



Violence Against Women and Girls

The Metropolitan Police Service proposal and feedback session



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Aim:

The following presentation seeks to:

Outline the 4 key elements of the MPS VAWG Action Plan.

Invite feedback, suggestions and discussions around the proposal.

Promote the completion of a very brief survey to collect feedback digitally.

Provide an overview of what will be done after this presentation and how feedback will be communicated.

The implementations suggested are not part of a solidified plan, they are intended to provide a starting point and facilitate discussion. Your feedback will shape the way that the Met responds and the content of a formal action plan in the future.



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Met VAWG Action Plan – setting the context

What we are doing to help make women and girls safer and feel safer in London

The term ‘violence against women and girls’ refers to acts of violence or abuse that disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, harmful practices (including female genital mutilation and forced marriage) as well as many others, including offences committed online.

National statistics outline the scale of the issue:

- **15.2%** of all recorded crime in England and Wales and **35.5%** of all recorded violence against the person crimes is domestic abuse-related.
- **25%** of women are affected by domestic violence in their lifetime, with estimates suggesting well over a million women suffer from domestic abuse each year.
- **Two women are killed every week** in England and Wales by a current or former partner.
- In 2020/21, the Met recorded **more than 19,000 allegations of sexual offences** (including 7,700 rapes and 8,000 serious sexual offences).
- A recent report by UN Women UK found that **97 per cent of women aged 18-24 have been sexually harassed, with 96 per cent not reporting** those situations because of their belief that it would not change anything.

Women should feel confident about reporting, and that their report will be taken seriously by the police. It is clear we have more to do.



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1) Protecting women and girls in public spaces, at home and online:

- **Grow Town Centre teams** and maximise resources to increase officer visibility and coverage on the streets.
- **Night time economy** – Expand “Ask for Angela” campaign, work with community partners, licensees and event organisers to prevent night time violence – ensure materials are available such as spikeys and straws.
- Prioritise women and girls affected by **gangs** – focusing on exploitation, missing person reports for girls under 18 and partnership working to identify those at risk earlier.
- Deliver **training** – continue DA training which focuses on coercion and hidden harm and introduce FGM training.
- Introduce the **Digital Media Investigator course** which includes better management of digital and cyber evidence. This can be used to investigate VAWG alongside other crimes.
- **Operation Limelight** – Border Force and Met working together to target adults travelling with young children to countries with high levels of FGM, forced marriage and honour based abuse. In the past 2149 Forced Marriage Protection Orders and 418 FGM Protection Orders have been utilised.



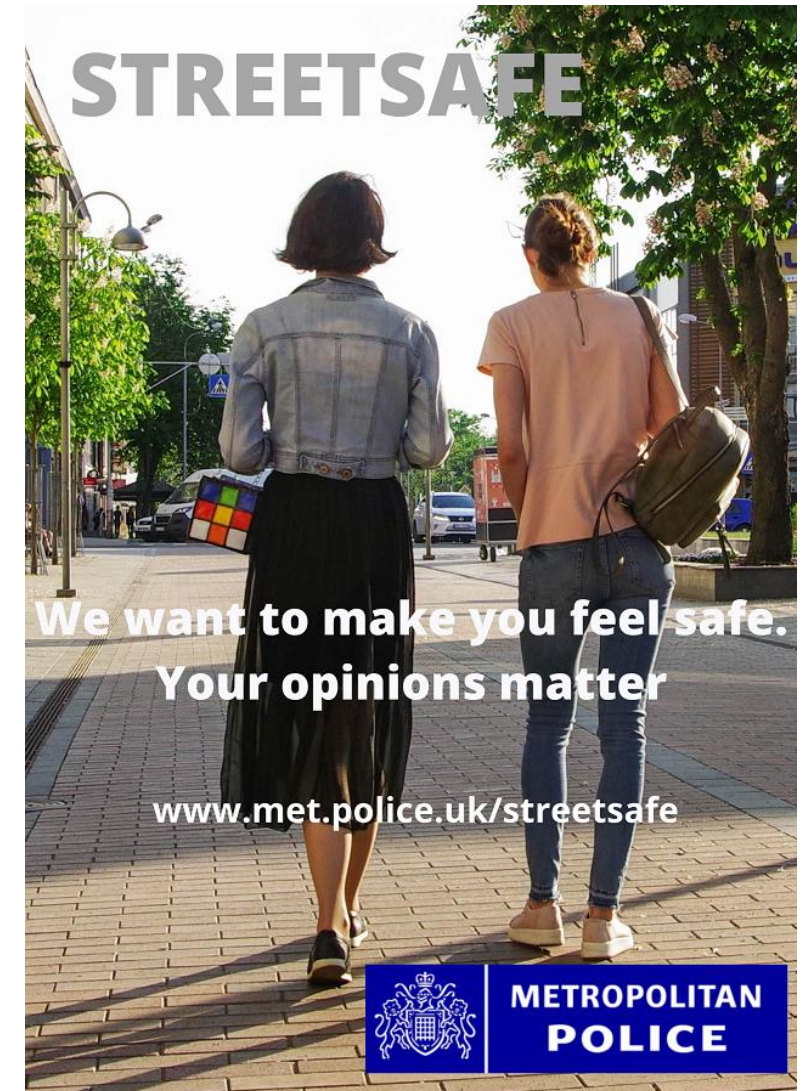
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2) Working with our partners and with women to improve prevention and victim care:

