

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST GENDER BASED

VIOLENCE

Z

ZERO

TOLERANCE

GENERATION EQUALITY

STANDS AGAINST RAPE

PARLIAMENT DEBATE

BRIEFING

IT'S TIME FOR
PREVENTION
CAMPAIGN

Who we are

Zero Tolerance is a national campaigning organisation working to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). We do this through raising public and political awareness of the causes of VAWG and promoting action on prevention.

Rape and Sexual Assault

While anyone can be raped, statistically it is likely that a man will be the perpetrator and a woman will be the victim/survivor. **95% of rapes in 2014-15** had a woman victim (recent police statistics do not disaggregate by gender). One in ten women in Scotland has experienced rape and one in five women in Scotland has had someone try to make them have sex against their will. Everyone has the right to live without fear of sexual violence, therefore preventing rape and sexual assault must be a government priority.

As outlined in **Equally Safe**, all forms of VAWG, including rape and sexual assault, are caused by gender inequality.

To prevent rape and sexual assault we need to challenge the myriad of social, economic and structural inequalities between genders. Prevention of rape and sexual assault can be supported through a zero tolerance approach to the culture and attitudes that excuse and encourage sexual violence, this culture is often referred to as 'rape culture'. Rape culture includes victim blaming, sexual harassment, trivializing rape, and refusing to acknowledge the harm caused by sexual violence. At its core rape culture is fueled by the fact that women and children are not equal to men and for much of history, their bodies have belonged to men.

Other forms of discrimination and inequality compound rape and sexual assault:

- Bisexual women experience **significantly higher** rates of rape, domestic abuse and/or stalking compared to heterosexual women.
- **99%** of women who sell sex have been victims of violence, with more frequent injuries than workers in occupations considered most dangerous, like mining, forestry and firefighting. 71% of women who sell sex have experienced physical assaults and 62% have been raped.
- **83%** of women with disabilities will be sexually assaulted in their lives.

Primary Prevention of Rape and Sexual Assault aims to:

1. Increase **public understanding** of the causes and impact of rape and sexual assault.
2. Instill people with better skills, confidence and motivation to **change their own behaviour, challenge other people's behaviour** and challenge cultural and structural gender inequality.
3. **Diminish harmful attitudes** and behaviours relating to rape, sexual assault and VAWG.
4. **Reduce structural inequalities** that create and/or exacerbate rape, sexual assault and VAWG.
5. **Reduce levels of rape, sexual assault and VAWG.**

To end VAWG we must recognise the different ways in which gender inequality will interplay with other forms of discrimination. Primary prevention work should address intersecting forms of inequality, recognising that gender inequality cannot be separated from other forms of inequality. This can be achieved through partnerships and coalitions that build coordinated challenges to gender inequality, racism, ableism, ageism, classism, homophobia and transphobia; and promote social and economic justice.

Zero Tolerance's National Recommendations:

1. Government Champions

We ask you to use your role as a Member of the Scottish Parliament to speak publicly about the **continuum of VAWG** and to drive greater public understanding of the links between sexual violence and its cause - women's social, economic and political inequality.

2. Consistent, inclusive and well-resourced approach to prevention

There are insufficient resources dedicated to preventing rape and sexual assault. Too few public services have consistent and joined up approaches to both prevention and response. To prevent rape, sexual assault and all forms of VAWG, Scotland needs to tackle the gender inequality and rape cultures that pervades society. **We must tackle occupational segregation and the pay gap; provide career development opportunities for women; and offer and promote parental leave policies to both women and men.**

Zero Tolerance's recommendations for promoting primary prevention in your constituency:

1. Promote and normalise Gender Equality in your constituency

- **Speak publicly** about the continuum of VAWG, including rape and sexual assault, and drive greater public understanding of the links between all forms of VAWG and their cause - women's social, economic and political inequality.
- Display campaign **posters and leaflets and helpline** contacts in your office.
- **Promote** women's independence and decision-making in public life and relationships.
- **Foster** positive role models and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and roles.
- **Examine** local structures and how they contribute to gender inequality.
- **Challenge** the condoning of violence against women.
- **Support** **gender equal nurseries**, **Equally Safe at School**, **Equally Safe at Work** and **Equally Safe in Higher Education** projects within your constituency.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

2. Promote Primary Prevention in National Strategy

- Utilise a **gender analysis**
- Conduct **gender budgeting analysis**
- Support Equally Safe projects and funding of primary prevention projects

3. Promote Primary Prevention and Gender Equality as an Employer

- Ensure gender equality within **employment practice**
- Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relations between and among women and men in your workplace

IT'S TIME FOR PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

To find out more about our It's Time for Prevention Campaign:
<https://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/its-time-for-prevention/>

To find out more about what you can do as an MSP:

<https://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/its-time-for-prevention-msp/>

To see our new Primary Prevention animation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKBXAAKImRA&feature=youtu.be>

What's next

Get in touch with Amy Johnson,
Policy and Research Officer at 0131 556 7365
amy.johnson@zerotolerance.org.uk



www.zerotolerance.org.uk

Charity number SC023484

Supported by:



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot