

Draft Equality Impact Assessment

for the

Draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023 – 2030

February 2023



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Please email DSAStrategyConsultation@justice-ni.gov.uk or phone 028 9052 3713.

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1. Introduction

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between –

- a) persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- b) men and women generally; and
- c) persons with dependents and persons without.

Public bodies are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

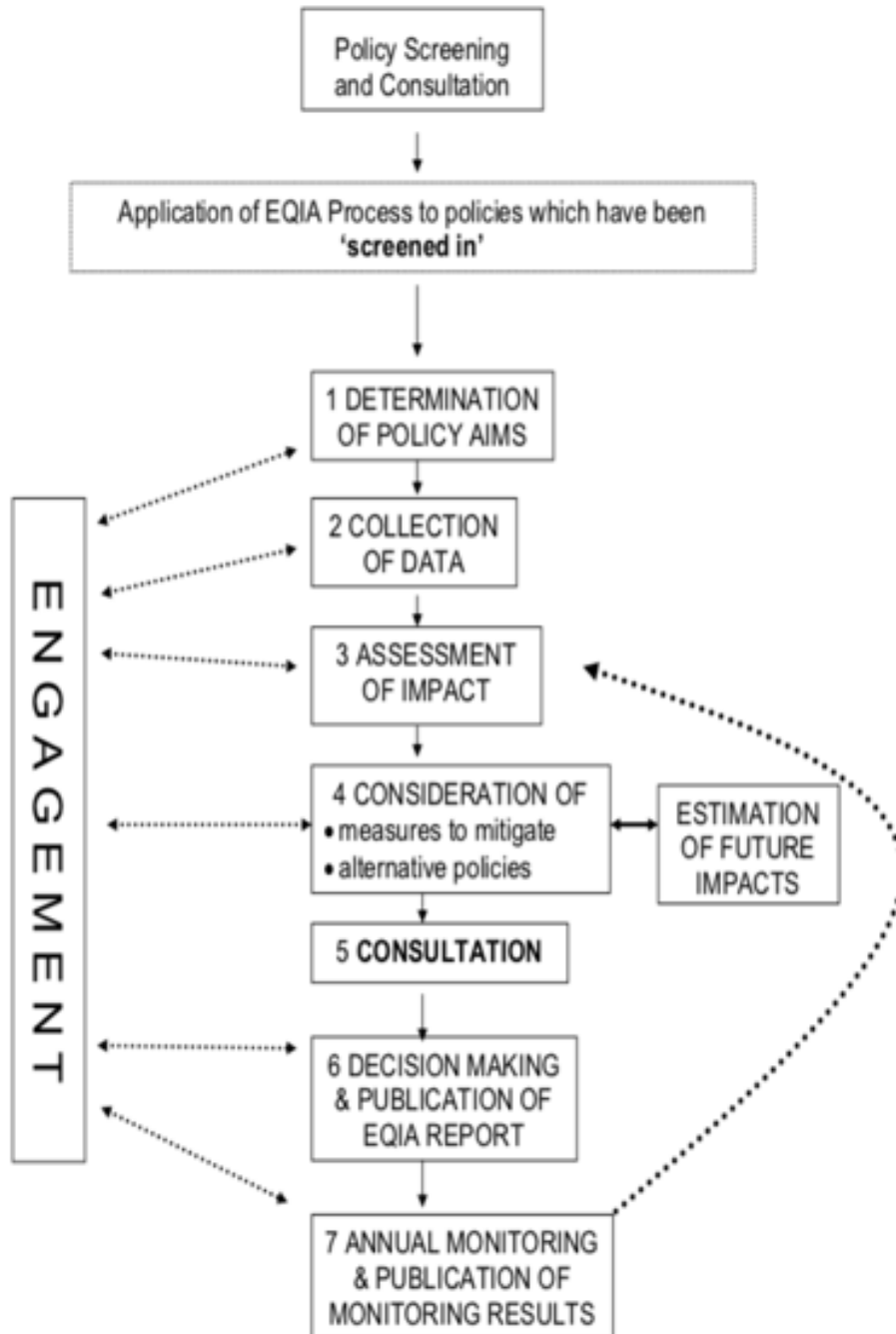
The main purpose of the Section 75 statutory equality duties is to bring equality considerations into mainstream policy-making processes and to eliminate or minimise any unintentional adverse consequences of policy decisions. The Section 75 statutory duties are the key means available to public authorities to address any inequalities and demonstrate measurable positive impact on the lives of people experiencing inequalities.

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is to assess any differential impact that the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023 – 2030 may have on Section 75 groups. This EQIA provides an opportunity for comment, in the interests of identifying any unforeseen impacts and gathering further evidence. Responses will also inform the final Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy. Details of how to respond can be found at page 38.

The EQIA process flow chart, from the Equality Commission's Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment, is replicated below. The process involves seven steps in the process from start to finish. This document integrates the findings from the first four steps.

Consultation on the draft Strategy and EQIA will take place for **12 weeks** through to **Tuesday 2 May 2023**. The results of the consultation will be reported on through a final EQIA Report, following consultation, which will include any suggested amendments and/ or recommendations arising as a result of the consultation process.

On completion of the final EQIA report we will further consider how best to monitor the impact of the final Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy on an ongoing basis.



2. Summary of the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy

The draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023 – 2030 has been developed by the Department of Health and the Department of Justice. This is a new strategy which builds on the positive work of the previous seven-year strategy from 2016 - 2023.

Our Vision:

Domestic and sexual abuse is unacceptable within our homes and across **all** of society so that everyone can live without fear.

Our Aim:

To work together as partners, agencies and communities to make real, sustainable progress in tackling domestic and sexual abuse by addressing the root causes; ensuring those affected get the right support; and holding individuals who are abusive to account.

The draft strategy recognises that **anyone** can be a victim of domestic and sexual abuse regardless of a person's age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability. It is for this reason that the draft strategy adopts an inclusive approach.

The draft strategy is designed around **four pillars** as set out below:

- **PARTNERSHIP:** Driving change together through joint commitment, leadership and partnership working.
- **PREVENTION:** Preventing domestic and sexual abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours that foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.
- **SUPPORT:** Ensuring that all victims of domestic and sexual abuse, including children, can access services supporting them to recover and rebuild their lives.
- **JUSTICE:** Holding individuals who are abusive to account and ensuring justice responses are effective.

The areas we want to focus on, so that people can live safe lives, without the threat or experience of domestic and sexual abuse are:

- increased co-operation and more effective collaboration across government, working in partnership with others;
- addressing social attitudes, while promoting awareness and knowledge of healthy relationships;
- providing support for those affected by domestic and sexual abuse, informed by their experience and the needs of particular groups;
- working to prevent domestic and sexual abuse taking place, identifying and disrupting abusive behaviour while holding offenders to account; and

- providing a more robust and effective justice response, increasing protection and safety for those affected.

Below is an overview of the draft strategy's outcomes and key priority areas:

Pillar 1: Partnership	
<i>Driving change together through joint commitment, leadership and partnership working.</i>	
OUTCOME	KEY PRIORITY AREAS
A coordinated response to domestic and sexual abuse informed by victims' voices and community engagement.	Working collaboratively across all government Departments and with statutory, voluntary and community and faith organisations to tackle domestic and sexual abuse.
	Having effective governance structures underpinning the strategy's delivery with a performance framework to monitor outcomes and impact.
	Informing policy, legislation and service development with better quality data, research and shared learning.
	Having increased opportunities for victims' voices to be heard and ensuring the strategy's delivery is underpinned by intersectionality recognising that many people have multiple needs and face multiple barriers.

Pillar 2: Prevention	
<i>Preventing domestic and sexual abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours that foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.</i>	
OUTCOMES	KEY PRIORITY AREAS
The public is informed about the different types of domestic and sexual abuse and its impact on victims including children.	Raising awareness, so that those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing domestic and sexual abuse, recognise it and know that help is available.
	Empowering people to safely challenge attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that foster domestic and sexual abuse.
An increase in the knowledge and skills of children, young people and adults about forming healthy relationships.	Supporting the education sector to build capacity, knowledge and skills to promote understanding about consent and healthy relationships and to teach about sensitive subjects such as domestic and sexual abuse, in an age appropriate and inclusive way, across schools and other youth settings, training facilities, Further Education Colleges and Universities.
Domestic and sexual abuse is identified and responded to earlier.	Enabling people working in frontline and public-facing roles to identify and respond effectively to domestic and sexual abuse at the earliest opportunity.
	Supporting employers in the public, private and other sectors to make workplaces safer by raising awareness of domestic and sexual abuse and promoting workplace policies with effective measures to support staff.

Pillar 3: Support

Ensuring that all victims of domestic and sexual abuse, including children, can access services supporting them to recover and rebuild their lives.

OUTCOMES	KEY PRIORITY AREAS
Victims including children are supported and feel safe regardless of diversity of need.	Providing support for victims including children, as well as wider family, to reduce the risk and impact of abuse; recover from trauma and improve their health and well-being; and engage in the justice system in a way that ensures they feel protected and safe.
	Ensuring there is a focus on tackling sexual abuse, including the sexual abuse of children and young people, and providing specialist support for victims.
	Enabling services to better understand intersectional needs of individuals to ensure victims get the responses and support they need.
All victims of domestic abuse including children can access safe accommodation-based services.	Ensuring all victims and their children can access accommodation that is safe and appropriate to their needs and circumstances.
	Supporting victims of domestic abuse to remain safely in their home if they want to and it is safe to do so.