- **Walk and Talk sessions** – walk around Croydon with female police officers, councillors and Met police SLT.
- Promote the use of the **StreetSafe** online tool to increase data gathered on VAWG and enable a targeted response and prevention work.
- Work with partners to improve **intelligence gathering on FGM**. The MPS CAIT investigate FGM and Southall Black Sisters is the local partner charity lead on SN BCU.
- **Partnership working** – DA Charities we work with: Sutton – One Stop Shop, Croydon – Family Justice Centre, Bromley – Womens Aid. Refer victims to the national centre for DA to receive help for re-housing, practical advice, how to get non-molestation orders, independent DA and sexual violence advisors.
- **Stalking Threat Assessment Centre (STAC)** – multi-agency collaboration between partners to advise officers on investigations, complete health referrals, direct contact with probation officers and victim referrals, which provides expertise to first responders of stalking offences, victim care and works with offenders.



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What is StreetSafe?

- StreetSafe is a non-crime anonymous online reporting tool to collect data to find out where women feel unsafe and why.
- It was launched on Thursday 2nd September 2021.
- Members of the public reporting online can choose which contributing factors may be making them feel unsafe – Environmental, such as the area being poorly lit, or Behavioural, such as verbal harassment. This indicates where improvements can be made. The scope is not limited to women and girls, the wider community can report their concerns.
- Users can submit demographic information even though the reporting tool is anonymous.
- Data from StreetSafe is uploaded onto a hub where police officers across the country can access it and this data is used to improve partnership working and targeted policing.

Tell us where you feel unsafe in public

Use the search box below to find the precise location, or drag the pin on the map to mark the location as close as you can.

 Use my current location



QR Code for the StreetSafe Website



Tell us why you feel unsafe in public

Pick the issues that cause you to feel unsafe in this location. There is no limit to how many issues you can pick.

Environmental (related to places/locations) :

- ☐ Absence of CCTV
- ☐ Badly lit e.g. poor or no street lighting
- ☐ Empty buildings or isolated places
- ☐ Poor street layout e.g. blind spots and hidden areas
- ☐ Restricted visibility e.g. overgrown bushes and trees, walls
- ☐ Rundown e.g. derelict buildings, abandoned cars, graffiti, fly-tipping etc.
- ☐ Signs of drug or alcohol use
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not applicable

Behavioural (related to people) :

- ☐ Verbal harassment from / by a single stranger
- ☐ Verbal harassment from / by a group of people
- ☐ Feeling like you are being followed / have previously been followed
- ☐ Other forms of harassment
- ☐ Not applicable



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3) Bringing offenders to justice and improving criminal justice outcomes for victims:

- **Target DA offenders including weeks and days of action** – local officers will be mobilised and arrest enquiries prioritised.
- **Utilise legislation more effectively** such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders, Stalking Protection Orders and Forced Marriage Protection Orders.
- Support the **expansion of DRIVE**.
- **Invest over £10m** to improve gathering and analysis of **digital evidence** which includes the recruitment of over 100 technical staff.
- **Digital Media Investigators and Digital Forensic staff** on each BCU to improve the skills of officers to capture and use digital evidence which is being rolled out over the next 3 years.
- Conduct a **review of domestic abuse investigations** (in conjunction with London Criminal Justice Board) to identify how we can increase successful prosecutions.
- **Operation Soteria** – The National Government response to Rape and Serious Sexual Offence (RASSO). This works alongside Op Bluestone to create the best investigations for the best results in regards to RASSO cases. Op Bluestone is an academic-led transformational approach into rape investigations to evaluate policy, process and performance.



4) Improving Met culture and professional standards:

- **Increase the number of investigators within our Professional Standards Department.**
- **Review of current investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct and DA** – all DA investigations go to a neighbouring BCU and are fast tracked to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible.
- **Review of the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Command.**
- **Respond quickly to the findings from HMICFRS** on our vetting processes.
- **Recruit women and those from ethnic minority backgrounds**, supporting their progression by targeting under-represented groups and engaging with young people.
- **Invest in development for women and underrepresented groups** seeking promotion and/or lateral development.
- **Refresh our flexible working policy** to actively support our workforce.
- **Improving Met culture** including through the review being led by Baroness Casey of Blackstock.



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Survey Questions and discussion:

Q1) Tell us what you think about our plan to prevent violence against women and girls.

Q2) What else should the Met do that isn't already in the plan?

Please scan the QR code below which will take you to the online survey:



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What will be done after today?

Your feedback will be collated and used to amend the MPS VAWG Action Plan.

Feedback from the online survey will be collated directly.

Feedback from this session will be collated by the facilitators and shared internally through insight sessions and feedback panels.

The official MPS VAWG action plan will be announced next year.



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Met VAWG Action Plan – your feedback

What we are doing to help make women and girls safer and feel safer in London

You can find the action plan here alongside our Rebuilding Trust plan - <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/rebuilding-trust/>

We want to hear feedback from communities and partners on this plan. If you have not already, you can do this online at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PublicFeedbackVAWG/>

We want to hear views on the plan itself as well as comments on what else you think the Met should be doing.

We are also holding roundtables and conversations with partners in coming months so that Basic Command Units and other teams can hear from their local connections.

The feedback we receive will form an integral part of our final plan.



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