

Rt Hon. Caroline Nokes MP, Dame Diana Johnson MP, Joanna Cherry QC
MP House of Commons London SW1A 0PW

11 January 2022

Dear Diana, Caroline and Joanna,

Thank you very much for your letter of 14 November about the Istanbul Convention, further to your exchange of letters on that subject with my predecessor.

The Convention has now come into force in the United Kingdom (as it did on the same day, incidentally, in Ukraine – a small demonstration of our two countries' shared values), and two weeks afterwards the Home Office was represented at an international meeting of the bodies charged with co-ordinating a signatory state's action to tackle violence against women and girls; the UK will shortly attend its first meeting of the Committee of the Parties established under Article 67 of the Convention; and we have recently been invited to submit nominations for a UK candidate to serve from next June on the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), which monitors member states' compliance with the provisions of the Convention. This is all testament to our playing our full part in international action to tackle violence against women and girls.

Turning to your questions, I am happy to confirm that we remain committed to making a decision, as soon as practicable, on whether it is appropriate to maintain our reservation on Article 59 of the Convention, relating to migrant victims of domestic abuse. I can confirm that the evaluation report of the Support for Migrant Victims Scheme pilot has been received. Ministers will need time to carefully consider it and we will share the report findings as soon as is practicable. Meanwhile, as committed to in the Domestic Abuse Plan, we are providing £1.4 million in the current financial year to continue to fund

the Support for Migrant Victim Scheme whilst we take on board lessons learnt from the pilot.

As my predecessor set out in her letter to you, the timescale of our review of the position on the Article 59 reservation is not one which would make six monthly updates to yourselves applicable. I can confirm that I will write to you to confirm our decision on the reservation once we have made it.

I also look forward to working with you all to tackle violence against women and girls and thank you for your work on this critical subject.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suella Braverman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rt Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP
Home Secretary