of a female by a male person without her consent" and was narrowly understood as applying only when a male had penetrated a female's vagina.

The definition of rape in the Act is now wider than was previously the case, reflecting a recognition within the law that men as well as women can be victims of rape. Consent is also now defined in statute in Scotland for the very first time. Under the Act, consent is defined as "free agreement" and this is supported by a non-exhaustive list of circumstances which, if proved, will indicate that consent was not present. People with a limited or no capacity to consent (for example the very young, or those with a mental disorder) are also better protected within the terms of the new Act.

The Act legislates on a number of related offences. These include sexual coercion (forcing others to take part in sexual activities without their consent), voyeurism, sexual exposure, and sending indecent images by email or text. This Act also extends its jurisdiction beyond the UK in cases where offences against children are committed abroad. These can now be prosecuted in Scotland irrespective of where the offence was committed, or of laws which pertain in that country.

### ***Protection of victims and witnesses***

The **Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004** makes what are referred to as “special measures” (such as the use of a screen to conceal identity, CCTV, a support person in the witness box) available to assist witnesses to give evidence in court where they may be afraid or reluctant to do so for a number of reasons. Where the witness is a child, the court expects that their legal representative will submit a Child Witness Notice giving warning that the child wishes to use one of these “special measures”. Adults must submit a Vulnerable Witness Application to the court, which has discretion whether or not to allow it. These measures apply to both civil and criminal courts.

### ***Equality and human rights law***

As described above there is a raft of specialist legislation concerning VAW but there are also more general equality laws which are relevant. Local authorities and public bodies have a range of legal and statutory duties, under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

In terms of the Human Rights Act, the key articles are:

- Article 2 – Right to Life
- Article 3 – Prohibition of torture
- Article 8 – Right for respect for private and family life.

The Equality Act places a statutory duty on public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment but also to actively promote equality of opportunity. The Gender Equality Duty includes the obligation to promote equality of opportunity between men and women.

In addition the UK has ratified a number of treaties which have resulted in specific recommendations on addressing VAW including:

- The International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- The International Covenant on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which informed the principles, values and core components of the Scottish Government’s ‘Getting it Right for Every Child’ programme.

## OUTRO

### ***What to do if you are experiencing VAW***

Since domestic abuse and violence against women are so prevalent in our society and can affect any woman at any time it is likely that media outlets which seek to report violence against women also employ women who are experiencing violence and men who are perpetrators. Media outlets should strive to be good employers and to have policies and procedures in place to deal with this.

### ***What can you do if you are experiencing abuse or another form of gender-based violence?***

There are a number of organisations listed in the back of this publication and might be able to help, or at least sign-post you to someone who can. Support services such as Women's Aid or a Rape Crisis Centre will always believe a woman and will treat her case with complete confidentiality. They will never force you to do anything that you do not want, but can help explain what options are available for you.

### ***How will I know that a woman I am working with may be experiencing abuse?***

Although some women display no outward signs that they are experiencing domestic abuse, there are some indications that you can look out for. There is no definitive checklist – women can experience abuse in different ways. However, some signs might include unexplained absences or changes in the quality or output of a woman's work. A woman experiencing abuse may also become anxious if she is held up at lunchtime or at the end of the working day, or may receive frequent calls from her partner throughout the day. In addition, unexplained bruises, or explanations that don't fit injuries may be an indication that a woman is experiencing violence or abuse.

Individuals experiencing domestic abuse suffer a broad range of physical and emotional consequences. For some, the abuse greatly affects their lives over a significant period of time and the process of recovery can be long and hard. Others may be able to recover and start a new life again relatively quickly after leaving an abusive partner.

For further information, you can visit some of the resources listed in the back of this publication.

***What you can do if you think someone you are working with may be experiencing domestic abuse***

It might be difficult for the individual being abused to acknowledge the problem directly to work colleagues, but everyone can take basic steps to assist friends and colleagues experiencing domestic abuse. For example:

- Talk to the woman and ask if there is any way you can help
- Offer the opportunity to talk without applying pressure to reveal more details than she is comfortable with
- Offer support and be a good listener, but don't make assumptions about the relationship
- Try to be supportive without making her feel judged
- Explain that she is not alone and that there are many other women experiencing abuse.
- Acknowledge that it takes strength to trust someone enough to talk about experiencing abuse
- Where consent has been given, you might be able to offer your help to report incidents to managers, staff welfare or HR.

Employees should be able to speak in confidence either to their line manager or a contact in personnel or staff welfare if they have concerns about the safety of a colleague.

## CONTACTS

### **Agencies**

#### **Zero Tolerance**

Role: A national organisation campaigning to end men's violence against women in all its forms and with a specific focus on primary prevention of violence through changing society's attitudes, values and structures

*11 Maritime Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 8BU*

*T: 0131 624 8955*

*E: [info@zerotolerance.org.uk](mailto:info@zerotolerance.org.uk)*

*W: [www.zerotolerance.org.uk](http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk)*

*Media contact: Jenny Kemp, Coordinator*

*T: 0131 624 8956*

*M: 07779 526 409*

*E: [Jenny.Kemp@zerotolerance.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.Kemp@zerotolerance.org.uk)*

#### **Scottish Women's Aid**

Role: The lead organisation in Scotland working towards the prevention of domestic abuse and a lead provider of services for women including refuge accommodation.

