



**Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
Supplementary National  
Violence Against  
Women Guidance  
Executive Summary**  
(Updated September 2020)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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# Cosla/Ministerial Spokesperson Foreword

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The COVID-19 pandemic, and the measures that continue to be put in place to control the spread of the coronavirus,<sup>1</sup> are no excuse for the perpetration of violence against women and girls (VAWG). However, they may create an environment whereby the risks to women, children and young people suffering or recovering from all forms of VAWG are heightened in local communities across Scotland.

Across Scotland, we know that professionals within local authorities and other key community planning organisations are working incredibly hard to reduce risks to, and help safeguard, people within their local communities. Despite the challenging environment they are operating under, local authorities and other key public sector and third sector partners are continuing to play a vital role in ensuring that women, children and young people's needs are met throughout periods of heightened risk and as Scotland moves towards recovery, renewal and transformation.

As co-owners of [Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women and Girls](#), COSLA and the Scottish Government have developed this supplementary guidance for local authorities and other key community planning partners to support them with this important task. The guidance has been developed in partnership with the Improvement Service and Public Health Scotland and has been informed by a wide range of specialist VAWG organisations working across Scotland, as well as key professional bodies.

Specifically, this guidance aims to ensure that a sustainable, joined-up approach to safeguarding the needs of women, children and young people experiencing VAWG during COVID-19 is embedded at a local strategic level. It is intended to support the strong leadership already being demonstrated by Local Government and other key community planning partners across Scotland in ensuring effective protection and provision of support for people experiencing VAWG.

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1 The Scottish Government introduced [measures](#) as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak requiring people to stay at home and away from others to help protect the NHS and save lives. The [Health Protection \(Coronavirus\)\(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) ("the Coronavirus Regulations") (implemented 26th March) contain the lawful basis for these measures and are reviewed at least once every 21 days. In addition, supporting guidance to the Coronavirus Regulations for circumstances where there may be domestic abuse may be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-domestic-abuse/>

Ultimately, the guidance is intended to be a useful resource that can support local decision-makers across a wide range of organisations and partnerships. Originally published in May 2020, and updated in September 2020 to reflect Scotland's current phase of COVID-19 recovery and renewal, this guidance aims to ensure collaborative responses to women, children and young people affected by VAWG continue to be prioritised as part of our wider strategic response to addressing the pandemic and its economic and social harms.

Despite the significant challenges that continue to be posed by COVID-19, we firmly believe that by continuing to work together to deliver on our shared commitments, we can realise our shared ambition of making Scotland truly Equally Safe.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Parry".

Councillor Kelly Parry  
Community Wellbeing  
Spokesperson, COSLA



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina McKelvie".

Christina McKelvie MSP  
Minister for Older People  
and Equalities

# Introduction and Aims of the Guidance

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## Background

*Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls* was launched in 2014 and revised in 2016. The strategy sets out the Scottish Government and COSLA's joint vision for a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it.

At a local level, Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWPs) are recognised as the multi-agency mechanism for delivering Equally Safe. In 2016, the Scottish Government and COSLA, with the support of the Improvement Service, published [updated guidance for VAWPs](#), which clarifies the roles and responsibilities of these strategic partnerships in coordinating the responses of the key public sector and third sector organisations working locally to ensure the safety and wellbeing of women and children affected by violence and abuse.

In recognition that VAWG damages health and wellbeing, limits freedom and potential, and is a fundamental violation of human rights, the 2016 guidance highlights the importance of collaborative working between VAWPs and other relevant thematic community planning partnerships wherever possible. This includes (but is not limited to): Adult and Child Protection Committees; Community Justice Partnerships; Community Safety Partnerships; Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships and Health and Social Care Partnerships.

