

**Draft minute of the meeting of the**  
**Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children**  
**18 September 2019, 17.30 – 19.30, Canongate 2, Radisson Blu Hotel,**  
**80 High St, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1TH**

**1. Present/Apologies**

**Present**

**CPG Members**

- Johann Lamont MSP (JL)
- Rona Mackay MSP (RMK)
- Ania Kinross – SWA (AK)
- Brenna Jessie – Rape Crisis Scotland (BJ)
- Christine Gray – Individual (CG)
- Erin Mwebo – Young Women Lead (EM)
- Katherine Gilmour – Church of Scotland (KG)
- Kelly Johnson – Individual (KJ)
- Linda Rodgers – Edinburgh Women's Aid (LR)
- Louise Johnson – SWA (LJ)
- Marsha Scott – SWA (MS)
- Rory Macrae – Safer Families/Caledonian System (RMR)
- Sue McKellar – SWA (SMK)
- Susie Dalton – SWA (SD)

**Non-Member Visitors**

- Debra Forrester – Police Scotland (DF)
- Gillian Macdonald – Police Scotland (GMD)
- John Devaney – University of Edinburgh (JD)
- John Frederick – Monash University, Australia
- Laila Ali – Saheliya (LA)
- Lesley Boal – Police Scotland (LB)
- Nicoletta Primo – Girlguiding Scotland (NP)
- Samiha Ishan – Saheliya (SI)
- Sarah McMillan – Scottish Association of Social Workers

**Apologies**

- Claudia Beamish MSP
- Claire Baker MSP
- John Finnie MSP
- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Amy Johnson – Zero Tolerance
- Ann Hayne – NHS Lanarkshire, EVA Services (AH)
- Catriona Kirkpatrick – Engender

- Davy Thompson – White Ribbon Scotland
- George Eckton – Individual
- Jan Macleod - Women’s Support Project
- Lily Greenan - Individual
- Linda Thompson - Women’s Support Project
- Maddy Kirkman – Barnardo’s
- Melanie McCarry – Strathclyde University
- NUS Scotland
- Rachel Adamson – Zero Tolerance
- Sandie Barton – Rape Crisis Scotland
- Sarah Weldon – Forensic Services, Glasgow

## 2. Thematic session: Policing of VAWG

- A. Research on policing of VAWG - Prof John Devaney, Head of Social Work, University of Edinburgh (see appendix 1)
- B. Police responses: children’s experiences and recommendations – Susie Dalton, Scottish Women’s Aid (see appendix 2)
- C. Best Approaches to FGM - how we challenge it in Scotland – Samiha Ishan, Senior Caseworker on FGM, Saheliya

Presentations were followed by questions from the floor, on issues including psychological 1<sup>st</sup> aid for children; appropriate training for and skills of the response officers, raising awareness of FGM as a crime amongst affected communities.

Representatives of Police Scotland (DF, GMD & LB) addressed matters raised in the presentations and the quick Q&A session.

- a) Prevention of FGM: PS participation in a UK-wide programme “Limelight” raising awareness, with additional efforts at airports etc. around high-travel season. There is some evidence that cutters might be travelling in to Scotland, but currently there’s no preventative offence.

**Action:** LB to forward a model legislation of preventative offence and potential wording for a consultation to MS.

- b) police training: new force-wide training on coercive control is ongoing, with positive feedback from staff and the partners. GIRFEC has been embedded across PS, for a better understanding of CYP needs. This will improve further with the introduction of the Vulnerable Witness Bill. The next step is to introduce DA Champions to support the response staff. A pilot 1 year training for expert CYP interviewers will be starting soon, with the hope to roll-out Scotland-wide.

### 3. Cross- Party Group business

A. Approval of previous minutes: attendance record has been amended as corrected by CG and minutes of CPG June 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 were approved as an accurate record (proposed by CG, seconded by RMK).

B. Action points from the thematic session:

MS will take questions from the group's members to GMD:

- Measuring impact of the new DA training
- More information on cutters coming in to UK
- What other measures would be helpful in tackling FGM

**Action:** MS to liaise with GMD and feed back to the group

C. December session – 16 Days

There was a suggestion that this year's theme is Well-being and the true cost of VAWG. Group's suggestions for the December session included:

- [Recounting Women](#) project presentation (MS)
- Report on the femicide figures (submitted by AH)
- Coercive control & financial abuse (RMK)

Group's suggestion is to hold a poster session with representatives of external organisations, which attended a recent European conference on femicide.

**Action:** JD to speak to the reps and liaise with MS re poster session

RMK will also be submitting a motion at the Parliament to mark the 16 Days.

**Action:** RMK to circulate the information and dates to the group.

D. Implementation of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018:

MS will be meeting GMD to feed back on the implementation so far. Group discussed the low rate of non-harassment orders applied.

**Action:** MS to ask further questions about NHO's at the meeting with GMD.

E. Members' updates:

- a. Rape Crisis Scotland: Survivors Reference Group [initial report](#) has been published, full report will be available soon.
- b. Edinburgh Women's Aid: ongoing work with COPFS in Edinburgh on changing the protocol for advocacy.

- c. Caledonian System: RMR is in negotiation with Castle Huntly prison over a proposal to run a pilot with men nearing the end of lengthy prison sentences for DA offences which would enable them to begin the Caledonian programme in prison and complete it in a community based group after their release.
- d. SWA: in receipt of the Legal Education Foundation grant. The grant will be used to research access to legal services by women and children in DA cases.
- e. CG: attended a European conference on DA.
- f. RMK: consultation on the Stalking Bill is now closed. The overall feedback was good, but the next step consultation is now on-hold while the new DA Bill implementation is ongoing to avoid multiple layers of new legislation. Dr Oona Brooks will be speaking at the next meeting of the [CPG on Women's Justice](#) on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 6-8pm, in Committee Room 6.

F. Confirmation/Approval of new members: new members have been unanimously approved.

- a. Girlguiding Scotland – represented by Nicoletta Primo, PR and Policy Officer
- b. Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) – represented by Sarah McMillan, Social Worker
- c. Thriving Survivors (represented by Ashley Scotland, CEO)

NP thanked the group for approval. In 2018 Girlguiding Scotland fed into a research on young women's experience of VAWG. With its membership of 50k, they hope they'll be able to link into any future research and/or consultation.

BJ stressed how important it is for young women to be involved in a CPG like this one and echoed the importance of feeding in young women's voices into future research/consultations.

#### 4. Date and time of the next meetings

- December 4<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm [meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6-8pm to avoid a clash with another event at the Parliament]