

Zero Tolerance. Working to end men's violence against women.

VIOLENCE UNSEEN

Photography exhibition exploring forms of violence against women that are still misunderstood, hidden and unacknowledged by mainstream society.

Please note that some of the content in the exhibition deals with sexual violence, abuse and exploitation which some people might find upsetting. Some of the women featured in the pictures are models.

#violenceunseen
@ZTScotland



ZERO TOLERANCE

Introduction

Zero Tolerance has worked for over 25 years to challenge and prevent the routine violence that curtails the freedom and rights of women from all communities and backgrounds. We have made progress in Scotland, with clear recognition that violence against women is a serious and continuing social problem, and positive steps to change the structures, norms and attitudes which allow and enable it to take place.

However violence and gender inequality is still prevalent. To move forward, we must do more to recognise the different ways in which women's identities will affect the type of violence they experience. Oppression exists in various guises and many forms of violence, particularly those targeted at women with learning disabilities, women who sell sex, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) and black and minority ethnic women, remain poorly understood, leaving these women even more at risk of violence.

Our *Violence Unseen* exhibition explores these hidden forms of violence. With award-winning photographer Alicia Bruce, we have worked with groups and individuals affected by men's violence to create photographs which seek to represent the experiences of women who are too often unheard. Our thanks go to everyone who shared their time and expertise with us as we developed this exhibition—we hope that it will go on to spark discussion and ideas for change.

At Zero Tolerance we believe that a world in which women's human rights are upheld and we enjoy full gender equality is possible. To make it a reality, we must recognise the full variety of women's lived experiences to enable us to end *all* forms of violence against *all* women. This exhibition is one part of our ongoing work towards that aim.

—Jude Henderson, Chair of Zero Tolerance



Zero Tolerance works to end men's violence against women by promoting gender equality and challenging attitudes which normalise violence and abuse. Our work began in 1992 with a series of mass media campaigns designed to raise awareness and challenge attitudes about violence against women. Today our work continues to challenge the social attitudes and values which permit violence to occur. We take a practical, evidence-based approach targeting primary prevention of violence and promoting change.

www.zerotolerance.org.uk

Alicia Bruce

— *The photographer*

This new Zero Tolerance photography project has been important to me both personally and politically. As a mother of a young daughter I want her to grow up in a world of gender equality and zero tolerance of violence against women. I was at primary school when the original Zero Tolerance initiative was launched over 25 years ago and I still remember the impact of the original campaign; it really shifted my mindset about things that were normalised that shouldn't be.

Almost three decades later, I made this series of photographs in collaboration with women from all walks of life based in Scotland, (with the exception of Diane Abbott, MP). The images I made are in the spirit of Franki Raffles' photographs from the original campaign which drove home the message that women and girls from all backgrounds could be subject to abuse.

Attention to detail and symbolism were important in the composition of each image. Each woman involved in the project worked in collaboration with me to make their photographic image tell a story by adding elements that are important to them culturally and personally, including the choice of settings, gestures and iconography. We made images reflecting the women's daily lives in their homes, workplaces or leisure spaces. The project and collaborations developed through in-depth research, focus groups and extensive conversations, with all participants having a key role in the development of the images. Some of the individuals were even involved with the original Zero Tolerance campaign.

This series of photographs shows that men's violence against women is not a private domestic matter, it's a human rights issue. Women are attacked verbally, physically, professionally at all levels, in person and online, both directly and indirectly. Ending violence against women should be everyone's priority. Complacency on this issue is an endorsement of the unacceptable status quo.

Alicia Bruce is an award-winning Scottish photographer who explores community, environment and the politics of space. She studied Photography, Film and Imaging at Edinburgh's Napier University, graduating in 2006. Her photographs have been published and exhibited internationally including at National Galleries of Scotland.

www.aliciabruce.co.uk



‘The mindless abuse has been characteristically racist and sexist. I have had death threats, and people tweeting that I should be hanged and raped.’

