

# Cross Party Working Group on Men's Violence Against Women & Children

12th September 2012  
Queensberry House, Scottish Parliament

## 1./2. Present/Apologies:

### Present:

Claudia Beamish MSP (Chairing)  
Linda Delgado, STUC Women's Committee  
Isy Hart, PGR student  
Alison Johnstone MSP  
Jenny Kemp, Zero Tolerance (minutes)  
Alana McCorkell, British Psychological Society (in place of Amanda McKenzie).  
Jacqueline Morgan, Central Scotland Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre  
Girijamba Polubothu, Shakti Women's Aid  
Marsha Scott, Engender/West Lothian Council

### Apologies:

Sandy Brindley, Rape Crisis Scotland  
Malcolm Chisholm MSP  
April Cumming, Scottish Parliament  
Lorna Gallagher- Pilton Community Health Project  
Graham Goulden, Violence Reduction Unit  
Lily Greenan, Scottish Women's Aid  
Rosalind Greig, University of Strathclyde  
Ann Hayne, EVA, NHS Lanarkshire  
Louise Johnson, Scottish Women's Aid  
Nancy Lombard, Glasgow Caledonian University  
Mhairi McGowan- ASSIST  
Christina McKelvie MSP  
Kathy Norrie, Open Secret  
Francine Orr, Equality and Diversity Consultant  
Keiran Watson, Izzy's Promise (EAV)  
Elaine Wishart - City of Edinburgh Council  
Maureen Wylie, Improvement Service  
Mary Chamberlain, Relationships Scotland  
Amanda J McKenzie, Elmwood Forensic Learning Disability Service

Claudia Beamish welcomed people to the meeting and noted there had been various apologies sent by email to Jenny Kemp which would be minuted.

## 3./4. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

### Action:

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record. There was a discussion of actions from the last minute, some of which were still outstanding. These were:

<p>1. CPG to seek an update from the Justice Secretary by the next meeting – this needs to be done by the next meeting – and to be agreed who will pursue this.</p> <p>2. CPG to write to Christina McKelvie to ask her to raise issues at EEEEC – this is in hand – CMcK, Marsha Scott and Lily Greenan will meet to discuss the issues raised.</p> <p>3. Lily Greenan still to check if she has a copy of May Sharpe’s paper and circulate to the group</p> <p>4. Dates for the next meetings have not been circulated yet – meetings are to happen in November, January and March. Need to check co-chairs’ diaries.</p> <p>5. Speaker visits - all CPG members to notify if any interesting speakers in Scotland who could attend the CPG – this is an ongoing action throughout the year.</p> <p>6. Graham Goulden to circulate info on VRU’s planned upcoming campaign – this is outstanding.</p> <p>7. Marsha Scott to provide briefing on new VAW services in West Lothian – this had been done.</p> <p>There were no other matters arising.</p>	<p>Identify someone to pursue this action</p> <p>LG to circulate paper</p> <p>LG to circulate dates</p> <p>All to flag up speaker visits with CPG</p> <p>GG to circulate info</p>
<p><b>5. CEDAW update</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>
<p>Marsha Scott from Engender presented on some UK government’s scrutiny by UN’s CEDAW Committee (the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women).</p> <p>Engender is very involved in European and UN work on VAW and keen to inform women in Scotland of their rights under international agreements, including CEDAW. She showed a short film that Engender had commissioned from the Media Co-op about CEDAW, to explain and demystify it, which can be seen at: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPJfBqoNH7Q">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPJfBqoNH7Q</a> or on the Engender website.</p> <p>The film has been well received by the CEDAW committee, with plans to be translated into other languages and a CEDAW committee member will be visiting Scotland from Finland in March.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Engender are working on a shadow report to CEDAW and are keen to ensure that the Scottish policy context is reflected as the process tends to lose the Scottish voice (essentially because UK wide NGOs reporting on progress forget the devolved nations) so the UK reports to date have not been accurate and Scottish activity has been almost invisible. Engender is working hard to make Scotland real to the CEDAW committee, although the mechanism for holding the Scottish Government to account through this convention is more political than technical, as the UK government is the signatory.</p> <p>Marsha showed some slides to highlight where Engender was seeking input on a few headline issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conviction rates for domestic abuse and sexual violence</li> <li>- Criminalising demand for prostitution</li> <li>- The Carloway review</li> <li>- FGM</li> <li>- Maybe pornography and the sex industry? (depending on framing)</li> </ul>	

<p>There followed a discussion about these and other possible topics (women in sport, women’s depictions in the media, forced marriage, trafficking) and Jenny Kemp and Giri Polobothu agreed to help with framing questions around the sex industry and FGM respectively, as soon as possible (within a day or so).</p> <p>Others wishing to contribute to this process should email <a href="mailto:info@engender.org.uk">info@engender.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>5. A.O.C.B.</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>
<p>5.1 Jenny reported that ZT was holding a celebration event to mark 20 years of Zero Tolerance campaigning, in November 2012, and were seeking Green and Lib Dem MSPs to co-sponsor the event, which would be sponsored by Malcolm and Christina as co-chairs of the CPG. More details would follow shortly.</p> <p>5.2 Giri reported that Shakti was running a series of roadshows on forced marriage and honour based violence, and a fundraising event on 6 October to support women with no recourse to public funds.</p> <p>5.3 Jenny noted there were two films about sexual exploitation/the sex industry included in the programme for the Take One Action film festival coming up in September, “the Price of Sex” and “The Whistleblower”, and she would be a panellist at both – more info was on the Take One Action website.</p> <p>5.4 Marsha reported that Engender had been holding various talks about feminist futures and was proposing to hold one during the 16 days of action on “rape prone societies”. It was suggested that this could coincide with the next CPG meeting, for which a date was needed.</p> <p>5.5 Jenny reminded people of SWA’s peace vigils for ‘Peace One Day’, happening on Friday 21 September in four locations across Scotland.</p> <p>5.6 Jacqueline reported that Central Scotland Rape Crisis were holding a walk in Calendar Park during the 16 days of action. It would be useful to collate 16 days activities.</p> <p>5.7 Jenny suggested a future meeting might focus partly on reinvigorating the group as attendance was lower than in previous sessions.</p> <p>Claudia thanked everyone for their attendance.</p>	<p>Dates and agendas for future meetings to be agreed and circulated</p> <p>LG to ensure this is on the agenda for next time.</p>