

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

**Final Minute of meeting of 21 January 2015  
17.30 – 19.00, Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament.**

Item	Action
<p><b>1 Present and Apologies</b></p> <p><b>Attending</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malcolm Chisholm- MPS</li> <li>• Christina McKelvie MSP</li> <li>• Claudia Beamish- MSP</li> <li>• Rhoda Grant MSP</li> <li>• Alison Johnstone MSP</li> <li>• Jamie McGrigor MSP</li> <li>• Louise Johnson- Scottish Women's Aid</li> <li>• Dr. Marsha Scott- West Lothian Council</li> <li>• Sandie Barton- Rape Crisis Scotland</li> <li>• Amy Marshall- Zero Tolerance</li> <li>• Graeme Richards- Circle</li> <li>• Nadine Jasset- EWRASAC</li> <li>• Kathryn Dawson - Rape Crisis Scotland</li> <li>• Rory MacRae- Safer Families Edinburgh- City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Eva Kestner -Parliamentary Assistant/Researcher</li> <li>• Stacey Devine</li> <li>• Louise Power- Glasgow Caledonian University</li> </ul> <p><b>Guests of RCS and ERASAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Glanville</li> <li>• Shashwat Sharma</li> <li>• Bethany Hansborough</li> <li>• Christopher Dunlop</li> </ul> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keiran Watson - Eighteen And Under</li> <li>• Big Lottery Fund Scotland- Cath Logan</li> <li>• Engender- Emma Ritch</li> <li>• WILPF- Megan Bastick.</li> <li>• VRU- Graham Goulden</li> <li>• Shakti Women's Aid- Girijamba Polubothu</li> <li>• Dr Melanie McCarry - University of Central Lancashire</li> <li>• Relationship Scotland- May Chamberlain</li> <li>• Elaine Smith MSP</li> <li>• Dave Smith- Parliamentary Researcher</li> <li>• Lorna Gallacher- North East Edinburgh Counselling Service</li> <li>• Gil Paterson MSP</li> <li>• Callum Hendry- White Ribbon Scotland</li> <li>• Ann Henderson- STUC</li> <li>• Ellie Hutchinson- SWA</li> <li>• Sheila Noble-Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership</li> <li>• Stephen Madill- City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Isy Hart</li> <li>• Chris Gray- RASAC P&amp;K</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mhairi McGowan- ASSIST</li> <li>• Mark Cooper- NSPCC</li> <li>• Anne Hayne- NHS Lanarkshire - EVA Services</li> <li>• Jan Macleod- Women's Support Project</li> <li>• George Eckton</li> <li>• Maureen Wylie –Improvement Service</li> </ul>	
2	The minutes of the meeting of 29 <sup>th</sup> October were approved subject to an amendment to the wording on Item 5 in relation to the Istanbul Convention.	Mins to be amended
3	<p><b>Presentation from Rape Crisis Scotland, EWRASAC and Leith Academy pupils on the “Do you know?” project</b></p> <p>Kathryn Dawson of RCS gave an overview of their work engaging with young people in schools across Scottish Local Authorities, which involved sessions on consent, healthy sexual relationships, respectful relationships and the impact of sexual violence, complementing work done by Zero Tolerance, Scottish Women's Aid and the Women's Support Project. The project had been running for a year and was well evaluated in meeting its outcomes and teachers are supportive.</p> <p>Nadine Jasset from EWRASAC and the Leith Academy pupils then discussed the “Do You Know?” theatre project, collaboration between the school and EWRASAC. This comprised a series of workshops from the RCS project pack, representing young people's voices in relation to gender and gender roles, sexting, the role of the media, the impact of sexual violence, peer support and consent, which were scripted, produced and acted by the pupils with the support of EWRASAC. This had been well-received by the pupils' peers at school and their view was that there was a need for more work like this across Scottish secondary schools.</p> <p>A scenario from the project was then acted out by two of the male pupils, featuring a scene involving a pupil who has experienced sexual abuse and the importance of support from a friend. This was followed by a question and answer session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether the apparent ending of Page 3 heralded a move forward? The pupils commented that the media was culpable and responsible for the unrepresentative portrayal of women and their objectification and casual sexualisation and that, hopefully, this represented a move forward.</li> <li>• Whether the project had changed attitudes towards supporting friends amongst the participants? The pupils advised that as a result of conversations around the project, they looked at people with a different perspective, particularly everyday behaviour that was seen as appropriate but was, in fact, unacceptable and developed an awareness of the impact that the media has in presenting unrealistic “role models”, sexualising women and not recognising the differences that are “normal”</li> <li>• Given the “toxic environment” in schools the pupils referred to, whether the pupils felt that they could safely challenge attitudes and what their peers thought of the project? They replied that challenging depended on the confidence of individual young people in that some were more able than others to do so, having to feel that they had to still “fit in” but not challenging inappropriate behaviour meant that it was allowed to carry on. The seriousness of behaviours was more understood by the older pupils and was not really discussed until the work with EWRASAC. More</li> </ul>	