Pillar 4: Justice

Holding individuals who are abusive to account and ensuring justice responses are effective.

OUTCOMES	KEY PRIORITY AREAS
<i>Addressing abusive behaviours</i>	
Individuals are responsible for their abusive behaviour, are held to account and supported to change, with the risk of harm reduced and victim safety enhanced.	Supporting individuals to address and manage their abusive behaviours and sustain positive change.
	Encouraging individuals to change their abusive behaviour by removing barriers to participation.
	Working collaboratively to target the most prolific offenders, improving risk assessment and management.
	Providing integrated safety and support structures for victims where programmes to address abusive behaviours are undertaken. Improving protections for those at risk of abuse.
<i>Justice system</i>	
Victims feel confident to report domestic and sexual abuse, barriers to participating in the justice system are reduced and justice responses are effective.	Understanding better the factors contributing to high attrition levels (drop out of cases) and under-reporting in domestic and sexual abuse cases in order to improve these.
	Providing victims of domestic and sexual abuse with information and services to support them through the criminal justice process.
	Improving the efficiency of the justice system and how domestic and sexual abuse cases are dealt with in criminal, civil and family courts.
	Strengthening the police and criminal justice response to domestic and sexual abuse.

3. Consideration of Available Data

This section sets out the data that the Departments used to consider the potential impact of the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy on Section 75 groups. This includes publicly available data as well as data and insights gathered from a wide range of stakeholders across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, the wider public and importantly victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

An early engagement process (a 'Call for Views') began in January 2022 to inform the development of the draft strategy prior to public consultation. The Departments received 91 written responses and 661 surveys were also completed. Five online public events were held and 22 stakeholder engagement events, some of which had a specific focus on Section 75 groups.

A [Call for Views Summary Report](#) was published in July 2022. An overview of the research referenced during the Call for Views, which has also informed our response, can be found at **Annex A**.

One of the questions asked as part of the Call for Views was:

What information can you provide on the scope, scale and prevalence of domestic and sexual abuse in Northern Ireland, supported by relevant data and statistics where available, to help underpin workstreams under the new Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy?

Whilst many respondents to the Call for Views noted the importance of having robust data in this area, few provided data. A small number undertook surveys and localised data collection. Just under half provided statistical information although not always specific to Northern Ireland.

Responses also noted that while there are increased levels of domestic and sexual abuse in Northern Ireland it continues to be underreported. Many noted the importance of addressing barriers to reporting and the need for more local research and disaggregated data to inform policy and service development, with use of available global research.

In the draft strategy we have highlighted the need to bring together more comprehensive statistics on the prevalence of domestic and sexual abuse, on service provision and on gap analysis. It is clear from the Call for Views that data and research specific to Northern Ireland is insufficient, with limited potential to consider the characteristics of those affected and yet we know that an effective response can only be achieved if we truly understand the nature and scale of domestic and sexual abuse locally. As this is an issue that we will want to consider further going forward, the draft strategy has a key priority area (under the Partnership pillar) of 'Informing policy, legislation and service development with better quality data, research and shared learning'.

As part of this consultation exercise we would welcome any further data, evidence and research related to domestic and sexual abuse locally. We will

also want to ensure that data from key stakeholders is shared so that at a regional level we understand and can respond to trends and emerging issues.

The following sections set out the data that the Departments have used to inform the assessment of impact across the Section 75 categories:

Men and women generally (Gender)

2021 census of Northern Ireland

In 2021, 50.81% of the population were male and 49.19% were female. No gender identity question was included in the 2021 Census form.

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2021

According to the 2021 survey when asked about their gender identity 51% stated that they were female, 49% male. There was no response to the category of 'other' or 'female to male transgender'.

PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22

In relation to domestic abuse crimes generally, in 2021/22:

- 68% of victims were female;
- 32% of victims were male;
- gender was missing/unknown for the remainder. This may include those who have not identified as male or female.

Domestic abuse crimes recorded by gender of victim, Table 3.3

Gender	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Female	9,038	9,317	10,570	12,305	12,527	14,229
Male	4,043	4,344	4,774	5,395	5,530	6,590
Unknown/Missing ¹	9	10	2	13	18	22
Total (person victims)	10,165	11,606	12,305	13,049	13,090	13,671

Gender of offender (domestic abuse detected crimes), Table 4.2

Gender	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Male	3,463	3,553	3,733	4,235	4,674	4,995
Female	554	501	507	612	680	888
Unknown/Missing	61	62	98	102	128	145
Total (offenders)	4,078	4,116	4,338	4,949	5,482	6,028

Homicides¹ with a domestic abuse motivation by age and gender, Table 5

Gender	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Female <18	0	1	1	1	0	1
Female 18+	2	6	3	1	8	3
Male <18	0	2	0	2	0	1
Male 18+	1	2	0	1	1	4
All Homicides with a domestic abuse motivation¹	3	11	4	5	9	9

PSNI Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2020/21

Sexual offences where the victim was under 18¹ at the time the offence was committed, by gender of victim, Table 7.6

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Female under 18	1,360	1,411	1,448	1,555	1,446	1,654
Male under 18	507	515	577	522	487	605
Age under 18 but gender unknown / missing ²	0	2	3	3	7	15
Total gender victim under 18	1,867	1,928	2,028	2,080	1,940	2,274

Sanction outcomes and population rates – Sexual offences – Pivot table 3

Victim Gender	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Female	2451	2602	2715	2766	2596	3132
Male	653	695	767	694	662	825
Gender unknown	2	8	9	6	11	38
total (gender)	3106	3305	3491	3466	3269	3995

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on victims at the highest risk of serious harm as a result of domestic abuse. Relevant data gathered by the MARAC Trends and Statistics October 2022 Management Report (and used in the remainder of this report) is shown below:

Of the 18,558 high risk cases discussed to date at MARACs 17,611 were female victims (95%) and 931 male victims (5%).

The victim gender profile for the most recent year, 2021/22, shows that of the cases heard 1207 (92.9%) of victims were female and 92 (7.1%) were male (an increase from 94.7% and 5.3% in 2016).

Of the 18,558 high risk cases discussed at MARACs to date 102 victims (0.55%) were

¹ All domestic homicides in the period were murder offences, with the exception of the following manslaughter offences: 1 male <18 in 2008/09, 1 male <18 in 2009/10, 2 males 18+ in 2011/12, 1 female <18 in 2013/14 and 1 male 18+ in 2021/22.

from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. For the most recent year, 2021/22, the figure was 1.34%.

Regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline

Relevant data gathered by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline has been recorded as follows:

Gender Identity	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Female	90.10%	86.60%	86.10%
Male	9.70%	13.10%	13.50%
Transgender	0.20%	0.30%	0.50%

ASSIST NI

ASSIST NI is an advocacy service supporting victims of domestic and sexual abuse crime who primarily are engaging with the criminal justice system.

During the first reporting period (Sep 2021 to Aug 2022) ASSIST NI contacted and engaged into service 2253 individual referrals for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Of those that provided the information (2100) 86% were female, 11% were male and 0.2% non-binary.

Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2015/16

Findings from this survey the Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2015/16 estimated that 12.1% of people aged 16 – 64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence, by a partner, since age 16, with women (15.1%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than men (8.4%).

The survey went on to highlight that 6.4% of people aged 16 – 64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence and abuse by a family member (other than a partner), since age 16, with women (7.5%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than men (5.0%).

State of the Community Survey

Results of The Rainbow Project's State of the Community Survey research, with input from over 1130 respondents, showed that the gender of respondents were 40% male, 37% female and 8% non-binary or gender fluid. It also demonstrated that of those men surveyed, 35% experienced some form of domestic abuse and 70% had not reported it.

Call for Views - survey for victims of domestic and sexual abuse

250 victims of domestic and sexual abuse completed an online survey as part of the Call for Views exercise. For those who felt that there had been barriers to accessing support to services, as a result of identity or personal characteristics, the vast majority (both male and female) attributed this to their gender.

Age

2021 census of Northern Ireland

In 2021, 19.19% of the usually resident population (1.9m) were aged 0 – 14, 31.23% were aged 15 – 39, 32.43% were aged 40 – 64 and 17.15% were aged 65 or older.

Population increase was greatest in the older age groups. The number of people aged 65 or more rose by over 60,000, to nearly one-third of a million people in Census 2021 – a near 25% increase on 2011 and demonstrates the scale of population change due to ageing.

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2021

The 2021 Northern Ireland Life and Times survey recorded the attitudes of 1,397 people living across Northern Ireland. According to the 2021 survey 19% were aged 65+, the categories of 25 – 34, 35 – 44 and 45 – 54 were 18%, 14% were aged 55 - 64 and 13% were aged 18 – 24.

NISRA population-based projections

The median age of the population of Northern Ireland at mid-2021 was 39.8.

Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2021/22

PSNI recorded crime, sanction outcomes and population rates – Sexual offences – Pivot, Table 3

Victim Age	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<18	1866	1928	2028	2080	1940	2274
18 and over	1240	1377	1463	1386	1329	1721
total (age)	3106	3305	3491	3466	3269	3995

Table 2.2

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Other sexual offences^{10,14}	2,328	2,464	2,440	2,536	2,298	2,812
17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over ¹⁰	146	155	169	152	151	199
17B Sexual assault on a male child under 13 ¹⁰	194	205	213	175	137	195
20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over ¹⁰	690	755	715	755	634	987
20B Sexual assault on a female child under 13 ¹⁰	341	319	306	374	306	365
21 Sexual activity involving a child under 13 ¹⁰	247	228	246	267	251	233
22B Sexual activity involving a child under 16 ¹⁰	367	325	308	306	303	277
22A Causing sexual activity without consent ¹⁰	13	12	3	7	7	12
23 Incest or familial sexual offences ¹⁰	6	27	47	43	20	34

25 Abduction of a female ¹⁰	0	0	0	0	0	0
70 Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder ¹⁰	4	3	4	0	2	1
71 Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography ¹⁰	6	5	11	5	7	7
73 Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature ^{10,15}	2	1	1	2	2	1
88A Sexual grooming ^{10,15,31}	34	187	145	216	214	211
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Sexual Communication with a Child</i> ³⁶	19	82	127	184	195	198
88C Other miscellaneous sexual offences ¹⁰	5	3	4	4	0	7
88D Unnatural sexual offences ¹⁰	1	1	0	0	1	0
88E Exposure and voyeurism ^{10,15}	272	238	268	230	263	283
<i>Exposure</i> ¹⁰	239	209	214	187	203	227
<i>Voyeurism</i> ^{10,15}	33	29	54	43	60	56

Sexual offences where the victim was under 18¹ at the time the offence was committed, by type of offence, Table 7.3

Offences, victim under 18	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
19A-19H Rape	357	394	415	430	444	519
16 Buggery ^{2,3,4}	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 Indecent assault on a male ^{2,3,4}	..	..	..	..	..	..
17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over ²	62	52	70	55	58	91
17B Sexual assault on a male child under 13 ²	194	205	213	175	137	195
18 Gross indecency between males ^{2,3,4}	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 Indecent assault on a female ^{2,3,4}	..	..	..	..	..	..
20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over ²	205	254	224	220	195	332
20B Sexual assault on a female child under 13 ²	341	319	306	374	306	365
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 14 ^{2,3,4}	..	..	..	..	..	..
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 17 ^{2,3,4}	..	..	..	..	..	..
21 Sexual activity involving a child under 13 ²	247	228	246	267	251	233
22A Causing sexual activity without consent ²	4	2	0	0	0	3
22B Sexual activity involving a child under 16 ²	367	325	308	306	303	277
23 Incest or familial sexual offences	6	27	47	43	19	34
70 Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder	0	2	2	0	0	0
71 Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	6	5	11	5	7	7

73 Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature	2	1	1	2	2	1
74 Gross indecency with a child ^{2,3,4}	..	..	..	..	..	..
88A Sexual grooming ⁵	32	80	120	159	182	180
88C Other miscellaneous sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0	0
88E Exposure and voyeurism	51	38	70	48	39	39
TOTAL SEXUAL OFFENCES, VICTIM UNDER 18	1,874	1,932	2,033	2,084	1,943	2,276

PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22

In 2021/22 64% of domestic abuse crime victims were between the ages of 20 and 49. The proportion of victims under 15 and those age 50+ have generally increased since the start of the data series in 2004/05. Of all offenders dealt with by police in connection with domestic abuse crimes that result in a sanction outcome, more than four in five are male; in 2021/22 83% were male and 15% were female.

Domestic abuse crimes recorded by age of victim and type of crime, 2004/05 to 2015/16, Table 3.3

In 2021/22 there were 20,941 domestic abuse crimes recorded:

7,822 offences – victim is recorded as an adult female (18+)

3,039 offences – victim is recorded as an adult male (18+)

2,186 offences – victim is recorded as under 18

(The remainder are primarily recorded under the category of ‘state-based offences’)

Domestic abuse crimes recorded by age of victim, Table 3.2

Age	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
0-4	362	378	415	483	395	536
5-9	663	718	746	723	640	777
10-14	780	787	875	866	788	937
15-19	1,061	1,093	1,221	1,221	1,173	1,444
20-24	1,509	1,477	1,670	1,931	2,033	2,069
25-29	1,576	1,595	1,853	2,144	2,211	2,506
30-34	1,454	1,586	1,813	2,235	2,338	2,611
35-39	1,316	1,350	1,509	2,035	2,108	2,553
40-44	1,202	1,156	1,253	1,590	1,701	2,100
45-49	1,044	1,171	1,307	1,342	1,478	1,586
50-54	846	956	1,072	1,223	1,221	1,353
55-59	537	608	664	830	872	989

60-64	336	321	391	489	492	569
65-69	166	203	231	248	261	332
70-74	114	124	149	155	175	205
75-79	68	67	99	99	91	140
80+	51	76	76	83	87	127
Unknown/Missing	5	5	2	16	11	7
Total (person victims)	13,090	13,671	15,346	17,713	18,075	20,841

Domestic abuse crimes recorded by age of victim and type of crime (Table 3.4)

Victim Age / Gender	Offence	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Victim aged under 18	Violence with injury (inc. homicide & death / serious injury by unlawful driving)	590	586	624	534	511	567
	Violence without injury	1,387	1,457	1,559	1,650	1,464	1,841
	Harassment ¹	19	24	36	105	93	138
	Theft (inc burglary)	3	8	12	4	14	9
	Criminal damage	10	12	28	10	13	14
	All other offences	347	381	455	419	404	470
	Total all offences	2,356	2,468	2,714	2,722	2,499	3,039
Female victim aged 18+	Violence with injury (inc. homicide & death / serious injury by unlawful driving)	2,346	2,330	2,625	2,634	2,694	2,801
	Violence without injury	2,679	2,797	2,881	2,975	3,171	3,856
	Harassment ¹	615	756	1,224	2,598	2,797	3,402
	Theft (inc burglary)	573	578	646	637	606	659
	Criminal damage	1,168	1,125	1,271	1,508	1,271	1,177
	All other offences	377	434	501	457	569	617
	Total all offences	7,758	8,020	9,148	10,809	11,108	12,512
Male victim aged 18+	Violence with injury (inc. homicide & death / serious injury by unlawful driving)	1,030	1,123	1,200	1,177	1,275	1,535
	Violence without injury	1,066	1,167	1,249	1,358	1,446	1,860
	Harassment ¹	197	192	279	775	910	1,059
	Theft (inc burglary)	275	271	278	286	281	308
	Criminal damage	353	373	429	503	459	392
	All other offences	45	49	45	63	79	115
	Total all offences	2,966	3,175	3,480	4,162	4,450	5,269
Age or gender unknown	Violence with injury (inc. homicide & death / serious injury by unlawful driving)	2	2	1	0	3	8

	Violence without injury	1	1	1	5	5	6
	Harassment ¹	3	0	0	2	4	2
	Theft (inc. burglary)	1	3	1	3	3	2
	Criminal damage	1	2	0	8	2	1
	All other offences	2	0	1	2	1	2
	Total all offences	10	8	4	20	18	21
State-based offence	Violence with injury (inc. homicide & death / serious injury by unlawful driving)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Violence without injury	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Harassment ^{1,2}	58	80	130	116	119	151
	Theft (inc burglary)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Criminal damage	0	0	0	0	0	0
	All other offences ³	781	690	797	831	731	
	Total all offences	839	861	820	913	950	882
All domestic abuse crimes	Violence with injury (inc. homicide & death / serious injury by unlawful driving)	3,968	4,041	4,450	4,345	4,483	4,911
	Violence without injury	5,134	5,422	5,690	5,988	6,086	7,563
	Harassment ¹	892	1,052	1,669	3,596	3,923	4,752
	Theft (inc. burglary)	852	860	937	930	904	978
	Criminal damage	1,532	1,512	1,728	2,029	1,745	1,584
	All other offences	1,551	1,645	1,692	1,738	1,884	1,935
	Total all offences	13,929	14,532	16,166	18,626	19,025	21,723

Age of offender (domestic abuse detected crimes), Table 4.3

Age	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Under 18	169	209	162	204	189	218
18 and over	3,848	3,849	4,079	4,645	5,228	5,665
Unknown/Missing	61	58	97	100	65	145
Total (offenders)	4,078	4,116	4,338	4,949	5,482	6,028

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

Relevant data relating to MARACs and age is below:

Categories	Criteria	Month Total	Cumulative Total From Jan 2022	2021/22 totals	Cumulative Total From Jan 2010
Number of	Cases Discussed	126	817	1044	18558
	Children in Household	181	1571	1051	1235

Regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline

Relevant data gathered by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline has been recorded as follows:

During 2021/22, of those that provided this information the age breakdown for those availing of Helpline services was as below. 70% of those availing of the service were aged between 25 and 50.

Age category	%
Less than 16	0.10
17-24	8.15
25-35	30.95
36-50	39.73
51-67	19.50
68+	1.57

ASSIST NI

During the period Aug 2021 to Sep 2022 of those who used the ASSIST NI service 91% were adults and 9% of cases related to children and young people. The breakdown for adults and children and young people is set out below. Most of the children and young people cases relate to those aged 11 and over, while for adults almost 70% of cases fall between the ages of 21 and 45. Just under a quarter are aged 21 or under, while around 3.5% are aged 60 or over.