*2nd floor, 132 Rose Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3JD*

*T: 0131 226 6606*

*E: [info@scottishwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:info@scottishwomensaid.org.uk)*

*W: [www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk)*

*Media contact: Lily Greenan, Manager*

*T: 0131 240 0310*

*E: [Lily.Greenan@scottishwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:Lily.Greenan@scottishwomensaid.org.uk)*

#### **Rape Crisis Scotland**

Role: The national office for the rape crisis movement in Scotland, supporting service development and raising awareness of sexual violence, challenging attitudes and pressing for legal change.

*46 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 1HG*

*T: 0141 331 4180*

*E: [info@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)*

*W: [www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)*

*Media contact: Sandy Brindley, National Coordinator*

*T: 0141 331 4180*

*E: [Sandy.Brindley@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](mailto:Sandy.Brindley@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)*

**Women's Support Project**

Role: A feminist voluntary organisation, which works to raise awareness of the extent, causes and effect of male violence against women, and for improved services for those affected by violence

*31 Stockwell Street, Glasgow, G1 4RZ*

*T: 0141 552 2221*

*E: [janwsproject@btconnect.com](mailto:janwsproject@btconnect.com)*

*W: [www.womenssupportproject.co.uk](http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk)*

*Media contact: Dependent on issue – contact details as above*

**VAW Prevention Scotland**

Role: A national network bringing together people in Scotland with an interest in or expertise on preventing violence against women

*C/o Zero Tolerance, 11 Maritime Street, Edinburgh, EH6 8BU*

*T: 0131 624 8955*

*E: [info@vawpreventionscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@vawpreventionscotland.org.uk)*

*W: [www.vawpreventionscotland.org.uk](http://www.vawpreventionscotland.org.uk)*

*Media contact: Jenny Kemp*

*T: 0131 624 8955*

*E: [Jenny.Kemp@zerotolerance.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.Kemp@zerotolerance.org.uk)*

**Engender**

Role: A membership organisation working on an anti-sexist agenda in Scotland and Europe to increase women's power and influence and make visible the impact of sexism on women, men and society.

*1a Haddington Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4AE*

*T: 0131 558 9596*

*E: [info@engender.org.uk](mailto:info@engender.org.uk)*

*W: [www.engender.org.uk](http://www.engender.org.uk)*

*Media contact: Karen Dargo, Information Officer*

*T: 0131 558 9596*

*E: [Karen@engender.org.uk](mailto:Karen@engender.org.uk)*

### **Amnesty International Scotland**

Role: The Scottish office of Amnesty, a campaigning organisation whose purpose is to protect people wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

*MWB Business Exchange Centre, 9-10 St Andrew Square, EH2 2AF*

*T: 0844 800 9088*

*E: [scotland@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:scotland@amnesty.org.uk)*

*W: [www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=325](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=325)*

*Media contact: John Watson, Programme Director, Scotland*

*T: 0844 800 9088*

*E: [John.Watson@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:John.Watson@amnesty.org.uk)*

### **White Ribbon Scotland**

Role: A campaign for men in Scotland who want to end violence against women.

*MWB Business Exchange Centre, 9-10 St Andrew Square, EH2 2AF*

*T: 0844 800 9088*

*E: [info@whiteribbonScotland.org.uk](mailto:info@whiteribbonScotland.org.uk)*

*W: [www.whiteribbonScotland.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbonScotland.org.uk)*

*Media contact: Callum Hendry, Co-ordinator*

*T: 0844 800 9088*

*E: [callum@whiteribbonScotland.org.uk](mailto:callum@whiteribbonScotland.org.uk)*

### **Children 1st**

Role: A child welfare charity, which supports families under stress, protects children from harm and neglect, helps them to recover from abuse and promotes children's rights and interests.

*83 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh, EH9 1AT*

*T: 0131 446 2300*

*E: [info@children1st.org.uk](mailto:info@children1st.org.uk)*

*W: [www.children1st.org.uk](http://www.children1st.org.uk)*

*Media contact: Maxine Finlay, Press Officer*

*T: 0131 446 2330*

*F: 0131 446 2339*

*M: 07739 257 587*

*E: [maxine.finlay@children1st.org.uk](mailto:maxine.finlay@children1st.org.uk)*



### ***Barnardo's Scotland***

Role: A children's charity whose purpose is to reach out to the most disadvantaged children, young people, families and communities to help ensure that every child has the best possible start in life. Barnardo's Scotland runs a number of projects on domestic abuse and sexual exploitation.

