

Chairs of the, Home Affairs Select Committee,
Justice Select Committee, and
Women and Equalities Committee
House of Commons
London
United Kingdom
SW1A 0AA

18 December 2025

Dear colleagues,

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY

I am writing to you as the Chairs of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Justice Select Committee and Women and Equalities Committee to notify you that the new cross-Government Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy has been published today.

The scale of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in our country is intolerable. As part of this Government's Safer Streets Mission, we have set out our unprecedented target to halve it in a decade. Achieving this means overhauling every aspect of society's response to these devastating crimes.

This Government has already taken action. We have introduced new criminal offences for creating sexually explicit deepfakes or taking intimate images without consent, for spiking and installing equipment to enable such acts; as well as new measures to prevent and tackle 'honour'-based abuse. We have committed £160 million to local authorities for 2025/26 alone, a £30 million increase, to expand provision of safe accommodation for victims, survivors and children. We have also invested £13.1 million in the establishment of a new National Centre for VAWG and Public Protection (NCVPP).

The VAWG Strategy builds on the Government's work to date. The Strategy will set out the strategic direction and concrete actions to deliver our unprecedented commitment to halve VAWG in a decade. It will focus on preventing violence and abuse, relentlessly pursuing perpetrators, and supporting victims and survivors. This will be underpinned by an evidence review to ensure that our approach is informed by the best available research and analysis.

The joint letter from the Committee of 9 December raised concerns from stakeholders over the timing of the Strategy and our plans for further engagement. I hope this letter, and the commitments contained within in the Strategy and accompanying action plan, assures the Committee that we will take the issues raised forward in our delivery and implementation of the Strategy. We have also reflected the recommendations from the various inquiries and reports undertaken into this important topic and we are grateful for the time and work that has gone into conducting these. We are committed to delivering the Strategy by taking a whole-of-society approach and we look forward to working with the Committees to achieve this.

Prevention and Early Intervention

The Strategy stresses the need for an unprecedented focus on prevention, intervening early with children and young people to prevent them from becoming victims and perpetrators in the first place. Preventing future generations from becoming both victims and perpetrators is the most effective way to reduce VAWG, not just today, but for generations to come. Below are some of the key commitments the Strategy under Prevention and Early Intervention:

- **Overhaul the Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum to ensure that children are equipped with the skills they need to develop healthy relationships, and the tools to tackle harmful influences.** Through our new statutory guidance, we will support young people to develop positive conceptions of masculinity and femininity, and to understand the harmful impacts of misogynistic online content, including pornography.
- **By the end of this parliament in 2029, every state funded secondary school in England will have a credible offer for educating students about healthy and respectful relationships, with every child able to access support.** There are different ways of delivering this kind of education - through the improved RSHE curriculum, specialist training to deliver teaching in-house, working with external providers to provide whole school sessions, or mentoring - and we will give schools the choice on which approach to use.
- **Ban nudification apps and other tools designed to create synthetic non-consensual intimate images (NCII), to stop women and girls' images being tampered with and exploited without their consent.** This will ban the development and distribution of such tools.

Relentless pursuit of perpetrators

The Strategy is clear that the Government will reform services and institutions to ensure that no perpetrator can act with impunity. It is imperative that we transform how we pursue and punish adult perpetrators who cause harm, enforcing a robust response across every part of society, from the police to healthcare providers, to deal with those who cause harm proactively and decisively. With that aim, the Strategy includes the following commitments:

- **Implement 'Raneem's Law', embedding domestic abuse specialists in every police control room by the end of this Parliament** to improve the police response to domestic abuse victims

- **Equip police officers and staff with the capability and evidence-based guidance they need to respond effectively to violence against women and girls.** This includes working with the new NCVPP to apply learning from Operation Soteria, a pioneering, Home Office-funded programme which has involved academics working with policing to develop new tools and guidance to improve the way adult rape and sexual offences are investigated
- **Improve the function of Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to ensure they are used effectively and at the earliest opportunity.** We are legislating in the Crime and Policing Bill to allow the courts to make SPOs on conviction or acquittal of their own volition. We will also improve the function and use of interim SPOs to ensure they operate effectively and provide timely safeguards and assess whether the processes around applying for an SPO can be improved so it is as seamless as possible.

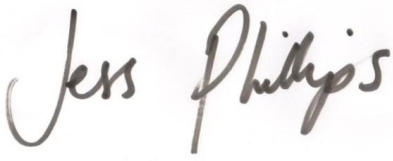
Supporting victims

Victims and survivors are at the heart of this Strategy. Our plan is to build a system which enables survivors to cope, recover and move forward with their lives. The Strategy recognises that no one victim or survivor of VAWG crimes is the same and often victims face a complex and sensitive range of challenges that requires tailored and specialist support. The Strategy makes several commitments to strengthen the support available:

- **Reform how victims' services are commissioned** to ensure that support is consistent, delivers what victims need, and fit for purpose.
- **Support victims with an investment of £550 million in victim support services over the next three years.** This will be further supported with annual increases and an **additional £5 million from DHSC each year**, which increases annual spend by 15%.
- **Providing £499 million over the next three years to enable local authorities in England to support the victims support in safe housing**, through the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Duty.

In addition to the Strategy, we have published an Action Plan that sets out the concrete commitments that we will deliver, working across government, frontline public services, the VAWG sector, academia, business and wider society. These specific actions cover the Spending Review period running from 2026 - 2029. The Government has also published a Men and Boys Explanatory Note, in recognition that men and boys also experience abusive and violent crimes. Copies of the Strategy and Action Plan have been placed in the libraries of both Houses, and all documents have been made available on GOV.UK.

I look forward to continued engagement with you on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jess Phillips". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jess" and the last name "Phillips" clearly legible.

Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and
Violence Against Women and Girls

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Alex Davies-Jones". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the hyphenated name clearly visible.

Alex Davies-Jones MP
Minister for Victims and Tackling
Violence Against Women and Girls