Age category – Children and Young People	%
0 – 5	5.82
6 – 10	8.15
11 – 15	30.95
16 -18	39.73

Age category – Adults	%
18 - 20	7.38
21 - 25	15.96
26 - 30	17.11
31 - 35	14.39
36 - 40	13.03
41 - 45	11.46
46 - 50	6.44
51 - 55	6.38
56 - 60	4.08
61 - 65	1.52
66 - 70	0.68
71 - 75	0.73
76 - 80	0.47

81 - 85	0.05
86 - 90	0.05
91 +	0.16

[Women's Aid Federation 2021-22 Annual Report](#)

The following information from annual reports published by Women's Aid Federation NI shows that:

In 2021/22: 397 children stayed in refuge with their mum; 8 babies were born to women in refuge; and 5,897 children had mums supported in Women's Aid Services.

In 2020/21: 319 children stayed in refuge with their mum; 10 babies were born to women in refuge; and 6,005 women and 6,450 children received floating support in their homes.

In 2019/20: 316 children stayed in refuge with their mum; 11 babies were born to women in refuge; and 5,536 women and 5,143 children received floating support in their homes.

[Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2015/16](#)

Findings from the **Northern Ireland Crime Survey** 2015/16 estimated that 12.1% of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence, by a partner, since age 16, with women (15.1%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than men (8.4%). While the survey has been undertaken subsequently the data from this is not yet available. This also applies to material later in the document.

The survey went on to highlight that 6.4% of people aged 16-64 have experienced at least one form of domestic violence and abuse, by a family member (other than a partner), since age 16, with women (7.5%) displaying a higher prevalence rate than men (5.0%).

For older people while there may be a lower prevalence of domestic abuse than some other Section 75 groups reported rates are likely to be underestimated.

Religious belief

[2021 census of Northern Ireland](#)

In 2021, the main current religions were: Catholic (42.31%); Presbyterian (16.61%); Church of Ireland (11.55%); Methodist (2.35%); Other Christian denominations (6.85%); and Other religions (1.34%). In addition, 17.39% of our population had 'No religion'.

Bringing together the information [on Religion and Religion Brought up in](#) 45.70% of the population were Catholic, 43.48% were Protestant and Other religions were 1.5%. The remaining 9.32% of our population neither belonged to, nor were brought up in,

any religion.

[Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2021](#)

In the 2021 Northern Ireland Life and Times survey 33% stated Catholic, 28% no religion, 15% Presbyterian and 12% Church of Ireland as some of the main religions. 36% saw themselves as part of the Protestant Community, 31% the Catholic Community and 32% neither.

Political Opinion

[Election results](#)

On first preference votes per party in the 2022 NI Assembly Elections indicates the following:

Party	First Preference votes	%
Sinn Fein	250,388	29.02
DUP	184,002	21.33
Alliance	116,681	13.53
UUP	96,390	11.17
SDLP	78,237	9.07
TUV	65,788	7.63
Independent	25,315	3.42
Other	45,902	2.93

[Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2021](#)

The 2021 survey asked some questions relating to political party support and political opinion. In terms of political party support this was as follows – 19% for Alliance, 13% for SDLP, Sinn Fein and UUP, 12% for DUP and 5% for the Green Party.

In this survey, 32% of respondents considered themselves to be Unionist, 26% Nationalist and 38% considered themselves to be neither.

When asked how best they would describe the way they think of themselves 26% said Irish not British, 21% said British not Irish, 16% said More British than Irish as well as 16% for equally Irish and British while 13% stated more Irish than Irish.

[2021 census of Northern Ireland](#)

In 2021, 42.80% of the usually resident population identified as British, 33.31% as Irish and 31.46% as Northern Irish with the remaining 7.48% identifying as either 'other' or one of the other regions of the UK.

ASSIST NI

During the period Sep 2021 – Aug 2022 of those who used the ASSIST NI service the three main categories services users identified themselves as were British (30%), Irish (18%) and Northern Irish (18%) for adults. The figures were broadly similar for those cases involving children and young people (a slightly higher proportion identifying as Northern Irish).

Racial Group

2021 census of Northern Ireland

According to the 2021 census data, the four largest ethnic groups in Northern Ireland are 96.55% (1.8m) of the usually resident population in Northern Ireland being of a white ethnic group, 0.76% mixed (14,382), 0.52% (9,881) Indian and 0.50% Chinese (9,495). More generally, 65,000 people were from a Minority Ethnic Group. At 3.4% this had doubled from 2011 (32,400) and quadrupled from 2001 (14,300 people).

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2021

According to the 2021 survey when asked whether they considered themselves to be a member of a minority ethnic community 92% said no, 5% yes and 3% gave the response of don't know. In terms of the ethnic group that was given 97% said white, 1% Indian, 1% Mixed Ethnic Group and 1% other Asian.

PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22

Around nine in ten domestic abuse victims are of white ethnicity (86% in 2021/22) and within this category the vast majority hold UK and Ireland nationality.

Domestic abuse crimes recorded by ethnicity and nationality of victim, 2007/08 to 2021/22, Table 3.8

Ethnicity (Nationality)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Asian: of which	85	89	105	111	125	106
UK and Ireland	20	26	35	16	32	14
All other nationalities	54	52	56	74	76	75
Nationality missing	11	11	14	21	17	17
Black: of which	88	80	99	153	138	208
UK and Ireland	21	26	32	41	35	60
All other nationalities	59	35	56	86	82	110
Nationality missing	8	19	11	26	21	38
Mixed/Other: of which	74	98	120	122	121	166
UK and Ireland	23	35	29	49	50	54
All other nationalities	40	49	71	58	61	101
Nationality missing	11	14	20	15	10	11
White: of which	11,785	12,156	13,531	15,627	15,834	17,820
Latvia	36	41	42	42	58	53

Lithuania	99	118	127	121	143	157
Poland	215	253	268	281	328	295
Portugal	25	17	20	18	12	29
Romania	19	26	59	34	42	42
Slovakia	26	33	26	34	47	31
UK and Ireland	10,519	10,663	11,777	13,640	13,696	15,504
All other nationalities	89	100	126	124	123	152
Nationality missing	757	905	1,086	1,333	1,385	1,557
Ethnicity Missing/Unknown Person: of which	1,058	1,248	1,491	1,700	1,857	2,541
UK and Ireland	407	410	531	549	626	732
All other nationalities	53	68	71	100	121	146
Nationality missing	598	770	889	1,051	1,110	1,663
Total (person victims)	13,090	13,671	15,346	17,713	18,075	20,841

Ethnicity/Nationality of offender (domestic abuse detected crimes), 2010/11 to 2021/22, Table 4.4

Ethnicity (Nationality)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Asian: of which	18	22	34	22	27	31
UK and Ireland	6	6	9	9	3	15
All other nationalities	11	15	25	13	23	16
Nationality missing	1	1	0	0	1	0
Black: of which	36	43	33	35	59	63
UK and Ireland	8	8	1	3	18	14
All other nationalities	28	35	32	32	40	49
Nationality missing	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mixed/Other: of which	22	31	31	39	56	57
UK and Ireland	4	8	14	3	9	12
All other nationalities	18	22	16	36	46	45
Nationality missing	0	1	1	0	1	0
White: of which	3,537	3,634	3,770	4,374	4,800	5,148
Latvia	13	17	8	18	26	20
Lithuania	40	44	35	52	52	63
Poland	85	90	84	119	103	88
Portugal	13	3	1	10	8	21
Romania	8	8	34	11	19	36
Slovakia	15	3	10	9	11	9
UK and Ireland	3,277	3,384	3,529	4,092	4,480	4,792
All other nationalities	33	29	25	33	48	36
Nationality missing	53	56	44	30	53	83
Ethnicity Missing/Unknown Person: of which	145	386	470	479	540	729
UK and Ireland	7	269	300	310	363	502
All other nationalities	56	46	45	45	62	79
Nationality missing	82	71	125	124	115	148
Total (offenders)	3,758	4,116	4,338	4,949	5,482	6,028

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

Of the 18,558 high risk cases discussed to date at MARACs 978 (5%) involved a person from a Minority Ethnic Community. For the most recent year, 2021/22, the figure was 6.6%.

Regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline

Of those availing of Helpline services in 2021/22, the following people **disclosed** their ethnicity:

Ethnicity	Number	%
Bangladesh	11	0.31
Black African	28	0.78
Black Caribbean	18	0.50
Chinese	10	0.28
Indian	20	0.56
Irish Traveller	4	0.11
Pakistan	29	0.81
White	3456	96.64

ASSIST NI

During the period Aug 2021 to Sep 2022 of those who used the ASSIST NI service those identifying as Minority Ethnic Communities totalled slightly under 2% for adults and 1% for children and young people.

Women's Aid Federation NI Annual Reports

The following extracts have been taken from annual reports published by Women's Aid Federation NI in relation to women from Minority Ethnic Communities:

2020/21:



236 BME Women

Stayed in our refuges
in the year 20/21.