## Impact of COVID-19 on Women, Children and Young People

The COVID-19 pandemic has, and will continue to, place women, children and young people experiencing all forms of VAWG at increased risk of harm for the foreseeable future.<sup>2</sup> This includes women and children experiencing domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), trafficking, forced marriage and female genital

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<sup>2</sup> This is due to a number of factors including (but not limited to): women, children and young people having less opportunity to seek support from their normal social networks such as friends and family while restrictions are in place; a perception that both universal and specialist services are under pressure creating a reluctance to seek support; perpetrators of VAWG potentially using COVID-19 social restrictions as an additional tool of exerting control, abuse and exploitation; increased financial challenges and dependencies if women are not able to work due to redundancy, caring responsibilities, illness or other factors.

mutilation (FGM). Recent evidence reviews published by the Scottish Government<sup>3</sup> have highlighted that while many specialist VAWG services initially saw a drop in referrals during the lockdown period due to increased barriers in accessing support, many women and children experiencing VAWG in local authority areas across Scotland will have experienced increased levels of harm and trauma during this period. Moreover, consultation with service providers highlights that there is likely to be increased demand for specialist support now social restrictions are being lifted and women and children are coming back into contact with both universal and specialist services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also helped to make the harm women and children are experiencing more visible to a wide range of decision-makers across Scotland and has highlighted the need to ensure that systems and services better recognise and respond to the needs of women, children and young people in the future. Since the beginning of the pandemic, local Public Protection Chief Officer Groups (COGs) across Scotland have been playing a vital role in reviewing all available data to better understand and respond to risks to women and children experiencing domestic abuse in their local authority areas, as part of their wider public protection duties. However, it is important to note that this data is only likely to show the small proportion of women and children who have been identified by third sector and public sector partners as requiring support, and the actual levels of VAWG being perpetrated, and the harm being experienced by women and children, is likely to be significantly higher than current data shows. As Scotland moves towards recovery and renewal, it is vital that robust processes are put in place locally to capture and share data about all forms of VAWG to ensure decision-makers have a more complete picture of the nature and prevalence of the problem.

While all women and children experiencing VAWG may be at increased risk of harm during the pandemic, it is important to note that women and children with protected characteristics and experiencing socio economic disadvantage may face additional barriers to support<sup>4</sup> and be at increased risk of exploitation and coercion throughout the duration of the pandemic. This includes: minority ethnic women and girls; refugees and asylum seekers; disabled women and girls (including those with learning disabilities<sup>5</sup>); LGBTI people; and women at different ages and stages of life (including older women). Women and children experiencing poverty and deprivation are also likely to experience additional challenges, as are women migrants with no recourse to public funds.

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3 See [“Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls during Phases 1, 2 and 3 of Scotland’s route map”](#) and [“Children, Young People and Families COVID-19 Evidence and Intelligence Report”](#)

4 For more information on the additional barriers and inequalities that different communities of interest may experience, please see [Improvement Service Briefing: Poverty, Inequality and COVID-19](#)

5 For more information on safeguarding people with care and support needs from abuse and neglect during the pandemic, please see [SCIE: Safeguarding adults during the COVID-19 crisis](#)

Additionally, women, children and young people with multiple, complex needs including problem alcohol and drug use, a history of offending behaviour, homelessness and/ or mental health issues and trauma who are experiencing VAWG may experience additional challenges and support needs during the pandemic. It is vital that local authorities and other community planning partners ensure they are considering this during all stages of their COVID-19 responses.

## Towards Recovery and Renewal

Looking ahead, it is crucial that the emphasis in local policy and practice continues to be on early intervention, so that victim/ survivors are identified and supported as early as possible and perpetrators of VAWG are held to account for their actions and supported to change their behaviour. There is also an opportunity to support a shift towards prevention by identifying opportunities for local strategies in relation to recovery and renewal, employability and poverty and welfare to address the inequalities that put women at increased risk of violence and abuse.

