



Respect briefing paper: party policies on domestic violence, perpetrator programmes and violence against women

Sources of information:

I used the current manifestoes and policies stated on the party websites (I used the search engine for 'domestic violence', 'violence against women' and 'community safety') where available; existing live strategy on violence against women (current government/Labour, Conservative); or on domestic violence, any publicly available policy commitment to specific measure, government policy and strategy (for the Labour Party in UK) and parliamentary policy (for the Scottish National Party, as they are in power in Scottish Parliament). I could not find a Westminster manifesto for the Scottish Nationalist Party. I ran Google searches for all the main parties and 'domestic violence', 'violence against women', and 'domestic violence perpetrator programme'.

Please note that this should be read as a guide only. For further information, please search the websites of each party or contact your local candidate. See also the main Respect briefing for members on the general election.

Labour Party (current government) strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls click [here](#)

Labour Party (current government) policy and action on domestic violence click [here](#)

Conservative party strategy on violence against women click [here](#)

Conservative party website women's pages click [here](#)

Liberal Democrat party policy on women click [here](#)

Green Party manifesto, including section on domestic abuse click [here](#)

Plaid Cymru manifesto commitments on community safety click [here](#)

SNP website click [here](#) – no Westminster manifesto at time of writing and no specific policy, see also Scottish Parliament (they are in majority)

Topic or commitment	Labour Party strategy on VAWG and other dv policies	Conservative/Tory strategy on VAWG and other dv policy proposals	Liberal Democrats manifesto commitments on VAWG/community safety and related	Green	Plaid Cymru	Scottish Nationalist Party
Strategy for tackling violence against women and girls AND/OR specific domestic violence policy/strategy	Yes – strategy on violence against women and girls. Consultation with NGOs.	Yes – strategy on violence against women; domestic violence action and support for male victims included. Consultation with NGOs. Mentioned as policy in website section on women.	Specific VAWG and sexualisation sections of policy on women. Not clear if consulted NGOs.	No evidence	Action plan commits to developing a specific strategy on violence against women – but no detail	Scottish Parliament has Cross Party Working group on Men’s Violence Against Women. Includes reps from NGOs including perpetrator programmes.
Recognition of role of perpetrator programmes	Yes – criminal justice and community/voluntary sector	Some limited mention but no commitment and some caution expressed about outcomes	No mention in manifesto	No. Emphasis on reforming legal system to make more use of mediation, reparation to victims by perpetrators, non-prison based sentencing, community rehabilitation.	No evidence found	Accreditation of Caledonian System programme.

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Funding for specialist dv services for women	Commitment to IDVA services, continuation of funding of national dv helpline.	Increasing Gift Aid to benefit funding for voluntary organizations. 3 year funding for voluntary organizations. States they will be looking at specific services for black and other ethnic minority women in run up to general election.	No evidence found	Departments of Justice to be established which will be responsible for funding of women's services etc. Commitment to guaranteeing refuge place to anyone who needs it.	No evidence found	No evidence found
Funding for services for male victims	Current funding for the Men's Advice Line secured.	Specific mention in VAW strategy that measures will also help male victims but that it is still right to have specific VAW strategy.	No evidence found	Recognition of male victims in manifesto. Commitment to providing safety for all victims.	No evidence found	Current funding for the Men's Advice Line secured
Training for police, health etc	Improved training on rape/sexual assault for police and CPS Teacher training on VAW.	All police recruits to receive training in full range of VAW. Health visitors to be trained to recognise VAW. Teacher training on VAW.				

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Commitment to funding for perpetrator programmes	Under DCSF funding via Cafcass for family court referrals. Funding for the Respect Phonenumber.	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found	Funding for the Respect Phonenumber.
Funding for rape crisis centres	No. But funding for national helpline in 2010.	Yes – for 15	Yes – for 15	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found
Funding for new SARCS	16 in development	Not clear though emphasises value of both SARC and RCC	Yes – for 12	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found
Ensure provision of prevention work education with children/yp	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No – but prevention emphasised in community safety	No evidence found
Ensure women can remain working whilst in refuges	No evidence found	No evidence found	Yes – not clear how they will do this	More emphasis on making victims safer in own home	No evidence found	No evidence found
Tackle sexualisation	Recent results of Sexualisation review published, not clear yet what the response will be.	No evidence found	5 specific manifesto commitments	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found

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Prostitution	Criminalisation of demand; on 1 st April 2010 the use of prostitute whom client should have reasonably known was forced, coerced, threatened, trafficked etc. will become illegal. Help for women wanting to leave prostitution.	Mentioned in relation to trafficking. Some discussion on blogs and press coverage about focussing on supply side.	Propose de-criminalisation of prostitution. Help for women wanting to leave prostitution.	Some discussion at party conferences about de-criminalisation	No evidence found	No evidence found
Trafficking	Criminalised. Commitment in VAWG strategy to improving enforcement. Support for the Poppy Project for survivors.	Commitment to consider need for change and to supporting more prosecutions. Changes in rules so 16-18 year olds can be admitted to services like Poppy Project.	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found

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Violence against women with immigration problems	Made changes to the immigration rules for women fleeing dv so women fleeing long term relationship with British Citizen can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)	No commitment. Section of VAW strategy refers to criticisms of implementation of government ILR policy but no alternatives proposed.	Commitment to providing services to all women who need it regardless of immigration status	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found
Crimes excused in the name of so-called 'honour' (also known as crimes of dishonour)	Specific consideration	Specific consideration	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found	No evidence found
Use of mediation in domestic disputes or family breakdown	Green Paper on Families and Relationships proposes trial of compulsory mediation in family hearings.	Tried compulsory mediation in 1990s and rejected it.	No evidence found	Department of Justice to set up local mediation centres, including domestic violence work.	No evidence found	No evidence found

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