2019/20:

Black & Minority Ethnic Women

100 women stayed in refuge

291 women received outreach support

20 women from the Travelling community supported in refuge

39 women & **23** children with no recourse to public funds supported in refuge

2018/19:

Black & Minority Ethnic Women

134 women stayed in refuge

374 women received outreach support

24 women from the Travelling community supported in refuge

42 women & **44** children with no recourse to public funds supported in refuge

2016/17:

Black & Minority Ethnic Women

167 women stayed in refuge

533 women received outreach support

50 women from the Travelling community supported in refuge

41 women & **49** children with no recourse to public funds supported in refuge

[The Protection and Rights of Black and Minority Ethnic Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in Northern Ireland](#) (McWilliams and Yarnell)

Local research considered there are structural failings leading to financial dependence on abusive partners and no recourse to public funds, citing the following barriers:

- Dependence of some BME women on male partners for their immigration status and/or official leave to remain in the UK;
- Lack of knowledge of their own legal entitlements in the UK;
- Reluctance to involve Social Services due to fear of children being removed;
- Reluctance to seek help from public authorities or 'outside' support agencies due to lack of culturally sensitive services;
- Community pressure to remain in the family home and the stigma and shame attached to leaving the partner;
- Internalising religion and cultural beliefs that view domestic violence as permissible rather than criminal; and
- a legacy of poor police response from previous experience in their home country, and on occasion, in Northern Ireland.

Disability

[2021 census of Northern Ireland](#)

The Census, 2021 revealed that 34.67% of the population (or 659,805 people) regard themselves as having a disability or long-term health problem, which has an impact on their day-to-day activities. 65.33% of the population (1,243,371 people) have no long-term health condition.

The most recent official statistics collected via the Health Survey NI (2019) ^[1] show that:

- 43% of respondents reported a longstanding illness (32% limiting and 11% non-limiting illness);
- Females (44%) were more likely than males (40%) to have a long-term condition.
- Prevalence also increased with age, with 22% of those aged 16 – 24 reporting a long-term condition compared with 70% of those aged 75 and over.
- Around a fifth of respondents (21%) scored highly on the GHQ12 suggesting they may have a mental health problem; and
- Respondents in the most deprived areas (22%) continue to be more likely to record a high GHQ12 score than those in the least deprived areas (15%).

Importantly, these datasets reveal that the experience of disability is intersectional, i.e. people who live with a particular kind of disability may also experience *other* disabilities, which may vary in terms of intensity, impact, and duration.

^[1] For more information on Health Survey NI (2017/18) see: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/health-inequalities-annual-report-2019>

In addition, people with a disability who are impacted by domestic and/or sexual abuse may also fall into other Section 75 categories and barriers that this may bring.

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2009

The 2009 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey found that 77% of people who identified as having a disability reported that this disability had a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. While the survey data interrogates people's experiences of healthcare and addressing personal health issues, the results are not disaggregated to reflect the experience of people with disabilities.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

Of the 18,558 high risk cases discussed between Jan 2010 to Oct 2022 at MARACs 640 (3.5%) involved a person with a disability. For the most recent year, 2021/22 the figure was 11.5%.

Regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline

Of those availing of the Helpline services in 2021/22, 830 people **disclosed** a disability as below:

Disability type	Number	%
Emotional	614	73.98
Physical	157	18.92
Learning	45	5.42
Sensory	14	1.69
Total	830	

ASSIST NI

During the period Sep 2021 to Aug 2022 of those who used the ASSIST NI service the number that had recorded disabilities for children were small and related to the categories of physical, mental health and learning. For adults the breakdown is as below:

Disability type	%
Hearing	1.8
Learning	8.14
Long Term Disability	6.11
Mental Health	52.34
Physical	30.14
Speech Impairment	0.41
Vision	1.02
Total	100

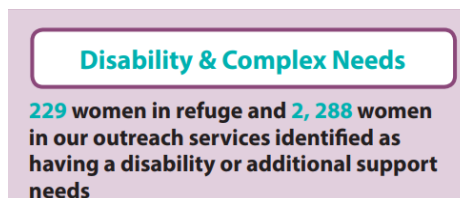
Women's Aid Federation NI Annual Reports

The following extracts have been taken from annual reports published by Women's Aid Federation NI in relation to women with a disability and complex needs:

2021/22:



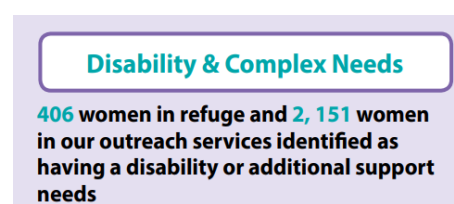
2019/20:



2020/21:



2018/19:



The PSNI does not publish data on the levels of domestic and sexual abuse by disability.

Sexual Orientation

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2021

According to the 2021 survey when asked about their sexual orientation 93% stated that they were heterosexual or straight, 4% bisexual and 2% gay or lesbian (homosexual).

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

Of the 18,558 high risk cases discussed at MARACs between Jan 2010 and Oct 2022 0.5% related to LGBTQIA individuals. For the most recent year, 2021/22, the figure was 1.3%.

Regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline

Of those individuals who availed of the Helpline service in 2021/22 and disclosed their sexual orientation:

Sexual Orientation	%
Heterosexual	96.96%
LGBTQ	3.04%

State of the Community Survey

Results of The Rainbow Project's State of the Community Survey research, with input from over 1130 LGBTQIA respondents, showed that of these respondents 45% reported being in an abusive relationship. 52% experienced violent behaviour, 16% financial abuse, 36% controlling and coercive behaviour, 51% emotional abuse and 31% pressured to have sex or perform a sex act. Over 68% of the respondents never report their abuse to the police or other services. Only 9% had reported incidents to the Police and less than 4% to other services.

Census 2021 statistics on sexual orientation are due for release in Spring 2023.

PSNI does not publish data on the levels of domestic and sexual abuse by sexual orientation.

Marital Status

2011 census of Northern Ireland

The 2011 census found that 47.56% of the usually resident population aged 16 or over are 'married'. 36.14% are single (defined as never married or registered in a same sex civil partnership) and 9.43% as either separated or divorced. 0.09% are in a registered same-sex partnership.

Census 2021 statistics on marital status is due for release in Spring 2023.

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2021

According to the 2021 survey 48% stated that they were married and living with a husband/wife, 38% were single (never married), 6% divorced, 4% widowed, 3% married and separated from husband/wife and 1% a civil partner in a civil partnership.

PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22

Data from the PSNI indicates that the majority of relationships between domestic abuse victim and offender are categorised as current or ex-spouse / partner / girlfriend / boyfriend etc. (nearly three in five since 2017/18). Up to a quarter are parent and child relationships. The proportion of domestic abuse detected crimes where the relationship between the domestic abuse victim and offender is unknown or missing has fallen from just under 30% of these offences in 2010/11 to 5% of these offences in 2021/22.

PSNI recorded crime statistics (published Dec 2022)

Of the homicides with a domestic abuse motivation that have been carried out since 2007/08, 53% of these involved a current or former partner, the remainder involving a family relationship. Information from associated homicide reviews is something that we will want to consider going forward.

Victim / offender relationship (domestic abuse detected crimes), 2010/11 to 2021/22, Table 4.5

Victim/Offender Relationship	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Current spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend etc.	1,083	1,118	1,187	1,174	1,369	1,433
Ex spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend etc.	1,048	1,216	1,355	1,736	1,854	2,041
Parent and child	940	998	1,012	1,208	1,315	1,494
Grandparent and grandchild	45	56	70	73	68	94
Sibling	312	286	342	342	429	514
Other family relationship	88	98	93	120	119	160
Unknown/Missing	562	344	279	296	328	292
Total (all offenders)	4,078	4,116	4,338	4,949	5,482	6,028

Dependents

2011 census of Northern Ireland

At the time of the 2011 Census the total number of households totalled 703,275 of which 238,272 households contain dependent children (around a third).

Number of dependent Children in Household Number of Households	
One dependent child	103,811
Two dependent children	84,970
Three or more dependent children	49,491
Total Households with dependent children	238,272

Polling published by **Carers UK** in [The State of Caring 2019](#) shows that around 272,000 people in Northern are providing care for a family member or friend, over 58,000 more than the 2011 census records showed.

We invite all interested parties to provide further detail regarding available data and research via this consultation and to engage with us directly to help us support the interests of Section 75 groups.

Your consultation response will help us:

- **Identify any gaps in the information we have used in this EQIA.**
- **Provide additional sources of information, statistics and evidence that we should consider.**
- **Determine areas where further research is required or would be beneficial.**

4. Assessment of impacts

This section assesses whether the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy is likely to have a differential impact on any of the Section 75 groups, considering the data presented in section 3 of this report and the feedback received during the Call for Views in 2022.

We consider each Section 75 category in turn below, in relation to the draft strategy. Any specific policy initiatives taken forward as part of the strategy's implementation will be subject to their own policy processes associated with equality and other relevant assessments.

In summary, it is expected that the overall impact on the people of Northern Ireland, including Section 75 categories, will be positive. No adverse impact has been identified. The draft strategy recognises that **anyone** can be a victim of domestic and sexual abuse just as anyone can be an abuser.

However, the draft strategy also recognises that domestic and sexual abuse may affect different groups in different ways. So, whilst the strategy will apply to everyone, it will also be important that during its implementation, we take account of and respond to the needs of different groups to further promote equality of opportunity and good relations in relation to Section 75 categories.

Men and women generally (Gender)

The draft strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have any differential impact based on gender. However, our findings at section 3 show that:

- Both women and men can experience domestic and sexual abuse.
- Women are more likely than men to experience domestic and sexual abuse.
- Men are more likely than women to carry out abuse and violent acts.
- Women are more likely than men to be victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse.
- There are increasing levels of reported domestic abuse experienced by men although we also know that many men underreport their experiences.
- There is significantly less data in relation to those who do not identify as male or female. Data that is recorded suggests there are additional barriers to reporting and seeking support for these groups that is unique to their gender identity.