*Equally Safe* is underpinned by the understanding that VAWG is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. Research highlights that the pandemic is likely to exacerbate the inequality of outcomes that women already experience in society.<sup>6</sup> For example, research shows that women have been disproportionately affected economically by the restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of the pandemic and the crisis has further entrenched unequal gender roles, such as unpaid care.<sup>7</sup> As local authorities and other key stakeholders begin to consider how they can ‘build back better’, there is an opportunity to ensure there is a robust commitment to promoting gender equality and ensuring policy and practice is gender sensitive in order to drive forward improvements to women and children’s lives. This shift towards prevention will help to reduce levels of gender inequality and VAWG in the long-term and will ensure that policy and practice effectively addresses the root causes of VAWG, rather than only dealing with its negative consequences on women, children and young people’s lives.<sup>8</sup>

## Aims of the Supplementary VAW Guidance

The overall aim of this supplementary guidance is to ensure that a sustainable, joined-up

6 For more information on the ways that women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, please see [Engender Briefing: Women and COVID-19](#)

7 [Engender: Gender and Unpaid Work – The Impact of COVID-19 on Women’s Caring Roles](#)

8 For more information on developing effective local strategies and activities to embed gender equality, please see [VAWG: Primary Prevention Guidance for Community Planning Partners](#)

approach to safeguarding the needs of women, children and young people experiencing VAWG during COVID-19 continues to be embedded at a local strategic level. Specifically, it aims to:

- Ensure local decision-makers are aware of the suite of COVID-19 guidance that has been developed nationally that will be relevant to supporting women, children and young people affected by VAWG, and tackling perpetrators of that abuse;<sup>9</sup>
- Highlight potential risks to women, children and young people during the pandemic and support local decision-makers to identify mitigating actions they can undertake in the short, medium and long-term; and
- Support planning through recovery, renewal and transformation to ensure that women, children and young people's equality and human rights are promoted at a strategic level in order to support a longer-term shift towards preventing VAWG in Scotland.

An overview of key risks and mitigating actions for decision-makers to consider is outlined in the table below. More detail on each of these risks and actions is available in the full guidance.

This Guidance also aims to provide elected members, Chief Officers and other key decision makers with a framework they can use to ensure they have a robust understanding and oversight of the wide range work of that is being progressed locally to respond to the safety and wellbeing needs of women, children and young people and the impact of this work. Ultimately, it is intended that this will help to strengthen local democratic accountability and help to drive forward any areas for improvement that are identified locally.

While aimed primarily at local authorities, the guidance recognises that a joined-up approach across a wide range of public sector and third sector partners will be needed locally in order to ensure women, children and young people are protected during the pandemic, and that tackling and preventing VAWG is embedded in broader medium- and long-term recovery strategies.

This includes (but is not limited to) Councils, Police, NHS, specialist VAW support services such as Women's Aid organisations, Rape Crisis services, other key third sector partners, housing providers and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA). It is intended to be a 'live' document that can be updated to respond to changing challenges and opportunities facing decision-makers at the different phases of pandemic.

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9 A list of the [key guidance that has been developed to date](#) has been included as an appendix to this guidance.

## Key Risks and Mitigating Actions for Local Decision-Makers to Consider as Part of Their Wider Strategic Responses to COVID-19

### SHORT-TERM: HEIGHTENED PERIODS OF RISK DURING LOCKDOWNS & OTHER SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS TO SUPPRESS THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 DURING PHASES 1 – 3 OF SCOTLAND'S ROUTE MAP

