

**MOPAC**

**MAYOR OF LONDON**  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls  
Strategy 2022-25

# **INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

June 2022

## 1. Introduction

The Mayor of London is the occupant of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), (the equivalent of a Police and Crime Commissioner outside London). MOPAC sets the strategic direction, objectives, and the budget for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) (amongst its other functions).

The Mayor of London has committed to refreshing London's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. This is not a statutory document and is produced at the Mayor's discretion, reflecting the high priority that he places on reducing VAWG in London.

The Tackling VAWG Strategy for London is published following extensive consultation with members of the public, victims of crime and other key stakeholders.

This has included a focus on VAWG in the formal consultation conducted for the Mayor's statutory Police and Crime Plan. Following the completion of the public consultation, MOPAC has considered the feedback received to inform the final document, specifically views were obtained on what the respondents would like the then forthcoming Tackling VAWG Strategy to include. Respondents will have had access to the draft Police and Crime Plan and the previous iteration of the Mayor's VAWG Strategy.

The formal consultation for the PCP included surveys of a representative sample by YouGov, an additional survey of Londoners of Minority Ethnic backgrounds, an online survey and discussions hosted on Talk London and a comprehensive package of meetings with stakeholders and members of the public on both the draft PCP and the views on how to tackle VAWG in London.

In total during the PCP consultation we surveyed 2,726 Londoners, received 213 written submissions and undertook a series of 36 online workshops, events and meetings with a total of 820 participants. In addition, there have been twelve detailed consultation workshops with our key partner agencies. The purpose of these workshops was to gain views on the following areas to inform the drafting of refreshed Tackling VAWG Strategy:

Subject area workshops:

- prevention of VAWG and healthy relationships;
- prostitution;
- tackling perpetrators;

- online harm;
- young people;
- harmful practices;
- academics; and
- Councillors.

Victim/Survivor and Advocate experience workshops:

- Deaf and disabled people workshop and deaf and disability stakeholders;
- Victim/survivors of FGM and other serious VAWG harms (Harmful Practices);
- VAWG LGBTQI+;
- Offenders who are survivors of VAWG;
- sexual harassment; and
- VAWG sector including specialist service providers and grassroots organisations.

We gathered the views of VAWG victims and survivors across London who informed us about their experiences of statutory and non-statutory services, including what happened when they first reported their incidents, the support they received from expert and voluntary VAWG services and their experiences as they pursued their case through the CJS. A more detailed summary of the survivor consultation is published alongside the VAWG Strategy<sup>1</sup>.

The VAWG strategy refresh was also developed and informed by a series of workshops that engaged VAWG survivors, stakeholders, and agency partners. The draft strategy has been circulated (in full and in part) with key stakeholders during February and March 2022.

Taken together, the consultations undertaken for this document are the most substantial conducted for a Mayoral VAWG Strategy.

As public authorities, MOPAC and the MPS must (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (“the Act”) in exercising their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

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<sup>1</sup> Survivors’ Experiences of Crime, the Justice System and Support Services; Report of consultation findings, Opinion Research Services (on behalf of MOPAC) – March 2022

The Act explains that having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The Act provides that the steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

The Act also states that having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—

- tackle prejudice; and
- promote understanding.

This document also makes an assessment of the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy's impact on the following objectives:

**Crime, Safety and Security** – to contribute to safety and security and the perceptions of safety;

**Equality and Inclusion** –to make London a fair and inclusive city where every person is able to participate, reducing inequality and disadvantage and addressing the diverse needs of the population;

**Health and Health Inequalities** – to improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Londoners and to reduce health inequalities across the city and between communities; which will include an equality impact assessment against each protected characteristic.

**Social Integration** – To ensure London has socially integrated communities which are strong, resilient and free of prejudices; which will include an impact assessment on socio-economic factors.

**Economic, Competitiveness and Employment** – To maintain and strengthen London’s position as a leading connected knowledge based global city and to support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, providing opportunities for all.

After review, a decision was made that the policies proposed in the Strategy do not hold significant environmental impact. Therefore, a separate Strategic Environmental Assessment has not been undertaken at this time.