*235 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AR*

*T: 0131 334 9893*

*E: [info@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:info@barnardos.org.uk)*

*W: [www.barnardos.org.uk/scotland](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/scotland)*

*Media contact: Kat Slater*

*T: 0131 334 9893*

*E: [katrina.slater@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:katrina.slater@barnardos.org.uk)*

### ***Helplines***

#### ***Childline***

*0800 11 11 – Free, confidential, 7 days, 24 hours a day*

#### ***National Domestic Abuse Helpline***

*0800 027 1234 – Free, confidential, 7 days, 24 hours a day*

#### ***National Rape Crisis Helpline***

*08088 01 03 02 – Free, confidential, 7 days, 6pm - midnight*

### ***Other useful contacts***

#### ***Scottish Government Violence Against Women Team***

*Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ*

*T: 08457 741 741 or 0131 556 8400*

*[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women)*

#### ***LGBT Domestic Abuse project***

*[www.lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk](http://www.lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk)*

*[info@lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk](mailto:info@lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk)*

#### ***ASSIST – Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service***

*[www.saferglasgow.com/services/reducing-violence-against-women/assist.aspx](http://www.saferglasgow.com/services/reducing-violence-against-women/assist.aspx)*

*T: 0141 276 7710*

**TARA project (Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance)**

[www.saferglasgow.com/services/reducing-violence-against-women/tara.aspx](http://www.saferglasgow.com/services/reducing-violence-against-women/tara.aspx)

T: 0141 276 7724

**End Violence Against Women coalition**

[www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk)

**Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit**

[www.cwasu.org](http://www.cwasu.org)

**Violence Reduction Unit**

[www.actiononviolence.co.uk](http://www.actiononviolence.co.uk)

**Voice Against Violence**

[www.voiceagainstviolence.org.uk](http://www.voiceagainstviolence.org.uk)

## FURTHER READING

### **General - VAW**

- International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Guideline for Reporting on Violence Against Women – <http://www.ifj.org/assets/docs/185/063/c3093b9-8c8e63f.pdf>
- Tackling violence against women and girls: A guide to good practice communications, Government Equalities Office, 2010, [http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/vaw\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/vaw_guidance.aspx)

### **Prostitution and trafficking, other CSE**

- Press for Change: A guide for journalists reporting on the prostitution and trafficking of women, Julie Bindel, 2006 – <http://action.web.ca/home/catw/attach/PRESSPACKgeneric12-06.pdf>
- Getting the Message Across? – Women’s Support Project, 2005. <http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk/content/publications/183,182/>

### **Domestic abuse and violence (US guidelines)**

- Covering domestic violence: A guide for journalists and other media professionals, Kelly Starr, for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Jan 2008 – [http://www.wscadv.org/docs/Media\\_Guide\\_2008.pdf](http://www.wscadv.org/docs/Media_Guide_2008.pdf)
- Covering domestic violence: A guide for informed media reporting in Nevada, Judge Chuck Weller – [http://www.nnadv.org/pdfs/Press\\_Room/Covering%20Domestic%20Violence-Media%20Guide.pdf](http://www.nnadv.org/pdfs/Press_Room/Covering%20Domestic%20Violence-Media%20Guide.pdf)

### **Trauma and tragedy**

- Covering children & trauma: a guide for journalism professionals, by Ruth Teichroeb, for the DART Center for Journalism and Trauma, 2006 – [http://dartcenter.org/files/covering\\_children\\_and\\_trauma\\_0.pdf](http://dartcenter.org/files/covering_children_and_trauma_0.pdf)
- Best practices in trauma reporting: Ideas and insights from award-winning newspaper articles, by Kevin Kawamoto, for the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma – [http://dartcenter.org/files/da\\_best\\_practices\\_0\\_1.pdf](http://dartcenter.org/files/da_best_practices_0_1.pdf)

### **Crime general**

- BBC editorial guidelines on crime - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines/page/guidance-crime-full>

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- iii. Statistical Bulletin Crime & Justice Series: Domestic Abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, 2008-09, pub. 24.11.09, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292984/0090391.pdf>
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- v. Taskforce presentation: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women/domestic-abuse-task-force>
- vi. LabTV survey - [http://menmedia.co.uk/manchestereveningnews/news/s/161338\\_naked\\_ambition\\_rubs\\_off\\_on\\_teen\\_girls](http://menmedia.co.uk/manchestereveningnews/news/s/161338_naked_ambition_rubs_off_on_teen_girls)
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- ix. Statistical Bulletin Crime and Justice Series, Recorded Crime in Scotland 2008-09
- x. 'Hidden Marks: A study of women students' experiences of harassment, stalking, violence and sexual assault', NUS, March 2010. <http://www.vawpreventionscotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/Hidden-Marks-Wales.pdf>
- xi. British Crime Survey, 2004
- xii. Calculated from Statistical Bulletin Crime and Justice Series: Recorded Crime in Scotland & Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts, Scottish Government, 2008 & 2009
- xiii. Safer Lives: Changed Lives, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/06/02153519/5>
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