The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 also highlighted that women and men's experience of domestic and sexual abuse can be different and that they can have different needs –

Women are more likely to experience multiple incidents and different types of domestic and sexual abuse. Women also face barriers to disclosing abuse and finding

help. They can feel that they are reliant on the person abusing them in many ways, such as finance and housing, or they may fear that their children will be taken away should they leave. Many also fear not being taken seriously when they disclose abuse and are worried that they'll face comments like "why doesn't she just leave" if they are in a relationship together. Victims are at the highest risk when they leave a relationship or are thinking/planning to leave and for about 12 months after they have left. Domestic abuse can also get worse during pregnancy.

One of the main reasons **men** don't seek help is embarrassment and feeling "less of a man". There is also fear of not being believed, fear of being accused as the perpetrator and losing contact with any children they may have with their abuser. Not knowing that support is available and believing services are for women only is another significant barrier for male victims.

Any additional information in relation to the impact on men and women generally would be welcome during this public consultation.

Age

The draft strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have a differential impact based on age. However, our findings at section 3 show that:

- Domestic and sexual abuse can happen to people of all ages including children and young people and older people.
- Some age groups may be more likely to experience domestic abuse than others. For example, those under the age of 18 are more likely to be subject to sexual offences.
- Data recorded for over 65s is low and yet we know that domestic and sexual abuse can and does happen to older people.

The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 also highlighted the different needs of children and older people who experience domestic and sexual abuse –

While **children's** experience of domestic abuse is usually connected to their parents, they can also be victims in their own right. The impact of seeing, hearing or experiencing the effects of abuse is significant and the long-term consequences of this trauma can stretch into childhood. Adverse childhood experiences can have lasting, negative effects on a child's development, health and well-being which can lead to behavioural problems, difficulties at school and increased risk of difficulties in future relationships.

For young people the impact, and risk of domestic and sexual abuse, can be heightened by their home environment. Furthermore, where wider family and society do not intervene children and young people suffering from abuse may become less visible, with organisations less able to effectively respond to their needs.

Older people face a number of additional barriers to seeking support including generational views about faith, loyalty, shame and guilt. In many cases older people may wish to protect family members. They may find it difficult to report if the person abusing them is also their carer or they are financially dependent on them. They may also have normalised abuse that has been going on for a long period of time. Older people are vulnerable to financial abuse, from their children or other family members, who may also be their carer.

Any additional information in relation to the impact of age would be welcome during this public consultation.

Religious belief

The draft strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have a differential impact based on religious belief.

We are not aware of any specific Northern Ireland data on domestic and sexual abuse and religious belief. The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 shows that domestic and sexual abuse can and does happen to anyone. It is not confined to any one religious belief.

Any additional information in relation to the impact of religious belief would be welcome during this public consultation.

Political opinion

The draft strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have a differential impact based on political opinion.

We are not aware of any specific Northern Ireland data on domestic and sexual abuse and political opinion.

The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 highlighted that:

- Domestic and sexual abuse can and does happen to anyone. It is not confined to any one political opinion.
- For some sections of the community, depending on their political opinion, they may be less willing or able to report domestic and sexual abuse to the police and be referred to support.

Any additional information in relation to the impact of political opinion would be welcome during this public consultation.

Racial Group

The draft strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to

have a differential impact based on racial group. However, our findings at section 3 show that:

- There is limited data available in Northern Ireland on domestic and sexual abuse and ethnic background.
- Data that is recorded suggests that there are additional barriers to reporting and seeking support.

The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 highlighted the different needs of Minority Ethnic Communities who experience domestic and sexual abuse –

Domestic and sexual abuse is commonly under-reported in Minority Ethnic Communities. People may be at particular risk because of language barriers and a lack of local connections or understanding of how to navigate local services. Cultural values can also prevent disclosures of abuse out of fear of dishonouring family or their community. An individual may also be dependent on the person abusing them for immigration status, lack financial independence and have no recourse to public funds.

For those from the Minority Ethnic Community a range of factors may be leveraged by their abusers to further control and abuse them, including a lack of financial independence and benefits being in the abusers' name. Abuse may also be exacerbated through building on a fear of, and lack of knowledge about police and the criminal justice system. Reporting and access to services can also be more difficult where the person's first language is not English.

Any additional information in relation to the impact of racial group would be welcome during this public consultation.

Disability

The draft strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have any differential impact based on disability. However, our findings at section 3 show that:

- There is limited data available in Northern Ireland on domestic and sexual abuse and sexual orientation.
- Data that is recorded suggests that there are additional barriers to reporting and seeking support.

The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 highlighted that those with a disability can face additional challenges and barriers, which are different to those experienced by those without a disability.

Disabled people are often in particularly vulnerable circumstances and may not recognise abuse or know how to report domestic and sexual abuse. They can be socially isolated; reliant on assistance with healthcare, housing or financial security;

and may also face physical inaccessibility.

There can also be barriers to accessing appropriate support, with helplines, phone calls and websites difficult for some people to use. We also understand that for people with a disability it can affect both the nature and extent of abuse that they are subject to, including in terms of its duration and severity. For those with a disability a perceived dependency can give rise to a higher risk of abuse and victimisation. The physical impacts of abuse can also give rise to a range of wider health conditions, unrelated to their original disability.

Any additional information in relation to the impact of disability would be welcome during this public consultation.

Sexual orientation

The draft strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have any differential impact based on sexual orientation. However, our findings at section 3 show that:

- There is limited data available in Northern Ireland on domestic and sexual abuse and sexual orientation.
- Data that is recorded suggests that there are additional barriers to reporting and seeking support.

The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 highlighted the different needs of LGNTQIA+ people who experience domestic and sexual abuse –

While domestic and sexual abuse can happen to anyone LGBTQIA+ people face additional challenges and barriers, which are different to those experienced by heterosexual people. We know that some LGBTQIA+ people are afraid to report incidents of abuse and seek help due to fear of discrimination. The earlier section highlighted that there are no official figures on the prevalence of crime for those identifying as LGBTQIA+, which may result in less visibility, and access, to service providers. This may include a stereotypical assumption of heterosexuality making disclosure of abuse and access to services more difficult. This can also be demonstrated in limitations to Relationship and Sexuality Education and the extent to which it effectively deals with all kinds of relationships and all sexual orientations.

Those in this group may also be facing coercive control, where they are in a relationship with their abuser, with threats to be 'outed'. A further impact may be not recognising that what they are experiencing is abuse, due to a lack of awareness and open conversation on what constitutes a healthy relationship for this community. This can increase isolation of individuals who already lack family support or safety nets.

Any additional information in relation to the impact of sexual orientation would be welcome during this public consultation.

Marital status

The draft strategy is expected to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have a differential impact based marital status. However, our findings at section 3 show that:

- The largest proportion of domestic abuse is intimate partner violence.
- There is limited data available in Northern Ireland with regard to domestic and sexual abuse and marital status.

The results of the Call for Views undertaken in 2022 also highlighted that victims of domestic abuse are at greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation or after leaving a violent partner.

Any additional information in relation to the impact of marital status would be welcome during this public consultation.

5. Mitigating actions / alternative policies

As noted in section 4, we do not expect the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy to have any adverse impact on Section 75 groups. However, whilst no negative impact has been identified we know that there is scope for positive action to take account of and respond to the way in which different groups may be impacted by domestic and sexual abuse. This reflects our assessment in the earlier sections that different groups of people can be affected by domestic and sexual abuse in different ways.

In taking forward the strategy and developing and implementing the action plans that will flow from it, it will also be important to take account of issues and barriers faced from those associated with multiple identities/Section 75 categories (for example, disabled women, bisexual men and older women), emphasising the importance of not looking at any Section 75 category in isolation.

In this section we consider some key measures, across each of the four Pillars within the draft strategy, that we believe will help to better promote equality of opportunity across the Section 75 categories.

Partnership

The draft strategy recognises that driving change must be informed by victims' voices and community engagement. We will therefore continue to build on our existing engagement with sectors, as well as the specific engagement undertaken as part of the Call for Views and seek further opportunities for victims' voices to be heard and reflected in any new measures taken forward, including those from Section 75 groups and the organisations that support them.

Through the establishment of a performance framework, with clear key priority areas and measurable outcomes, we will also identify whether work being progressed has a positive impact on those affected by domestic and sexual abuse including Section 75 groups. An important aspect of this will be to consider where there are gaps in local data collection.

The data presented in section 4 highlights the need to improve data collection and analysis in Northern Ireland across the Section 75 groups in terms of the key statistics that are publicly available. At present the data gaps appear to be most substantive in respect of sexual orientation, racial group, disability and gender identity.

Prevention

A key priority area under the Prevention pillar is to raise awareness of domestic and sexual abuse so that those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing abuse, recognise it and know that help is available. In doing so, we will seek opportunities to improve the visibility of Section 75 groups so that they can see themselves in work being taken forward, challenge stereotypes and consider how to improve the accessibility and

understanding of any materials that are produced.

