

## Cross Party Working Group on Men's Violence Against Women & Children

Final Minute of meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014

17.30 – 19.00, Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament.

### Present/Apologies:

#### Attending

- **Christina McKelvie MSP- Chair**
- Malcolm Chisholm MSP
- Louise Johnson -Scottish Women's Aid ( **Minutes**)
- Ghizala Avan- Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre
- Emma Ritch- Engender
- Eva Kestner - Parliamentary Assistant/Researcher for Rhoda Grant MSP & David Stewart MSP
- Mark Cooper- NSPCC Scotland
- Katarzyna Zalewska - City of Edinburgh Council ,Safer Families Edinburgh
- Stephen Madill - City of Edinburgh Council ,Safer Families Edinburgh
- Kay Steven- Scottish Women's Aid
- Nina Murray Scottish Refugee Council
- Joyce Stevenson- STUC Women's Committee
- Miranda Pio- -West Lothian Council
- Callum Hendry- White Ribbon Scotland
- Davy Thompson -White Ribbon Scotland
- Laura Tomson- Zero Tolerance
- Claire Gibson – Streetwork
- Sheila Noble- Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership
- Megan Bastick- WILPF
- Keiran Watson –EAU
- Dave Smith- Parliamentary Researcher
- Sandie Barton- Rape Crisis Scotland
- Ashley Thompson - Shakti Women's Aid
- Nicola Wray- Barnardos

Representatives from Scottish Government **Gender LGBT Equality & Violence Against Women Team**

Lesley Irving and Lesley Cunningham

#### Apologies

- Jan Macleod- Women's Support Project
- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Ann Hayne-NHS Lanarkshire, EVA Services
- Drew Smith MSP
- Lorna Gallacher- Pilton Community Health Project
- Maureen Wylie-National Violence against Women Network Coordinator
- Stewart Maxwell MSP
- Marsha Scott -West Lothian Council & Engender
- Melanie McCarry-University of Central Lancashire

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graeme Richards- Circle</li> <li>• Elaine Wishart, Corporate Governance, City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Nadine Jassat- EWRASAC</li> <li>• Claudia Beamish MSP</li> <li>• Lily Greenan -Scottish Women’s Aid</li> <li>• Girijamba Polubothu- Shakti Women’s Aid</li> <li>• Nancy Lombard- University of Glasgow</li> <li>• Elaine Wishart, Corporate Governance, City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Asia Bartsch- City of Edinburgh Council- Safer Families</li> </ul>	
<b>1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christina McKelvie, MSP, chairing, noted the apologies as given above and welcomed the Scottish Government representatives to the meeting.</li> <li>• The minutes of the previous meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were read and approved by those present.</li> </ul>	
<b>Update on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence ( the Istanbul Convention ) and facilitated discussion about future CPG action on the Convention</b>	
<p>The Convention was previously discussed in detail at the CPG meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and see <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default_en.asp">http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default_en.asp</a></p> <p>Lesley Irving opened the discussion and advised that the UK Government has signed but not ratified the Convention because they believe that the UK is not fully compliant with the Convention requirements; in this regard, they are undertaking a mapping exercise across Westminster Departments and the devolved administrations to determine the extent of compliance across the UK. The UK is looking to ratify through identifying achievements will meet the requirements, as opposed to ratifying and then aspiring to ensure that the requirements are met. The Scottish Government has reported back to the UK Government.</p> <p>Scotland is compliant with the possible exception of the requirements in relation to Extra Territorial Jurisdiction ( ETJ)- there is a presumption that states have jurisdiction on offences committed inside but not beyond their territories. ETJ extends this authority to offences committed outside the state by persons from that jurisdiction e.g crimes of genocide and sexual offences are covered in international treaties that allow for offenders to be returned to UK but stalking would not be. There is an issue about extending ETJ to other offences as this would potentially require the UK to agree protocols with all other jurisdictions.</p> <p>The meeting discussed whether the Convention helped in clarifying the obligation of Local Authorities in relation to women subject to the No Recourse to Public Funds restrictions, in ensuring that all women who need support can get it? Support was not consistent from local authorities because they were unsure of their obligations. Lesley indicated that this matter had not been raised before and would check this further</p> <p>Lesley explained that a scheme, the Domestic Violence Destitution Fund, had been devised by the UK Government after lobbying by Scottish Women’s Aid and other organisations to provide housing and living costs for women who meet specific criteria. The Scottish Refugee Council commented that this support should be</p>	