—*Diane Abbott*

Diane Abbott received a disproportionately large amount of online abuse and was the target of almost a third (**31.61%**) of all abusive tweets to MPs in the period from January to June 2017.¹ She received even more abuse in the six weeks leading up to 2017’s snap general election, when **45.14%** of abusive tweets were aimed at her. The type of abuse she receives often focuses on her gender and race, and includes threats of sexual violence.

Women in politics—particularly black and minority ethnic women—face an extraordinary amount of abuse, particularly on social media. This abuse is an attempt to silence women and prevent other women getting involved in politics or otherwise expressing their opinions publicly. To achieve equal representation in politics, this needs to be challenged.

In the picture: Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington & Shadow Home Secretary

Diane Abbott is the UK’s first black female MP and currently Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, as well as Shadow Home Secretary.

¹ Amnesty International UK, *Unsocial Media: Tracking Twitter Abuse against Women MPs*



‘They thought if you weren’t cut, you’re going to be talked about, you’re going to be stigmatised, no-one is going to marry you. And here I was thinking; “Do I care about the marriage part, or do I care about their health? Do I want them to suffer what I’ve suffered? Do I want them to go through what I go through?” No way.’

—Fatou Baldeh

As many as **137,000** girls in the UK are affected by female genital mutilation (FGM) every year.² FGM is a form of control of women’s sexuality and an expression of men’s sense of ownership of women. These crimes are neither religious nor culturally specific and anyone, from anywhere, may be affected.

The World Health Organisation estimates that around **140 million** women from 29 countries worldwide have been affected by FGM and that every year another three million girls become at risk of the procedure, which either partially or wholly removes or injures their genitalia, for non-medical reasons.

Picture developed in collaboration with Shakti Women’s Aid. In the picture: Fatou Baldeh, FGM survivor and campaigner

Fatou Baldeh is a Gambian-born activist involved in the campaign to end FGM. She has an MSc. in Sexual and Reproductive Health and is the FGM mapping and network coordinator at Waverley Care and a Trustee for Dignity Alert & Research Forum (DARF). She experienced female genital mutilation at the age of 7.

Shakti Women’s Aid helps black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women, children, and young people experiencing, or who have experienced, domestic abuse from a partner, ex-partner, and/or other members of the household. Shakti provides training and consultancy for agencies working with BAME women, children, and young people.

www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

² City University London, *Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation Study* (2015)



‘The most harmful aspect of prostitution is having to repeatedly endure unwanted sex. It is a space where men can buy women’s consent.’

—Encompass Network

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 fire fighting.³

71% of women who sell sex have experienced physical assaults and **62%** have been raped.

89% of them wish to leave prostitution but did not have other options.

Paying for sexual access to women’s bodies is a form of violence against women. It is an expression of a presumed male entitlement to sexual gratification, and exploits women’s lack of economic power. Women who experience multiple disadvantages, such as trans and migrant women, and women with experience of the care system, are more likely to sell sex. There are clear links between the sex industry and the trafficking of women and girls for sex. For most women selling sex is not a free choice, but a response to a lack of other choices. Gender equality is only possible when sexual interactions between women and men are based on free, informed and enthusiastic consent.

Picture developed in collaboration with Women’s Support Project. Model: Katie.

Women’s Support Project is a feminist voluntary organisation, recognised as a Scottish Charity. The project works to raise awareness of the extent, causes and effects of male violence against women, and for improved services for those affected by violence. Key themes in our work have been highlighting the links between different forms of male violence and promoting interagency responses to the abuse of women and children.

www.womenssupportproject.co.uk

Encompass Network is a Scottish network of agencies working with people at risk of becoming involved in, who are currently involved in, or who have exited selling or exchanging sexual activity / commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).

www.encompassnetwork.info

³ Melissa Farley, *Risks of Prostitution: When the Person Is the Product*



‘How are you supposed to get anyone to believe you if everybody thinks he is a “Saint” because of how he helps you?’