## **2. Aim of the Tackling VAWG Strategy**

The Mayor’s vision is that London is a safe city for all. The Mayor wants London both to be a safer city and for Londoners to feel safer. It is important that, not only crime is reduced, but that this makes a noticeable difference to the everyday lives of women and girls in London.

To deliver this vision, the VAWG strategy refresh sets out four priority areas:

- Preventing and reducing VAWG
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Supporting all victims and survivors
- Building trust and confidence

An outcomes framework for this Strategy sets out clearly the changes we want to see over this period and is connected to a set of measurable indicators to enable us to track our progress and ensure accountability for the commitments we make. MOPAC will use a mixture of quantitative and qualitative measures to present a picture of crime, safety and confidence in policing in London and monitor delivery.

This EQIA takes account our own consultation on the draft PCP and the views on what should be included within the refreshed Tackling VAWG Strategy with the current evidence base around VAWG. The output of engagement with stakeholders and communities through our consultation with a range of partners. This was supported by national and London based evidence on VAWG crimes, both perpetration and victimisation. As far as possible we have used the data available to see if the impact of Tackling VAWG Strategy has a positive, negative or neutral impact on the protected characteristic groups set out within protected by the Equalities Act 2010.

While this EQIA lists each protected characteristic individually, we fully understand and recognise that there are intersections between these – where a victim or survivor experiences a combination of the factors listed below. Where this occurs, there is a greater chance of increased vulnerability and disadvantage. The Tackling VAWG Strategy seeks to respond to this and to highlight the unique response required to fully support the victims and survivors.

Immigration status, though not a formally protected characteristic, is noted as creating specific additional barriers for the victims and survivors who may have insecure immigration status. This includes, but is not limited to, where a person's status is being used to exert control and prevents an individual seeking support. We have recognised some of these concerns in the below assessment and regard its impact to be of equal importance.

### **3. Policies and evidence of impact**

The Mayor's Tackling VAWG Strategy is to be focused on delivering outcomes, not outputs. MOPAC's performance management and oversight will be based around making sure the actions taken result in real improvements for Londoners.

MOPAC will oversee the delivery of this Strategy by tracking a core set of measures as stated in the Tackling VAWG Strategy Outcomes Framework. These measures reflect the Mayor's priorities in the Tackling VAWG Strategy. Where appropriate they align to the measures set out in the Police and Crime Plan and set clear joint objectives, outcomes with performance frameworks against which successful delivery of the Strategy can be measured.

The outcomes framework aligns to the approach taken for the Police and Crime Plan and seeks to present a balanced view across the priorities set out in this Tackling VAWG Strategy. This will avoid the pitfalls of a narrow, target-based approach by using a mixture of broad perception-based measures such as fear of crime; and confidence and objective measures such as sanction detections, as measured both through police data. We have specifically avoided numerical targets and any measures liable to change in the way they are recorded, or which may create perverse incentives. We will ensure that measures align with the requirements from the relevant government departments.

In line with the Mayor's commitment to identifying and addressing disproportionality, MOPAC will – wherever possible – look at all performance data through the lens of people's protected characteristics.

The breadth of safeguarding work involved in VAWG means it is difficult to reflect performance in a clear statistical way. Our approach to measurement for safeguarding will therefore be focused on qualitative assessment via MOPAC's oversight structures and through the grant management of our commissioned services.

To help us understand how safe Londoners are and how safe they feel, we will expand the Public Attitudes Survey (PAS). The PAS aims to gauge what Londoners think about

policing and crime including VAWG, without an over-reliance on reports to the police. The survey measures Londoners' perceptions of the police, identifies local policing priorities, and captures views and experiences across a range of crime and safety issues. The survey has taken place since 1983 and is widely recognised as setting a gold standard for understanding citizens' views of policing. During this Plan period, we will increase the sample size for the PAS – increasing the number of people surveyed each year - from 12,800 to 19,000 - and include additional questions on Londoners' experiences of crime in their local area. This will provide more in-depth information, over and above police recorded crime, with which we can steer and assess our activities. We will work with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to make this as robust as possible and will publish the findings for Londoners to access.

The Tackling VAWG Strategy takes into account the devastating impact that the pandemic and specifically the lockdown measures had for persons experiencing any form of VAWG. We recognise that persons with protected characteristics were more likely to be adversely impacted upon.