Area of risk	Effects of COVID-19 pandemic response
Domestic abuse, sexual violence and abuse, FGM and forced marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home is not a safe place for many women, children and young people (WCYP)</li> <li>• There are increased barriers to accessing support and emergency housing during periods of local lockdown, particularly for WCYP with protected characteristics and complex needs</li> <li>• Perpetrators of domestic abuse may increase levels of control, surveillance and violence during periods of local lockdown or when households are in quarantine</li> <li>• Vulnerable CYP are particularly at risk when they are unable to attend school and ELC settings as are less visible to agencies/services</li> <li>• There may be increased risk of sexual violence, exploitation of children, online abuse/grooming, FGM and forced marriage because of social isolation</li> <li>• Social isolation may exacerbate existing mental health issues for survivors, as will restriction to support and health services</li> <li>• Women face increased risk of financial and economic dependency and deprivation because of economic crisis</li> </ul>
Prostitution and other forms of Commercial Sexual Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular safety mechanisms and support might not be available to women involved in prostitution and other forms of CSE, increasing risk of harm and exploitation</li> <li>• As a result of financial desperation and lack of financial support, women may be forced to sell sex at reduced prices and unsafe conditions during periods of lockdown, either online or in-person</li> <li>• Women engaged in selling sex in-person (including in saunas, which are no longer required to be closed under public health regulations) are at increased risk of infection from COVID-19 due to difficulties in applying public health guidance in commercial sex settings</li> <li>• Women are at increased risk of being targeted to sell sex online</li> </ul>
Women with complex needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social isolation may exacerbate existing trauma and mental health issues for survivors</li> <li>• There may be decreased access to services for women with problem alcohol/ drug use and housing needs</li> <li>• Women in the criminal justice system released from prison during the pandemic may face increased safety risks and reduced access to support, housing and benefits</li> <li>• Women's access to reproductive, abortion and sexual health services may be reduced due to social restrictions. There may be a higher risk of abuse going undetected for pregnant women/ new mothers while restrictions are in place and perpetrators may use the pandemic to intensify control over women's reproductive health, resulting in higher risks of unwanted pregnancy and STIs</li> </ul>



Perpetrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perpetrators in the criminal justice system released from prison during the pandemic may pose increased safety risks to their families</li> <li>• Challenges in ensuring perpetrators remain engaged virtually with programmes/support and continue behaviour change</li> <li>• Perpetrators may use current situation to justify non-compliance &amp; avoid challenge</li> <li>• Emergency provisions in prisons and those related to CPOs may create specific risks</li> </ul>
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#### Mitigating actions local authorities and other community planning partners may wish to consider

1. Ensure Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments are undertaken when developing any new policies/ responses to COVID-19, to reduce any unintended negative consequences to WCYP experiencing VAWG and ensure they meet the specific needs of people with protected characteristics
2. Ensure MARACs continue to function to identify and enable safety plans to be put in place for WCYP at greatest risk of harm
3. Develop a COVID-19 domestic abuse housing policy based on good practice guidance
4. Work in partnership with specialist VAWG services to ensure that robust pathways are in place to identify children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG and that they are able to access spaces at ELC and Education Hubs where possible, during periods when schools and nurseries are closed.
5. Develop a strategy for effective multi-agency communication & data sharing to capture both quantitative and qualitative evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on women, children and young people.
6. Consider how to support and enhance capacity of specialist services. Wherever possible, this will include ensuring that any local funding and contractual expectations are flexible to support service delivery and the changing needs of WCYP
7. Encourage community planning partners to work together to ensure a consistent approach to meeting the needs of WCYP, particularly in adult protection, child protection and criminal justice responses
8. Use social media and other communication channels to highlight local services & support available to WCYP and ensure different sectors of the workforce know the role they can play in reducing risks. The use of accessible communication should be promoted wherever possible to ensure that women and children with visual or sensory disabilities, learning difficulties, language barriers or other communication support needs are not excluded.
9. Update risk assessment & management plans for convicted perpetrators & ensure close monitoring of high-risk perpetrators. Where possible, and this can be done safely, intervene directly with perpetrators face-to-face or virtually to support them to change negative behaviours. If not possible, consider other ways of safely engaging to monitor behaviour
10. Ensure that criminal justice partners have relevant details of index offences relating to VAWG and information around protective orders (e.g. NHOs) preventing contact with WCYP