	<p>work like this was needed in schools as in-depth discussion would “clean up” “lad behaviour” and make people more responsible; boys were not keen to speak up and go against peers and friends. The pupils indicated that they were more than happy to share the project with other schools since this was informative not only for them but for others to consider a young person’s perspective on the issues. They had chosen the issue of male rape as this was “unorthodox” in terms of “standard rape awareness” and so would gather more male interest on the matter, raise awareness of the issues facing men who had been raped since it was a “hidden issue” and challenge the image of the dominant male.</p>	
4	<p><b>Update on CPG event during 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women</b></p> <p>Louise Johnson and Amy Marshall fed back on behalf of Callum Hendry. The purpose of the Statement of Intent 2014 signing event on Thursday 4th December, planned in partnership by the CPG member organisations and individuals, was to recognise the achievements in Scotland in tackling violence against women, and to engage the Scottish Parliament in committing the necessary support to meet the outcomes detailed in the recently published national strategy, 'Equally Safe' , in the context of the 16 and the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2015</p> <p>Party Leaders and MSPs were invited to signify their commitment through signing the sign the Statement- see wording attached. This was to provide a reaffirmation of the political support for the 2007 Statement of Intent committed to meeting the then aims of the national strategy to tackling violence against women.</p> <p>Louise reported that Callum has advised that a discussion has taken place between White Ribbon, SWA and ZT to tentatively consider next steps and a further meeting is planned. Points of action included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanking those MSPs who signed, inviting those who were not able to sign to do so. <b>Callum had offered the suggestion that, during the hour prior to the next CPG meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015, MSPS who had not signed be given the opportunity to do so and this was agreed</b></li> <li>• The Statement should form part of a platform to talk about a potential; new campaign, tentatively called “Join the Dots”, leading up to the next 16 Days, which would link gender inequality and VAW.</li> <li>• A roadshow around Scotland targeted at local authorities and other who might be interested in signing up to the Statement</li> <li>• Producing an “organisational” Statement of Intent to be co-signed by national and local VAW orgs,</li> <li>• Once signatures are collected, translate this into actions and the “Join the Dots” campaign, including a website, with resources and a briefing paper on the links between gender inequality and VAW and how by tackling gender inequality, we tackle VAW. This would also act as an encouragement to the Scottish Government to ensure the implementation of “Equally Safe”.</li> <li>• During the 2015 16 Days, CPG organisations would run events and a presence at the Parliament, showing work being done by organisations in terms of the Statement and “Equally Safe”, focussing on accountability of perpetrators, prevention, safety and the provision of services and</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION- Book room for 4.30-5.30 and circulate info to MSPS re signing opportunity</b></p>