Our analysis in previous sections indicates that there is under-reporting of domestic and sexual abuse by a number of Section 75 Groups particularly, in relation to gender identity, racial group, sexual orientation, disability and older people. This suggests that people may not recognise themselves as victims or know that support services are available. It would be important, therefore, that future measures include targeted awareness raising with Section 75 groups while also reflecting that women are disproportionately affected. However, it would also be necessary to ensure that victims are not just portrayed as female and men as abusers given the additional stigma and stereotyping that male victims face, so that men also know that help and support is available.

Another important aspect will be to promote increased understanding of the needs of different groups and the barriers that they can face in relation to reporting and accessing services. This will be particularly relevant under the Prevention pillar as other key priority areas focus on supporting people working in frontline services, public facing roles and the workplace to recognise and respond effectively to domestic and sexual abuse.

We will also progress measures to promote understanding about consent and healthy relationships across all age groups but with a particular focus on children and young people. This will include awareness raising to increase wider community knowledge that domestic and sexual abuse can affect anyone, including Section 75 groups, and improve understanding of the 'bystander approach'.

Support

Another key area under the draft strategy that will have a positive impact relates to measures to ensure that victims are supported and feel safe, including through the provision of specialist support services. This will include having a focus on tackling sexual abuse and providing accommodation-based services. While again this will have a positive impact on all Section 75 groups this will likely have greatest positive impact in terms of the categories of age, gender, racial group, disability and sexual orientation.

In taking this forward we will want to work with partner agencies so that services better understand the intersectional needs of individuals, across the Section 75 groups, in order that victims get the responses and support needed. This will include learning from the experience of victims to better inform best practice.

Justice

The justice related provisions in the draft strategy focus on addressing abusive behaviours and the justice system more widely. This includes supporting those who are abusive to change their behaviours. Given that women are predominantly affected

by domestic abuse, carried out by males, behavioural change programmes will in the first instance focus on male offenders, having a positive impact on women. Associated with this we will consider how best we can support the partners and former partners of those that are undertaking programmes. Going forward we will want to consider how these programmes may be extended to female offenders, those who first language is not English and also those that are not in a heterosexual relationship. This would bring positive impacts to men and women more generally, those in minority and those of a different sexual orientation.

We also want to work collaboratively to target the most prolific offenders, improving their risk assessment and management. Measures will also be brought forward to improve protections for those at risk of abuse. Taken together these aspects are intended to help us to reduce reoffending levels, repeat victimisation and levels of convictions. Given that the majority of victims are female this will have a particular positive impact for women but will also be of benefit to all Section 75 groups.

6. Consultation

This Draft EQIA is being consulted on as part of the consultation on the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy (<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-strategy>).

The Departments of Health and Justice, who lead on the cross-Departmental strategy, are keen to hear feedback from as many people as possible on both the draft strategy and this draft EQIA. This particularly applies to those with lived experience of domestic and sexual abuse, including children and young people, as well as those identifying with specific Section 75 groups.

Consultation responses must be submitted no later than **Tuesday 2 May 2023**.

Should you have any questions about the consultation process email us at DSAStrategyConsultation@justice-ni.gov.uk or write to us at:

Victims Support Division
Room A4.03
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SG

The overall consultation exercise on the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy is being supported by a number of online public engagement events which anyone can attend. The scheduled dates are:

Monday 6 March 2023	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 7 March 2023	10.30am – noon
Thursday 9 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Tuesday 14 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 15 March 2023	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Thursday 16 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm

Further details of how to book these events (as well as all relevant documents associated with the consultation on the draft strategy) are on the Departmental websites:

[Domestic and sexual abuse strategy 2023 2030 | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

[Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy - 2023 – 2030 | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

We look forward to hearing your views. If there is any information in this report which is not clear, or if you require further information, please let us know.

7. Decision making and publication of EQIA report

Following consultation on the draft EQIA and draft strategy, the Departments of Health and Justice will consider the evidence and information provided, as well as any proposed mitigations, and revise and finalise this documentation where appropriate. This will enable the EQIA to be updated in light of evidence presented during the consultation as to its impact and ability to promote equality of opportunity. The Departments will publish the final EQIA alongside the final strategy on their websites. The issues raised during consultation on the draft EQIA and strategy will also be reflected in a summary of consultation responses document.

As part of this process, we will also want to consider and take account of progress in relation to the work taken forward by the Executive Office on the development of an Ending Violence Against women and Girls Strategy, building on current linkages between these two areas of work.

8. Next steps and monitoring

As part of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy we will want to develop a performance framework to monitor outcomes and impact of the draft strategy. As part of this the position and progress of each outcome will be measured using a range of indicators. We will want to ensure that there is a continuous review process with accountable and transparent monitoring and reporting against the work that is being undertaken and how this is delivering against the draft strategy's vision. As part of this we will want to further consider its impact in terms of promoting equality of opportunity for those that are affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

As set out in the preceding sections, no adverse impacts have been identified with positive impacts for a range of Section 75 groups. However, monitoring will continue as the draft strategy is taken forward to ensure that consideration is given to further opportunities for improvement as key actions under the strategy are progressed.

It is intended that for significant new pieces of work that are being progressed we will develop scorecards to demonstrate delivery under the draft strategy. These will provide an overview of the service being delivered, partners involved in the project and provide a number of performance measures that will consider how much did we do, how well did we do it and is anyone better off as a result. This will also feed into the annual delivery reports.

Research referenced in Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy Call for Views

Criminal Justice Inspection Report; No Excuse, Apr 21.

[Criminal Justice Inspection Report: No Excuse](#)

Comparison Research by Monica McWilliams & Joan McKiernan: *Bringing it out in the Open; Domestic Violence in Northern Ireland 1992* and Monica McWilliams and Jessica Doyle: *Intimate Partner Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: Insights and Lessons from Northern Ireland 2016*, provide an overview over a 25-year period of the prevalence of DV and associated responses across the region.

(No available online)

Doyle, J.L. and McWilliams, M., (2018) 'Intimate Partner Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: Lessons From Northern Ireland', (Edinburgh: Political Settlements Research Programme), Available at

<https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/en/publications/intimate-partner-violence-in-conflict-and-post-conflict-societies>

Monica McWilliams, Stand Up, Speak Out.

Monica McWilliams and Priyamvada Yarnell -The Protection and Rights of Black and

Minority Ethnic Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in Northern Ireland — Ulster University <https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/en/publications/the-protection-and-rights-of-black-and-minority-ethnic-women-expe-3>

Public Understanding of Coercive Control in Northern Ireland” (2021) – Ulster University: Susan Lagdon, Julie-Ann Jordan, Paula Devine, Mark A. Tully, Cherie Armour & Ciaran Shannon

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<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Research-Integrity-Framework-RIF-on-Domestic-Violence-and-Abuse-DVA-November-2020.pdf>

Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women: WHO clinical and policy guidelines, 2013 available at
<https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241548595/en/>, updated in 2021 at <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/417142/retrieve>

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<https://caj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Hostile-environment-MB-legal-research-report.pdf>

https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/respect/redactor2_assets/files/674/Respect_Guidance_for_DA_Perpetrators_Practitioners_January_2021.pdf

Omnipresence: Professor Elizabeth Yardley is a Lecturer and Researcher in Criminology and the **Director of the Centre for Applied Criminology, Birmingham City University. A key area of research by Professor Yardley relates to** The Harms of Omnipresence. Her research has focussed on Technology-Facilitated Domestic Abuse (TFDA) and the distinct types of omnipresent behaviour

<https://www.bcu.ac.uk/social-sciences/news/domestic-abuse-must-stop-being-treated-as-the-poor-relation-by-our-criminal-justice-system-argues-criminology-professor>

Scottish Don't Be That Guy campaign [Don't be that guy](#)

Istanbul Convention [Istanbul Convention](#)

Suggested recommendations in the Feminist Recovery Plan be considered

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Health inequalities and women – addressing unmet needs - Addressing unmet needs in women's mental health [Health inequalities - addressing unmet needs](#)

Crenshaw, Kimberle () "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics," University of Chicago

Legal Forum: Vol. 1989: Iss. 1, Article 8. Available at:

<http://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/uclf/vol1989/iss1/8>

["Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Cri" by Kimberle Crenshaw \(uchicago.edu\)](#)

Consider the online reporting option in Australia which allows victims to record sexual assault even though they do not want to report at that time. Considered that it has produced some very promising results.

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/sex_crimes/adult_sexual_assault/sexual_assault_categories/sexual_assault_reporting_option

Consider rolling out Graham Goulden and Jackson Katz Bystander Models to schools, especially for young men. The "*Bystander approach*" as propagated by Jackson Katz and Graham Goulden, (Cultivating Minds UK), should be promoted and implemented across various organisations in NI alongside educational and awareness-raising campaigns.

<https://grahamgoulden.com/cultivating-minds-uk/bystander-approach/>

[Keeping Safe: teaching children to recognise abusive behaviours and tell an adult | NSPCC Learning](#)

[CJINI - Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland - No Excuse:](#)

https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/advice--information/victim-support/n-i_victims_charter_summary.pdf

https://www.womensaid.ie/assets/files/pdf/one_in_five_women_report_womens_aid_2020.pdf

[Notification: Policy: URL Filtering \(myh.ie\)](#)

[Facts and figures: Ending violence against women | What we do | UN Women –](#)

Headquarters

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Exploring the Barriers to Reporting Domestic Violence A Local Perspective.pdf

https://1q7dqy2unor827bqjls0c4rn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/APPG_womens-access-to-justice2.pdf

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168069454a>

European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, including the UK

https://issuu.com/ppr-org/docs/h4all_report_june_2019_final_17.06.

[Submission to the NI Affairs Committee of the UK Parliament: Call for evidence by Participation and the Practice of Rights \(PPR\) - Issuu](#)

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[Government continues drive to end rough sleeping, building on success of Everyone In - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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[The Housing Executive - Welcome to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive website \(nihe.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/execoffice/draft-refugee-integration-strategy.pdf>

The number of households in priority need of social housing in Northern Ireland is at the highest level on record. In March 2021, there were 43,971 applicants on the social housing waiting list and of these 30,288 were in 'housing stress'. This can have particularly negative impacts for men, men as fathers,GBTQI+, BAME and disabled people leaving them unable to access suitable housing. Intersecting areas of need make the system seem impossible to navigate alone.

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child prostitution and child pornography.

Committee on the Rights of the Child (2016) Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, para 82.

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<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2015/10/section/1/enacted>

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/national-strategy-2016-to-2021.pdf>

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<https://www.niccy.org/publications/2020/june/04/domestic-abuse-and-family-proceedings-bill/>

<https://www.niccy.org/publications/2021/september/24/justice-sexual-offences-and-trafficking-victims-bill/>

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<https://www.niccy.org/publications/2020/june/04/domestic-abuse-and-family-proceedings-bill/>
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?SymbolNo=CEDAW/C/GC/31/CRC/C/GC/18

NICCY's advice to the consultation is available at:

[https://www.niccy.org/publications/2022/february/11/public-consultation-on-marriage-law/Marriage advice](https://www.niccy.org/publications/2022/february/11/public-consultation-on-marriage-law/Marriage%20advice)

22https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/GBR/CO/8&Lang=en
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

See definition e.g. through [European Institute of Gender Equality](#) [What is gender-based violence? | EIGE \(europa.eu\)](#) and the [Istanbul Convention](#).

See e.g. Bourdieu, Pierre (1986) *Distinction*

See e.g. [Patriarchal Society According to Feminism: Feminist Theories of Patriarchy, Patriarchal Society Defined According to Feminism \(thoughtco.com\)](#) published on Thoughtco.com, last accessed 18 March 2022.

Also see de Beauvoir, Simone (1949) *The Second Sex*

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CEDAW Committee (March 2019) [Concluding Observations on the 8th periodic report of the UK](#) [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 18 December 1979 | OHCHR](#) (CEDAW, 1979), articles 1 and 2. The UK signed the Convention in 1981 and ratified in 1986.

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UK government press release (18 September 2019):

[UK's first Domestic Abuse Commissioner announced as government pledges to tackle crime - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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[Annual Report 2020/21 - Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland \(womensaidni.org\)](#)

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[Love For Life | Inspiring Relationships](#) Lessons are often based on religious concepts, the charity [Love for Life](#) reports that as many as 70% of post primary schools engage its services

LGBTQI+ pupils report poor experiences with bullying and harassment in school, including lack of expertise handling issues. New legislation in autumn 2021 provided a legal definition of bullying and strengthened duties of schools (Department of 4 March 2021 [Weir announces new legislation to address bullying in schools | Department of Education \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

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[Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

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<https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2021-07/vvcp-evaluation-sara-sam-key-findings-practice-implications.pdf>

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[Handbook on gender-responsive police services for women and girls subject to violence | Digital library: Publications | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

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Professor Clare McGlynn is a Professor of Law at Durham University. Clare’s expertise is in the legal regulation of pornography, sexual violence and image-based sexual abuse (including taking and sharing intimate images without consent such as ‘upskirting’, deepfakes and cyberflashing).
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Laura Bates, founder of the *Everyday sexism Project*, is trying to combat this worrying development of on-line abuse. The Project identified from an On-line survey in Jun 17, that over a third of 500 women, aged 18-55 surveyed said: “*they felt their physical safety was at threat due to the abuse they received on-line.*”
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/online-abuse-women-widespread>
According to a survey by Barnardo’s, ‘*Not a World Away*’, 2011, two-thirds of girls in care homes in Northern Ireland are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse
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Dr Emma Katz is a leading research specialist in the harms caused by perpetrators to mothers and children in the context of domestic abuse. She is a Senior Lecturer in Childhood and Youth at Liverpool Hope University and has won multiple awards for her research, including the Corinna Seith Prize, awarded by Women Against Violence Europe in 2016.

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Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2020/21 (psni.police.uk)

Statistics on Male Victims of Domestic Abuse - (mankind.org.uk)

Men's Aid received 8,000 contacts last year — and 94% of their abusers were women (irishexaminer.com)

Research (bpmuk.org)

[Disability & Domestic Abuse - Ann Craft Trust https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-55664653](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-55664653)

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In England, compulsory RSE was rolled out for post-primary schools from September

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Studies have shown that LifeSkills can reduce the prevalence of risk-taking behaviours by up to 75%, with effects lasting 12 years². The LifeSkills programme builds capacity by equipping teachers with the skills to prevent risky behaviours. [LifeSkills - Findings from the implementation of Botvin LifeSkills within North Down and Ards'](#)

The 2011 Barnardo's NI report, '[Not a World Away](#)' examined the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

[Child marriage - UNICEF DATA](#)

Child Marriage Report & Stories – Karma Nirvana

Lanzarote Convention: <https://rm.coe.int/protection-of-children-against-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse/1680794e97>

[Children's Services Co-operation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Need for the NI Housing Executive and Housing Associations to have a domestic abuse compliance framework (similar to the Tenant's Engagement Strategy). This is best practice in England and Wales.

Consider best practice from Gentoo Housing Association.

Reference made to the 'TEAR project' at Men's Action Network

Dr John McCord (Ulster University, Magee, School of Psychology) is currently researching the impact and fairness of family courts.

Rainbow Project's State of the Community survey

Lucy Baxter's work on coercive control.

DoH regional disability forum noted as a good example.

Pilot in Windsor Women's Centre with PSNI link workers noted. Matrix used as part of DoJ's Hate Crime consultation

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The Census of Athletes Rights Experience (CARE) was carried out in 2021 by the World Players Association

Queens University has started to compile statistics since 2017 on the number of students impacted by sexual misconduct

Expert Advisory Panel on a Gender Equality Strategy (December 2020), highlighted the urgent need for robust, disaggregated data. The Istanbul Convention emphasises data collection as the basis of action.

Operation Season Greetings (26/11/2021 – 02/01/2022) by PSNI Home Office (25.8.21) Domestic Homicide and Suspected Victim and Suicides during Covid 19.

Restored (restored-uk.org)

ICTU research

Children's Order

National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA) work with offenders through the "Stop it now" programme

Safe and Together model (USA) noted as a good example for managing perpetrators and their actions.

Signs of Safety model.

The Minimum Content Order 2007 needs to be reviewed in relation to Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)

Balance for Better Business

Dementia toolkit available and Research in Wales.

Snyder, R.L. (2020), *No Visible Bruises*, (London: Scribe UK), pp. 256-257

South Eastern Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership guidance for journalists on reporting of domestic abuse noted.

"Why Does He Do That?" by Lundy Bancroft.

Women's Resource and Development Agency survey
Gillen Review recommendations
Jay Report and publication by Helen Beckett (Risk assessing child sexual exploitation)
Office for National Statistics (ONS) only record data on domestic abuse up until age 59.
Attorney General's 2018 human rights guidance on domestic abuse and stalking should be considered
Women's Aid conference two years ago which focused on intervention and early detection has useful material that should be considered.
Onus Workplace Charter
'Women Who Kill – how the state criminalises women we might otherwise be burying' Centre for Womens Justice (2021)
Department of Justice's Modern Slavery Strategy was a significant further step for but was silent on the similar risks facing refused asylum seekers.

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Hughes, K. et al (2012): Prevalence and risk of violence against adults with disabilities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. Hughes, K. et al. *The Lancet*, 2012, Vol. 379. 30; Trevillion, K. et al. (2012): Experiences of domestic violence and mental disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline>

The Revenge Porn Helpline: <https://revengepornhelpline.org.uk/>

Report Harmful Content: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: <https://swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/research/uk-safer-internet-helpline-annual-report-2020/>

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United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);

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Lanzarote Convention

<https://rm.coe.int/1680084822>

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/realizing-womens-rights-convention-elimination-all-forms?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI4u2wx5fJ-QIVCrTtCh1RiQ51EAAyAAEqLO1PD_BwE

Istanbul Convention.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home?>

Concluding Observations Report

<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhslDcrOIUTvLRFDjh6%2fx1pWANA8ZYaHoRL%2bOJRr72WCF1aFvFUALI CWsm8eKNbzUHiJ4YKzONNGD0TNbffd0YmsU3yVXQMOBATZCXrknDX8b>

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[Children's Services Co-operation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/2015/10/1/children-services-co-operation-act-northern-ireland-2015)

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<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-mhs-strategy-2021-2031.pdf>

Gillen Review Implementation Plan

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[4aab3cbd0d04/report.aspx](#)

Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime

[Experience of Crime Publications | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Crime Survey in England and Wales

[Child abuse in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

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[Violence against women and girls: Data landscape - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Compendium of child abuse statistics for England and Wales

[Child abuse in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

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Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy

[Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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<https://www.scottishwomensconvention.org/files/equally-safe-eradicating-vaw-and-girls.pdf>

Leonard Review Evaluation

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[Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/reviews/sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges)

Other

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