**MEDIUM TERM: DURING COVID 19 RECOVERY AND RENEWAL PLANNING**

Area of risk	Effects of COVID-19 pandemic response
Increased demand for support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of prolonged, intense trauma during the pandemic and long-term mental health issues for WCYP may have been exacerbated by the lockdown and other restrictions</li> <li>• Long waiting lists, lack of person-centred support and lack of support for WCYP with protected characteristics and/ or complex needs, all of which could exacerbate issues</li> <li>• Lack of access to support could contribute to some WCYP engaging in harmful behaviours</li> <li>• WCYP leaving perpetrator as social restrictions are lifted, are at high risk of serious physical harm and murder</li> </ul>
Funding and capacity constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may be challenges for services to meet anticipated increases in demand for specialist support once social restriction are lifted, because of capacity and budget constraints</li> <li>• Potential for further local lockdowns, resulting in challenges for both specialist and universal services in affected areas to plan for and provide support to WCYP</li> </ul>
Compounding Inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing inequalities women experienced prior to COVID-19 are likely to have been further entrenched by the pandemic, with women more likely to face increased levels of caring responsibilities, unemployment and financial hardship than men;</li> <li>• WCYP with protected characteristics may face increased barriers to recovering from the pandemic and accessing support with financial, employment, health and social needs.</li> </ul>

**Mitigating actions local authorities and other community planning partners may wish to consider during periods of lockdown and other restrictions**

11. Undertake local strategic needs assessments to understand the impact the pandemic has had on WCYP experiencing VAWG and ensure this learning is used to shape local recovery and renewal plans
12. Ensure specific risks to women and children affected by VAWG are included in relevant integrated risk registers being developed by relevant Chief Officer Groups (COGs) to support wider recovery and renewal planning
13. Adopt a whole-systems, child-centred approach to working with WCYP experiencing domestic abuse & ensure children are involved in decision-making about their lives, where possible and appropriate
14. Work in partnership with specialist VAWG services to ensure the needs of children experiencing domestic abuse are prioritised as part of recovery strategies being developed by Children Services and Education teams
15. Ensure local workforces have capacity and capability to provide trauma-informed support and services for all WCYP who require it
16. Ensure perpetrators are held to account through robust use of criminal justice process and resumption of programmed interventions, including use of flexible newly accredited 1:1 delivery methods, if groupwork support remains impractical

17. Work in partnership with specialist VAWG services and universal services to identify anticipated levels of demand for crisis, recovery and other support in the coming year, and ensure resources are available to meet these
18. Explore opportunities to lever additional resources to support systems and services to respond to increased levels of demand
19. Regularly consult with WCYP with lived experience of VAWG and ensure that the recovery systems and services put in place locally recognise and respond to their specific needs, including WCYP with protected characteristics and/ or complex needs
20. Ensure that the inequality of outcomes that women have experienced during the pandemic are recognised and addressed in local recovery and renewal strategies, as well as in specific strategies relating to employability and economic recovery and poverty and welfare.

**LONG-TERM: AS PARTNERS WORK TO 'BUILD BACK BETTER'**

Area of risk	Effects of COVID-19 pandemic response
Long-term effects of crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incidents of VAWG could go undetected/unreported for many months and years</li> <li>• Economic crisis could exacerbate WCYP's experiences of VAWG</li> <li>• Gender inequality could be further entrenched in social and economic systems</li> </ul>
<b>Mitigating actions local authorities and other community planning partners may wish to consider during periods of lockdown and other restrictions</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Continue to encourage multi-agency, collaborative working and promote strong engagement with VAW Partnerships at a local, strategic level</li> <li>22. Ensure a whole-systems, gendered approach to tackling VAWG is embedded as part of wider recovery, renewal and transformation responses</li> <li>23. Promote commitment to tackling VAWG and gender inequality at a leadership level</li> <li>24. Ensure there is an emphasis on tackling gender inequality and embedding early intervention and primary prevention approaches in all relevant policy areas</li> <li>25. Continue to capture both good practice and areas for improvement throughout the pandemic and ensure this learning is used to shape all policy and practice moving forward.</li> </ol>	