	<p>refuge and gender equality. This would be supported by the VAW Debate and a pre-debate briefing for MSPs on VAW and links with gender inequality and potential opportunities for MSPs to support the work which will underpin the strategy and Statement during the 16 Days would be identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting discussed that work could be progressed by organisational members outwith the CPG- the 4 elements of equality and respect; safety; prevention and accountability can inform the agenda and structure of subsequent CPG meetings during 2015, through looking at one issue per meeting and inviting appropriate Ministers (Shona Robison, Michael Matheson, Alex Neil, Angela Constance) and Scottish Government officials, matching them with these 4 strands, which would also give the Statement of Intent “teeth” and evaluate the impact of “Equally Safe”.</li> <li>• Claudia Beamish suggested that the work done on this prior to the next VAW Members’ Debate in November 2015 could be shared by MSPs during that Debate, with members discussing different aspects.</li> <li>• It was agreed that the Accountability strand be discussed at the March 2015 CPG, tying in with the presentation on Project Mirabel, which looked at non-court mandated programmes, from Jennifer Jeffes and Cheryl Stewart from SWA.</li> <li>• In terms of invited guests, it was suggested that the Solicitor-General, a representative from Police Scotland and Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, be asked to discuss Scotland’s response and compliance.</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>Air Weapons and Licensing Bill provisions on “Sexual Entertainment venues”</b></p> <p>Zero Tolerance had given oral evidence to the Local Government Committee and were concerned that there was under-representation from organisations concerned with gender equality and the majority of comments had focussed on the “licensing” aspects, as opposed to the sexual exploitation issues and that there was no ongoing mechanism for local communities to input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press coverage noted conflicting arguments as to whether there should be a single policy on the issue, as backed by Zero Tolerance, or discretion given to local authorities and/or communities. The discretionary approach had created a situation in England and Wales where local authorities refusing licenses had faced legal challenges if a neighbouring authority had taken a different approach.</li> <li>• There was scope before the Stage 1 Debate in late March/early April for organisations and/or the CPG to produce a briefing for members on the issues of concern. Submissions</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/79932.aspx">http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/79932.aspx</a></p>	
6	<p><b>Istanbul Convention</b></p> <p>Marsha Scott reported in her capacity as the UK representative on the EU Observatory on VAW. The Council of Europe are in the process of electing members for the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) which will develop indicators to measure compliance and outcomes.</p> <p>This is a matter of concern for the UK, and Scotland in particular, firstly, because only those countries which have ratified the Convention can put forward candidates, which excludes the UK which has not ratified who will</p>	<p><b>LJ to send Info to CPG</b></p> <p><b>MS to send link to the Project Mirabel report &amp; pull out</b></p>

	<p>therefore not have a member on this Group; further, Turkey is proposing that the “expert” members are academics and criminal justice representatives, not representatives from the VAW sector. This emphasises the need to press for UK ratification of the Convention.</p> <p>There is no reason that Scotland cannot follow the 4 “strands” of the Convention and act as if the Convention has been ratified. We can follow the work of GREVIO and the development of the indicators- the Scottish Government could act as an Observer. The UK Government stance in relation to “UK compliance” as a precursor to ratification is irrelevant as the issue is actually about implementation; several countries that have ratified the Convention are much further behind the UK in their existing implementation of the requirements.</p> <p>Louise Johnson advised the meeting that further to the Home Office stating that the UK Government will only ratify when they are satisfied that they comply with all of the Convention articles, she had located a statement from the Prime Minister to Westminster’s Liaison Committee in January 2014. This was to the effect that as soon as the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill, with its provisions criminalising forced marriage “<i>is passed and becomes law, we will be able to ratify the convention. So the ratification is subject to Royal Assent of the Bill. That should take place in the next few months, all being well, and then we can ratify the convention.</i>” He also went on to say that there were no reservations to the Convention. Given that the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 were given Royal Assent on 13 March 2014, their current position seems to completely contravene the undertaking given in January 2014, which is probably something that the Scottish Government and MSPs could take up with the Liaison Committee.</p> <p>Reference was made to Carol Hagemann White’s report <a href="#">Analytical report of the results of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5</a> of the Committee of Ministers on the protection of women against violence on support services and baselines, which treats England and Wales as the UK, emphasising the need for Scotland to develop our own set of indicators. Marsha undertook to send a link to the Project Mirabel report and to pull out indicators from the Convention to support discussions on current and future compliance with the Convention and implementation of “Equally Safe”</p>	indicators from the Convention”
7	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>The CPG noted the sad news of the death of Michele Corcoran, the former Manager of Edinburgh Women’s Aid, our condolences to her family and recognition of her commitment and invaluable work with Edinburgh Women’s Aid and partner agencies, particularly in relation to the development of the domestic abuse court in Edinburgh. Louise undertook to pass our condolences to Edinburgh Women’s Aid and her family</p>	LJ
8	<p><b>Date of Next meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Room TG20/21</p>	