<p>available to all women under the Convention, which could be a lever to extending this measure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesley advised that there was no indication from the UK Government that they were considering extending the scheme.</li> <li>• Louise will check this with SWA colleagues</li> <li>• The Scottish Refugee Council advised that the Legal Services Agency were dealing with cases on family reunion that may be relevant to this issue and would update the CPG</li> </ul> <p>It was observed that the UK is taking an unique position in not wanting to ratify the Convention until it is compliant in all areas. Other Council of Europe member states are being aspirational and ratifying even though they are not fully compliant. UK has signed up to CEDAW although as not wholly compliant with the CEDAW requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesley undertook to contact the Ministry of Justice on the picture emerging and what their thoughts are on ratification. <b>Given the Scottish Government’s position that Scotland was complaint on all areas except ETJ, she welcomed views from the CPG on this matter and whether there were other areas or gaps that had not been considered.</b></li> </ul> <p>In this regard, the meeting noted that this would be difficult to determine until the Convention scrutiny mechanism for checking compliance was in place and since the voluntary sector had not reviewed the Convention in this way. Lesley indicated that this work would be helpful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference was made to previous discussions at the May CPG meeting in relation to CPG members possibly taking a “piece” of the Convention and looking at our own work, what compliance would look like in this area, what would be needed to secure this and the gaps, over 3 areas- Prevention; Protection including specialised support and shelters; Prosecution. <b>Louise undertook to contact those members who had expressed an interest.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Action- further discussion from CPG</p> <p>Action- Louise</p>
<p><b>3. Presentation from RESPEKT- Stephen Madill, Senior Social Worker, Safer Families, Edinburgh and Kata Zalewska, Men’s Worker with the RESPEKT project, Safer Families.</b></p>	
<p>The background to this was explained an offshoot of the Working with Men project. WWM had started 10 years ago as a pilot growing out of work being done in formal, court-mandated, criminal justice social work perpetrator programmes; in recognition of the fact that not all perpetrators of domestic abuse go through the criminal justice system, the WWM project was set up to work with these men and abusers who had not been court mandated.</p> <p>3 years ago the police advised that the second largest ethnic group of perpetrators they were dealing with after Scottish men were Polish men, but they were not being dealt with either through WWM or court mandated programmes. The RESPEKT groupwork programme is for men who acknowledge their abuse and consists of 14 individual sessions and 26 weekly group sessions, which are not mandatory. There is also a complementary programme for men who have harmed children but not necessarily in the context of domestic abuse and a parallel support programme for women.</p> <p>The project attempts to promote a wider understanding of the needs of Polish</p>	

<p>families experiencing domestic abuse and the cultural differences- domestic abuse is still seen as “normal” in Poland and is not taken seriously by the police, coupled with the fact that there is no Polish equivalent of child protection legislation and social work intervention, legal protection against domestic abuse or even terminology expressing concepts such as domestic abuse. There are also many differences in terms of the role of, and access to social and medical services and a lack of awareness of the existence of support services such as Women’s Aid.</p> <p>The RESPEKT team have workers who are both Polish speakers and Polish nationals, who can carry out background checks in Poland on an abuser’s history, are engaging with women and supporting them and are also changing the men’s motivation and attitudes towards engaging positively with perpetrator programmes generally. Court-mandated programmes have a higher completion rate because the court and Children and Families Social Workers monitor compliance; however, abusers have come off the programme because children have been taken off the “at risk” register. RESPEKT will send a copy of the presentation for circulation around the CPG</p> <p>Carrying out primary prevention work is difficult, since the project has only 2 workers. In addition, a lack of adequate and appropriate translation services causes difficulties in raising awareness for women that this assistance is available. The meeting agreed that translation and interpreting is a difficulty generally for practitioners and a lack of national standards for interpreters in Scotland is a significant issue. The Glasgow VAWP had produced a publication on good practice in using interpreters which the SRC would send to the CPG for circulation. Louise mentioned that EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime had provisions relating to interpretation and translation services, with the caveat that this duty on Member States related to certain prescribed circumstances of “engagement” within the criminal justice system. This would be circulated to CPG members.</p>	<p>Action- LJ &amp; RESPEKT</p> <p>Action- SRC, LJ &amp; RESPEKT</p>
<p><b>4. CPG event during the 16 Days of Action on Violence Against Women</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>
<p>See previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callum has booked the Burns Room at the Parliament on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 1- 2.15pm. Ideas for the event were discussed and the CPG were attracted to the idea of having MSPs sign a Declaration, similar to the previous event in 2007 and this could be a commitment to Equally Safe or some other way of ensuring Parliamentary accountability on the Strategy.</li> <li>• CPG members had already been involved in discussions around planning and a meeting would be arranged immediately prior to the next CPG for those who had shown interest to discuss practicalities of the day, equipment, numbers, etc.</li> <li>• A short paragraph on the event would be included in the MSPs Bulletin the week before the event- will have to agree content, etc and Malcolm Chisholm MSP, as sponsoring MSP will have to be kept informed.</li> <li>• Callum was also to explore the possibility of a stall in Parliament during the 16 Days and will report back to the CPG</li> <li>• VAW Debate during the 16 Days- can this be held on the 4<sup>th</sup>- LJ to contact Lesley Irving on this</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION-members &amp; LJ</b></p>
<p><b>Members’ Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 and Under- VIP (Violence is Preventable) Programme in schools- part of “Learn to Listen”. 18andUnder have also been asked to feed in young people’s experiences of information sharing across services and when they are and aren’t heard to a Holyrood Magazine conference on information sharing - CPG members can contact 18&amp;Under with contributions</li> <li>• Zero Tolerance and White Ribbon- event on 6 October- “Young Men and Porn”- for practitioners working with young men. A formal report will be produced</li> <li>• WSP- are producing a theatre company resource in connection with child sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Amina- are delivering a series of short, 20 minute plays in the South Side of Glasgow on issues relating to VAW such as forced marriage, domestic abuse, honour-based violence, FGM. The scripts will feature the experiences of local women. This project is in its initial stages and the intention is to put the plays on across Glasgow</li> <li>• Shakti- are holding a conference on 29 September looking at forced marriage and the new legislation on this in both Scotland and England and Wales , featuring presentations from the Forced Marriage Unit of the Foreign Office and other speakers.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>
<p>To be fixed for late October with a pre-planning meeting immediately before for the 16 Days Event.</p>	