## Collecting, Analysing and Sharing Data in Order to Inform Strategic Planning

Timescale	Why capture data on WCYP experiencing VAWG?	How can data be collected?
Short term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To help monitor the impact of local and national COVID-19 responses on the safety and wellbeing of WCYP, in order to identify and reduce any risks of unintended harm.</li> <li>Identify if and how the pandemic and restrictions is compounding existing risks and inequalities for WCYP, in order to support future planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise data currently being collected by key statutory organisations including Police Scotland, COPFS, NHS, Social Work Scotland and the Scottish Prison Service to help increase understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on WCYP affected by VAWG</li> <li>Maximise use of data collection processes agreed by SOLACE and COSLA, which include Public Protection datasets</li> <li>Review data being collected in other relevant community planning areas such as housing and homelessness, problem drug and alcohol use, community justice, employment and poverty and welfare to identify issues that are disproportionately affecting women and girls during the pandemic</li> <li>Work in partnership with specialist VAWG support services and equality groups to agree a process for sharing information and data on the trends they are identifying locally in terms of WCYP's support needs, including any additional needs being experienced by WCYP with protected characteristics</li> <li>Ensure WCYP with lived experience of VAWG have meaningful opportunities to share their learning and experiences of the pandemic on an ongoing basis, to help inform future policy and practice</li> </ul> <p>When collecting data, it is important to note that many frontline services are currently being asked for information from multiple partners. In order to avoid duplication of effort and reduce demands being placed on specialist VAW services and equality groups at a time when they are under significant pressure, it is recommended that a coordinated, strategic approach to data collection should be adopted wherever possible.</p>

Timescale	Why capture data on WCYP experiencing VAWG?	How can data be collected?
Medium and long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopting a robust and consistent approach to data collection will help ensure risks for WYCP in local communities are identified and responded to at the earliest possible stage</li> <li>Collecting data on gender inequalities will help partners understand the long-term impact of COVID-19 on WYCP and support a shift towards preventing VAWG in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisit mechanisms for collecting and analysing data to identify any areas for improvement</li> <li>Develop systems in partnership with VAW Partnerships &amp; Equality Leads</li> <li>Integrate VAWG data collection with broader recovery data and intelligence systems currently in development</li> <li>Ensure the highest standards of ethical data collection &amp; storage, given needs for sensitivity and anonymity around VAWG data</li> </ul>

## Promoting Consistent Messaging to Highlight Support for Women, Children and Young People (WCYP) in Local Response to VAWG

Timescale	Why capture data on WCYP experiencing VAWG?	How can data be collected?
<b>KEY MESSAGES LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN PROMOTE TO SUPPORT WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (WCYP) DURING ALL PHASES OF SCOTLAND'S ROADMAP TO RECOVERY</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WCYP experiencing VAWG are not alone and a range of specialist support services are available to access locally and nationally during all phases of the pandemic;</li> <li>2. The pandemic is not an excuse for perpetrating abuse and perpetrators will be identified and held to account for their behaviours by Police Scotland;</li> <li>3. Tackling VAWG is everyone's business and professionals across a wide range of local workforces have a key role play in safely identifying and responding to risks that WCYP may be experiencing</li> <li>4. VAWG is a cause and consequence of gender inequality. As Scotland looks to 'Build Back Better' there is a need to ensure that promoting women's equality is prioritised in policy and practice to support a decisive shift towards preventing VAWG.</li> </ol>		
<b>KEY AIMS OF COMMUNICATION PLANS LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN SUPPORT AS PART OF THEIR WIDER STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19</b>		
Raise awareness of impact of pandemic and restrictions on WCYP experiencing all forms of VAWG including domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, FGM and forced marriage.	Promote national VAWG helplines and websites that WCYP can access for support and information with VAWG	Raise awareness of the range of specialist VAWG services that WCYP can access in their local community, either virtually, by phone or in person
Encourage women affected by all forms of VAWG to seek specialist support as soon as it is safe for them to do so	Highlight that women are disproportionately being impacted by the pandemic and the importance of ensuring promoting gender equality is mainstreamed in strategic responses to the pandemic.	Ensure professionals are aware of the dynamics of domestic abuse and coercive control and the range of tactics perpetrators might use during the pandemic to increase their control and abuse of WCYP.
Emphasise that VAWG will not be tolerated and perpetrators of abuse will be identified and held to account for their behaviours	Ensure that women with no recourse to public funds can access support and are supported to do this	The <a href="#">Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Tool (DAART)</a> has been developed by SafeLives to support professionals across different local authority policy agendas with this task.