—Wise Women, *Daisie Project: violence against disabled women survey*

Disabled women are twice as likely to experience men’s violence as non-disabled women.⁴

73% of disabled women have experienced domestic abuse.⁵

Almost one in two disabled women will be abused in their lifetime at the hands of their partner, family or carer. Some of their experiences fit within traditional definitions of domestic abuse, some do not.

For a disabled woman, domestic abuse can take on unique, complex forms, often specifically related to their disability⁶ such as having medicine withheld, being physically assaulted or deliberately not assisted to go to the toilet. Humiliation and belittling are often part of the abuse, which can reinforce any existing feelings of low self-esteem and make women less likely to report violence.

Picture developed in collaboration with People First (Scotland). Model: Margaret, Member of People First (Scotland) Women’s Group

People First (Scotland) works to support people with learning difficulties to have more choice and control over their lives and works for the human rights of people who have the label of Learning Disability. People First (Scotland) is controlled by its members, who all identify themselves in that way. People First (Scotland) campaigns to establish and protect the same freedom, choice, dignity and control held by other citizens across all areas of life. Formed by the active membership in 1989, People First was established as a Charity in its own right in 1997 with the express purpose of enabling people with learning disabilities in Scotland to achieve their full potential and specifically to take part in collective self-advocacy and express their thoughts, feelings, preferences and ideas. Also, as a disabled persons’ organisation, People First (Scotland) is set up to represent the views and interests people with learning disabilities and does this effectively, across a wide range of settings.

www.peoplefirstscotland.org

⁴ British Crime Survey (1995), also confirmed by data from other countries

⁵ Wise Women (2015), *Daisie Project: violence against disabled women survey*

⁶ www.womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook/

⁷ www.theguardian.com/society/2012/nov/19/domestic-violence-disabled-women-abuse



‘As a disabled woman, society has already deemed me to be inadequate, therefore unable to have any form of relationships, so to have problems regarding violence and abuse is as unthinkable as having a relationship at all.’

— *Wise Women, Daisie Project: violence against disabled women survey*

A lack of education and awareness regarding disabled women’s sexual and reproductive lives leaves them more susceptible to sexual violence, abuse and coercion.⁸ Some disabled women report that stigma about disability makes them willing to accept a partner who might mistreat them.⁹

Assumptions are frequently made that disabled women are asexual, over-sexual, or will not have relationships. This results

in lack of autonomy to make decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive lives, and lack of freedom of sexual expression and self-determination.¹⁰ Disabled women and girls’ sexuality and gender identity are often heavily policed, denied or restricted.¹¹ Yet, empirical studies confirm that young disabled women have the same concerns and needs with regard to sexuality and relationships as their peers, and have similar patterns of sexual behaviour.¹²

Picture developed in collaboration with People First (Scotland). Model: Michelle, Member of People First (Scotland) Women’s Group

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www.peoplefirstscotland.org

⁸ Inclusion Scotland (2015) MSP Briefing *Violence Against Disabled Women*

⁹ United Nations General Assembly (2017) *Sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and young women with disabilities*

¹⁰ Engender (2018), *Our Bodies, Our Rights* Education Briefing

¹¹ Women With Disabilities Australia (2016) *Position statement 4: Sexual and reproductive rights*

¹² United Nations General Assembly (2017) *Sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and young women with disabilities*



‘The outsider everywhere: Trans, woman and Migrant. Identities, so beautifully one in me yet so oppressive in the hands of the powerful. Trans women live under the same system of patriarchy as other women. Though our experiences will differ, many of our needs overlap, have the same root and require the same solution—gender equality.’

