

16 Days 2023

How to End Men's Violence Against Women - invest in prevention

It's violence that happens to us because we are women.

The root cause is gender inequality.

We know how to end it.

Men's violence against women and girls is a cause and consequence of gender inequality. It is a violation of human rights, extremely costly to society, and deeply harms a significant number of women and girls. [1]

There were **14,834** sexual crimes recorded in Scotland in the year ending June 2023. [2]

The police recorded **64,807** incidents of domestic abuse in 2021-22. **Four in five** incidents had a female victim-survivor and a male perpetrator. [3]

Men's violence against women and girls causes long term physical and mental health problems, reduced participation in the workforce, substance abuse, and death. [4]

The emotional cost is immeasurable. The estimated financial cost to the Scottish public is **£6.6 billion** per year. [5]

The solution: Primary Prevention

Primary prevention seeks to end men's violence so no one experiences it ever. Effective primary prevention:

- Focuses on structural, cultural, attitudinal, and behavioural change.
- Is a long term, holistic strategy to ensure all women and girls share equal power with men and boys.
- Challenges attitudes that condone violence against women and girls, promote harmful masculinity, enforce rigid gender stereotypes, and emphasise men's dominance. [6]
- Benefits everyone in Scotland.



Effective Primary Prevention

To be effective, primary prevention must be:

- Intersectional. Marginalised women's experiences of gender inequality and men's violence are interconnected with other forms of inequality they experience.
- Developed in collaboration with women's organisations who have expertise in the gendered power dynamics, social norms, structures, and practices that allow violence against women and girls to flourish.
- Community specific and embedded in knowledge of the local context.
- Inclusive of all genders, particularly men and boys.
- Focused on the violence never happening, rather than secondary prevention which intervenes during or after violence.

What you can do

To build a Scotland where violence against women and girls is no longer tolerated, we need your support.

- Ensure investment in expert Primary Prevention organisations.
- Mainstream gender within all Scottish policy.
- Commit to tangible actions on prevention to tackle the root cause and multiple drivers of men's violence within the Equally Safe Refresh Strategy.

This 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we call on the Scottish Government to invest in primary prevention.

We need investment in a holistic, expert-led, long-term prevention strategy that tackles the root cause and multiple drivers of men's violence at all levels of Scottish society.

Brought to you by Zero Tolerance, Scotland's primary prevention experts, working to end men's violence against women and girls by tackling the root cause: gender inequality.



References

- [1] Oliver, R., Alexander, B., Roe, S., and Wlasny, M. (2019) The economic and social costs of domestic abuse.
- [2] Scottish Government (2023) Recorded Crime in Scotland: year ending June 2023.
- [3] Scottish Government (2022) Domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, 2021-22.
- [4] European Institute For Gender Equality (2021) EIGE Gender Equality Index 2021 Report: Health.
- [5] This figure that violence against women and girls costs £6.6bn per year was established using the same approach used in the Scottish Government (2009) Safer Lives – Change Lives: A Shared Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland. Using information provided in Oliver, R., Alexander, B., Roe, S., and Wlasny, M. (2019) The economic and social costs of domestic abuse.
- [6] Our Watch. (2021). Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (2nd ed.). Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch.

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