Local authorities can help to ensure that information on key national helplines available to women, children and young people affected by VAWG is promoted locally, alongside details about local services/ support that are available. Key national helplines include:

[Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline](#): 0800 027 1234

[Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline](#): 08088 01 03 02

[Childline](#): 0800 11 11

[CliCK Helpline](#) (for women selling or exchanging sex): 0300 124 5564

A full directory of the national support services available to women, children and young people experiencing all forms of VAWG is available on the [Scottish Women's Right Centre](#) website.

A toolkit of resources that can be used locally to raise awareness of support available to survivors of domestic abuse and intimate image sharing is available on the Safer Scotland website. A [series of animations](#) co-produced by young survivors of domestic abuse are also available to view.



# Appendix 1 – Other Relevant Guidance to Support Community Planning

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## Adult Protection and Child Protection

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult support and protection guidance](#)

[Supplementary Child Protection guidance](#)

[Children’s Hearings Update & Coronavirus practice guide for panel members](#)

[Scottish Association of Social Workers: Domestic abuse and child welfare: A practice guide for social workers \(including COVID-19 preface\)](#)

## Domestic Abuse

[Safe Lives guidance for multi-agency forums, including MARACS](#)

[Safe and Together Model COVID-19 Quick Guide](#)

[National procurator fiscal for domestic abuse](#)

[Scottish Courts guidance on complying with family court orders](#)

[Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance: safe and ethical social work practice](#)

[Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance: domestic abuse](#)

## Housing and Homelessness

[Guidance for social landlords – domestic abuse and COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Allocations Advice and Information for the Housing Sector](#)

## Poverty and Inequality

[Poverty, Inequality and COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Response Planning: Supporting Migrants with no Recourse to Public Funds](#)

[Child Poverty and COVID-19](#)

## Community Justice

[Prisons guidance](#)

[Caledonian Guidance Notes 1 and 2 & Caledonian Advice for areas without Caledonian](#)

[Caledonian: Technology, tips and techniques for working safely with women \(please contact Community Justice Scotland to access\)](#)

[Community Justice Scotland: Working with men who abuse their partners in the context of the COVID-19 crisis](#)

[COPFS Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): information for those due to attend court](#)

[Guidance notes for Criminal Justice Social Workers in relation to domestic abuse prisoners being released during lockdown](#)

## Education

[Scottish Government: school and early learning closures – guidance about key workers and vulnerable children](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on preparing for the start of the new school term in August 2020](#)

[Domestic Abuse: Information for Educators \(Education Scotland and Scottish Women's Aid\)](#)

## National COVID-19 Framework

[Scottish Government COVID-19 Decision-Making Framework](#)

# Appendix 2 - Other Useful Resources

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## COVID-19 Research and Evidence Briefings

[SOLACE and Scottish Government 'Vulnerable children report'](#)

[Scottish Government 'Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Domestic Abuse and other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls Evidence Report'](#)

[Scottish Government 'Coronavirus Children, Young people and Families - evidence and intelligence report'](#)

[Scottish Government 'Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Justice Analytical Services data report - June 2020'](#)

[Scottish Women's Aid 'Crisis and Resilience: the impact of a global pandemic on domestic abuse survivors and service providers in Scotland'](#)

## The Gendered Impact of COVID

[Engender 'Gender and Unpaid Work: the impact of COVID 19 on Women's Caring Roles'](#)

[Engender and Close the Gap 'Gender and Economic Recovery'](#)

[Close the Gap 'Disproportionate disruption: The impact of COVID-19 on women's labour market equality'](#)

## Data Collection and Analysis

[Engender 'COVID-19: Gathering and using data to ensure that the response integrates women's equality and rights'](#)

## Other

[Safe & Together Friends and Family Ally Guide](#)

[Safe & Together Choose to Change Toolkit](#)

[Violence Against Women and Girls: Primary Prevention Guidance for Community Planning Partners](#)

[Children and Young People Commissioner Scotland 'Independent Children's Rights Impact Assessment on the Response to Covid-19 in Scotland'](#)



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