The Tackling VAWG Strategy also sets out our intent over this period to continue to broaden and deepen our engagement with the VAWG sector and victims and survivors directly - particularly those with lower levels of confidence and trust in policing – such as Black and mixed-ethnicity Londoners, LGBTQI+ Londoners and deaf and disabled Londoners.

## Integrated Impact Assessment

The following assessment is based on the Strategy and details the priorities that are proposed and assesses the potential impact, whether positive, negative, neutral or unknown. In conducting the assessment, and in line with the intentions of the Strategy, the potential impact has been assessed as positive across all objectives.

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
<b>Crime, Safety and Security</b>	1. To contribute to safety and security and the perceptions of safety	The safety and security of Londoners is the Mayor's first priority. The Strategy sets out commitments to increase the safety – and sense of safety – of women and girls in the capital, who are disproportionately impacted by a number of high-harm crimes such as domestic abuse and sexual violence.	<p>The Strategy sets out a comprehensive list of actions to increase the safety – and sense of safety – of all women and girls in London.</p> <p>The Strategy details how we will work with the MPS, partner agencies and communities to tackle the full spectrum of offences that comprise Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), improve support to victims and survivors and increase the confidence of women and girls in policing.</p>	Positive impact on crime and safety with aim making women and girls safer – and feel safer in their city.
<b>Equality and Inclusion</b>	2. To narrow the vulnerability gap between London's diverse communities,	It is well understood that crime impacts on different communities in London in different ways. For example,	The Plan reflects our understanding of the intersections between vulnerability, social exclusion, victimisation and offending, putting	Positive. The Strategy aims to tackle a range of crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls in London,

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
	<p>making London a fair and inclusive city where every person is able to participate.</p>	<p>men are far more likely to be the perpetrators of domestic abuse and women are far more likely to be the victim; harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) occur in specific communities and not others.</p> <p>The relationship between other disproportionalities and vulnerabilities – such as deprivation, lower educational attainment, mental health need or drug/alcohol addiction - and the risk of victimisation or offending are also well known.</p> <p>In relation to VAWG, we know that these offences and their impact on women and girls’ sense of safety and confidence directly impacts on their participation in life in London – with many women reporting how they do ‘safety work’ such as changing travel routes, avoiding going out at night for</p>	<p>forward a variety of commitments that aim to make women and girls safer and address specific vulnerabilities – tackling the causes of VAWG as well as VAWG itself.</p> <p>The Strategy also recognises and addresses the importance of improving women and girls’ sense of safety and their trust and confidence in policing as a key enabler for full and free participation in life in London.</p> <p>The Strategy is also contextualised within the Mayor’s wider role in ensuring that London is a fairer and more inclusive city – including the COVID-19 Recovery Programme, which also recognises the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on different communities and aims to address these.</p> <p>The oversight and performance framework for the Strategy also reflects our commitment to monitor and address disproportionality in every aspect of our work during this</p>	<p>recognising throughout the diversity of London and intersectional need. The Strategy also takes full account of the relationship between these crimes, lower confidence in policing and women and girls’ ability to participate fully and freely in life in London.</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
		fear of coming to harm as a result of male violence.	Strategy period.	
<b>Social Integration</b>	<p>3. To ensure London has socially integrated communities which are strong, resilient and free of prejudice</p> <p>Also includes an assessment on socio-economic factors</p>	<p>The evidence indicates differential experiences of policing, crime, victim satisfaction and confidence amongst different sections of London’s community – women and girls, BAME, young people, boys/men, people with physical and mental health needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has further tested and challenged the resilience and wellbeing of London’s communities.</p> <p>Misogyny is sadly a part of everyday life for many women and girls in London – and is at the root of the crime types addressed in the Strategy. The corrosive impact of these attitudes and behaviours on the lives of individuals and communities is clear.</p>	<p>The Strategy is rooted in the understanding that community integration is a key factor in the safety of our city, and the challenges to this caused by VAWG – which stems from misogynistic attitudes.</p> <p>Commitments include the continued delivery of the Mayor’s #Haveaword campaign – which challenges men to confront their own attitudes and behaviours and call it out in their peer groups – mobilising the men and boys of our city to become allies to women and girls.</p> <p>The Plan also re-states our commitment to working with the MPS and communities to ensure that the capital’s police service is reflective of the diverse population it serves – crucial to the effectiveness and legitimacy of policing in our city.</p> <p>The Plan reflects the important role of the MPS as an ‘anchor institution’</p>	<p>Positive – the Strategy sets out commitments expressly intended to challenge prejudice and build stronger, safer communities – towards our ambition of a London where every woman and girl can live their lives in safety and confidence.</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			in the COVID-19 Recovery Programme and the fundamental importance of safety for prosperity and opportunity in London.	
<b>Health and Health Inequalities</b>	4. To improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Londoners and to reduce health inequalities across the City and between communities.	<p>The mental and physical harm disproportionately experienced by women and girls as a result of the offences that comprise VAWG is clear.</p> <p>Evidence indicates that people with mental ill health and drug addictions are more vulnerable to victimisation and to entering the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>The Strategy recognises the relationships between VAWG and mental and physical health – both for victims and perpetrators</p> <p>The Strategy sets out a comprehensive package of support to victims and survivors of VAWG offences, including support for the mental and physical health impacts of these crimes.</p> <p>The Strategy also recognises the influence of health on perpetrator behaviour and sets out how our interventions with perpetrators include addressing mental and physical health issues.</p> <p>The Plan has been reviewed by the GLA Health Team to ensure congruence with the wider group’s policy work on the health of</p>	Positive – the Strategy sets out how we will seek to support victims and survivors to recover from their experiences – and how we will seek to address underlying health causes behind perpetrator behaviours.

