

## Minister for Equalities and Older People submission of 10 June 2022

### PE1909/I – Remove the "gender-based crime" domestic abuse narrative and make it gender neutral and equal

Thank you for your letter of 13 May, in which the Committee asks how the petitioner can directly engage with the development of the national strategy on ending intimate and sexual violence against men and boys.

As mentioned in the previous letter on 21 February, the development of this strategy is ongoing, with the intention to engage and consult on the strategy from September 2022. When developing any strategy, it is a priority for the Scottish Government to involve key stakeholders in the process through active engagement. This ensures that the Scottish Government is drawing on and collaborating with the opinions of trusted voices which help inform and shape successful strategies. As such, officials will be in contact with stakeholders to invite them to give their views and help inform the development in due course.

I would like to thank the petitioner for their interest in the work and reiterate that while it is absolutely clear that women are, by far, most impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence, we take the issue of intimate partner violence seriously regardless of the gender of the victim, or of the perpetrator. This is why we recognise the importance of developing this strategy, which will be complementary to the Equally Safe Strategy which addresses violence against women and girls.