—Mridul Wadhwa

83% of trans women have experienced hate crime at some point in their lives; like all women, trans women also experience domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women.¹³

Trans and non-binary rights are integral to, and contribute to feminism. Trans women have long been part of the women’s movement through their support, voluntary work and as staff members. Violence against women, homophobia and transphobia are all rooted in misogyny.

Picture developed in collaboration with Shakti Women's Aid & Rape Crisis. In the picture: Mridul Wadhwa.

Mridul Wadhwa: ‘I was born in India and first came to Scotland in 2004 to go to University. Since graduating, I have worked in the violence against women sector mainly with Black Minority Ethnic and immigrant women. These days I work at Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre. As a trans and immigrant woman, I am very conscious of my experience of being the eternal minority but I have acquired the ability to influence. I am interested in ensuring that young women with similar experiences as me don’t have to question their right to contribute and participate in our society. I am passionate about campaigning for better rights for women and others with insecure immigration status. Both Oprah Winfrey and my maternal grandmother are my inspiration. They taught me the joys of fearlessness.’

¹³ Equality Network, Scottish Trans (2017): Scottish LGBTI Hate Crime Report



‘I had this massive invasion of privacy followed by a horrible backlash. It hurt me in ways I didn’t know I could be hurt. When you’re in the midst of that it’s so painful and so disruptive. It oscillates and affects the rest of your life.’

— Vonny Moyes

So-called ‘revenge porn’ is a digital extension of sexual violence.¹⁴ There are serious long-term consequences to internet harassment, both professional and personal.

70% of employers have rejected applicants due to information found online.

41%¹⁵ of women who had their intimate images shared online receive threats of assault, rape and murder from those viewing their images.¹⁶

In the picture: Vonny Moyes, journalist and feminist activist. Quote: Vonny Moyes for iNews (2017) The Women who refuse to be silenced by online abuse by Rebecca Monks.

Vonny Moyes is a feminist journalist and activist, weekly columnist for Scotland’s The National, a regular commentator in the Guardian, and head of digital communications for an environment agency. She was heavily involved in grassroots organising during the Scottish independence referendum, and campaigns on gender equality. She was a finalist in Zero Tolerance the Write to End Violence Against Women Awards in 2016 and 2017.

¹⁴ The Conversation (2015) *Revenge porn is just one part of a changing picture of harassment* theconversation.com/revenge-porn-is-just-one-part-of-a-changing-picture-of-harassment-43703

¹⁵ Amnesty International, *Toxic Twitter: Psychological harms of violence and abuse against women online*

¹⁶ D.K. Citron, *Hate Crimes in Cyberspace* (Harvard University Press 2014), at p.16–17

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Get help

Zero Tolerance is not able to provide helpline support or legal advice.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger or in need of urgent protection, call the police on 999.

Police Scotland

999 Emergency
101 Non-Emergency

For helpline support please call:

Scotland's Domestic Abuse & Forced Marriage Helpline

0800 027 1234. Free, confidential, 7 days, 24 hours a day
helpline@sdafmh.org.uk
(response within 2 days by email)

Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

Offers free and confidential support and information by phone or email. It is for anyone, women and men, affected by sexual violence, no matter when or how it happened. Phone any day between 6pm and midnight on 08088 01 03 02 or if you are deaf or hard of hearing on minicom number 0141 353 3091. We can arrange for language interpreters if your first language is not English.

Respect Phoneline

For anyone who is concerned about their own behaviour towards their partner (male, female, in heterosexual or same-sex relationships)

0808 802 4040. Confidential, Monday–Friday 9am–5pm.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) helpline

0800 028 3550. Free, confidential, 7 days, 24 hours a day or at fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Childline

0800 11 11. Free, confidential, 7 days, 24 hours a day

Zero Tolerance works to end men's violence against women by promoting gender equality and challenging attitudes which normalise violence and abuse.

Please donate today to support our work.

Your donation will support our innovative work and will help us campaign for strategic policy changes and challenge the public attitudes that allow violence against women to continue.



ZERO TOLERANCE

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