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			Londoners.	
<b>Economic Competitiveness and Employment</b>	5. To maintain and strengthen London’s position as a leading connected knowledge based global city and to support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, providing opportunities for all	<p>Safety is the foundation of London’s prosperity – and is recognised in the London Recovery Programme as a key enabler in the city’s ability to overcome the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety impacts on Londoners’ willingness to remain in and fully enjoy their city, on businesses’ willingness to invest and grow, on tourists’ willingness to choose London as a destination. For women and girls, this is a particularly acute issue, with many women and girls in London actively doing ‘safety work’ such as changing their plans and behaviours to keep safe from male violence.</p> <p>Economic conditions and opportunities make an important contribution to safety. Higher tax receipts help support policing and other</p>	<p>The Strategy reflects the impact of VAWG on women and girls’ ability to participate fully and freely in London life – including economically.</p> <p>Through the measures set out in the Strategy, our ambition is for women and girls in London to be safer – and feel safer in every part of London at any time of day. Targeted measures include ongoing work on the Women’s Night Safety Charter – which aims to ensure that women and girls can enjoy London’s world class nightlife in safety and confidence, and the Mayor’s #Haveaword campaign – which highlights the real impact of misogynistic behaviour and challenges men to become allies to women and girls. A wide variety of businesses, sporting and cultural sights are supporting this campaign – including incorporating its key messages on their premises.</p>	Positive – increased safety creates better conditions for women and girls to participate fully in every aspect of London life, in every part of the city and at any time of day – such as enjoying London’s nightlife.

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
		public services. Higher employment and more opportunity for all Londoners to find fulfilling and sustainable work is an important contributor to reducing offending and reoffending.		

## Equality Impact Assessment

The following assessment has been conducted to determine whether the proposed priorities within the Tackling VAWG Strategy would have any negative impact on any protected characteristics. In conducting the assessment, and in line with the intentions of the Tackling VAWG Strategy, the potential impact has been assessed as positive across all objectives. There are, however, some gaps in data for some areas and mitigations have been identified to work towards improving this.

Protected Characteristic	Context	Policy	Impact
<b>Age</b>	<p>The experience of VAWG and victimisation can vary depending on age and life stages.</p> <p>The average age of people accessing IDVA services in England and Wales is 35, and the average age of people accessing Sexual Violence services in England and Wales is</p>	<p>The Tackling VAWG Strategy sets out commitments to respond to the experience of VAWG by Londoners, recognising the different specific needs and risks for Londoners at different stages of their lives.</p> <p>Specific age-related areas of focus include (but not limited to):</p>	Positive

	<p>27.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides prevalence data disaggregated by protected characteristics and socio-demographic factors. The data suggests that younger women are disproportionately impacted by some VAWG offences.<sup>3</sup> However, it is not possible to compare rates of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking experienced by women sharing protected characteristics or socio-demographic characteristics, or to analyse rates over time, limiting analysis and preventing trend reporting.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>The CSEW also identified that of the 2,140 homicide victims in London between 2005 and 2020, 361 (17 per cent) were victims of domestic abuse. Over half of these were aged between 25 and 44. In the year ending March 2021, the highest proportion of female victims of violence against the person offences, identified as domestic abuse-related, were aged 30 to 34 years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educating Londoners to prevent VAWG</li> <li>- Building Trust and Confidence</li> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors, particularly so victims and survivors can rebuild their lives through access to specialist support services and spaces that meet the needs of London’s diverse communities</li> </ul> <p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work with all partners to explore how we can enhance our collection and use of data to improve our understanding of VAWG in London. Where possible, we would seek the publication of information across protected characteristics.</li> <li>- The Mayor’s VRU will continue to deliver an inclusive schools’ programme - including teacher training - with an intersectional lens and a focus on healthy relationships, including online safety and an early intervention mentoring programme for girls and young women.</li> </ul>	
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<sup>2</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ldva%20Insights%20Dataset%20202021.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> ONS (November 2020), [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics - Appendix tables](#) (data for year ending March 2020); ONS (February 2018), [Sexual offences: appendix tables](#) (data for year ending March 2017).

<sup>4</sup> It is not possible to compare rates of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking for women sharing protected characteristics or socio-demographic characteristics. This is due to a disjuncture between questions asked and offences measured; small sample sizes; differences in the protected characteristics and socio-demographic features data is disaggregated by; the parameters of protected characteristics and socio-demographic characteristics being measured; and time scales of measurement.

	<p>An NSPCC report (Barter et al., 2009) found that almost 25% of 13-17 year old girls reported experiencing physical abuse in their own intimate partnership relationships. 18% of boys reported experiencing physical abuse.</p> <p>Young Londoners face risks and challenges that older Londoners do not. For example, children and young people face unique risks relating to grooming, exploitation and abuse. Young people also experience online VAWG at higher rates than other age groups.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) now legally recognises children living in homes where domestic abuse occurs as victims of the abuse.</p> <p>Children and young people are main victims of FGM. The ORS Survivor Consultation reports that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is typically undertaken at a very young age and do not recognise that they have experienced a form of VAWG until many years later.</p> <p>London has the highest prevalence rate in the UK for FGM<sup>5</sup> with an estimated 2.1% of females affected. The NHS recorded 5,395 individual women and girls who had an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC and the VRU will continue to invest in support for young people impacted by violence. This investment aims to improve the gender responsive approach to addressing the often less-visible needs of young women and girls and ensure that women and girls impacted by violence and gang association are better identified and supported, with an understanding of the context of their individual characteristics.</li> <li>- TfL will continue to deliver its Project Guardian sessions which aim to educate Year 9 boys and girls about sexual harassment on public transport and look at options for expanding its reach.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with partners including the NHS, the MPS, the voluntary and community sector and local authorities to continue to fund and extend support, applying an intersectional lens, for child victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation and adults who have been victims as children.</li> <li>- MOPAC will proactively engage with London’s VAWG sector, including specialist ‘by and for’ agencies, to amplify relevant and compatible campaigns directed at legislative reform including in relation to child</li> </ul>	
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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/publications/prevalence-female-genital-mutilation-england-and-wales-national-and-local-estimates/>

	<p>attendance where FGM was identified in the period April 2020 to March 2021<sup>6</sup>. 1864 of these were in London and 840 were newly identified individuals.</p> <p>CSEW data<sup>7</sup> shows that women were far more likely to be stalked by an ex/partner and the rates are higher for younger women. 10,000 stalking offences were recorded in London in the year up to September 2021, a large increase from 884 in 2017<sup>8</sup></p> <p>The ORS Survivor Consultation also reports that some barriers exist for older victim/survivors of familial domestic abuse – in one case, the fact the abuse was perpetrated within the family home was also a barrier for the survivor, who sought to protect her family’s reputation and did not wish to ‘parade’ what was happening for all to see.</p> <p>During a recent annual accounting of women<sup>9</sup> killed by men in 2021, 24 of 117 women (20%) lived in London and two were aged over 70.</p>	<p>marriage, vaginoplasty, and virginity testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will continue to pilot early intervention projects in children’s social care, across ten boroughs, using the Safe and Together™ programme which frames domestic abuse as a harmful parenting practice and seeks to enable social workers to focus on perpetrators’ behaviour</li> <li>- City Hall welcomes the consultative approach the MPS has taken to seek views from communities and reflect them in their work. MOPAC will use our convening role to bring VAWG sector experts together with MPS to openly and collaboratively work through the plans and actions necessary to effect real change and improvements in police handling of VAWG and the culture relating to women and girls within the police service.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with partners including the NHS, the MPS, the voluntary and community sector and local authorities to continue to fund and extend support, applying an intersectional lens, for child victims of</li> </ul>	
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<sup>6</sup> <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/april-2020-to-march-2021>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/stalkingfindingsfromthecrimesurveyforenglandandwales>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.citymatters.london/shocking-rise-in-stalking-rates-in-london-data-reveals/>

<sup>9</sup> All named in the House of Commons by Jess Phillips MP on International Women’s Day, 2021

		<p>domestic abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation and adults who have been victims as children.</p> <p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity.</p> <p>MOPAC supports an independent VAWG Expert Reference Group which brings together representatives from across the VAWG sector and acts as the voice of the VAWG voluntary sector in its interactions with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the London’s Victims’ Commissioner, and the VAWG Board.</p>	
<b>Disability</b>	<p>The overall proportion of domestic abuse victims/survivors with a disability is relatively low, however, people with a disability are disproportionately more likely to become victims/survivors.</p> <p>SafeLives report that 13% of those accessing IDVA services<sup>10</sup> had a disability as opposed to about 20% of the population.<sup>11</sup> SafeLives data also shows that 11.9% of cases heard at MARAC involved victims with disabilities. Our consultation with Deaf and Disabled Women would suggest that disabled women are under-represented in</p>	<p>MOPAC has consulted with deaf and disabled communities and service providers representing the views of survivors of a range of disabilities including learning disabilities for this Strategy, and the Strategy commits to ongoing engagement with these groups.</p> <p>The document itself is produced in the most accessible format available for Londoners with a range of disabilities. MOPAC will prepare an Easy Read version of the Plan for Londoners with learning disabilities.</p>	Positive

<sup>10</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ldva%20Insights%20Dataset%20202021.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2019-to-2020/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2019-to-2020#disability-1>

	<p>services as there are many more barriers for a disabled woman to accessing services than abled women.</p> <p>Deaf and disabled women are twice as likely as their hearing and non-disabled peers to suffer domestic abuse (British Crime Survey, 2020).</p> <p>The CSEW (2019/20) reported that women and men with a long-standing illness or disability were more than twice as likely to experience some form of domestic abuse (11.8%) than their counterparts with no long-standing illness or disability (4.6%). Amongst women, this figure is higher with 14.7% of female victims of domestic abuse reporting at least one disability.</p> <p>There is a real risk that victims and survivors of VAWG can develop disabilities due to the collective emotional and physical impact of the abuse and/or violence. This also includes psychological trauma can cause someone to have a mental health disability, and the physical violence of some VAWG crimes and actions can cause a physical disability.</p> <p>London's VAWG service providers report people with learning disabilities, autism or both are far more likely to experience sexual abuse and exploitation.</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out commitments to respond to the experience of VAWG by Londoners, recognising the different specific needs and risks for Londoners.</p> <p>Specific disability-related areas of focus include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors, particularly so victims and survivors can rebuild their lives through access to specialist support services and spaces that meet the needs of London's diverse communities</li> <li>- Equality and freedom for women and girls in public and online spaces</li> <li>- Educating Londoners to prevent VAWG</li> </ul> <p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work with all partners to explore how we can enhance our collection and use of data to improve our understanding of VAWG in London. Where possible, we would seek the publication of information across protected characteristics.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with partners to ensure that victims of domestic abuse – including migrant victims and those from minority ethnic backgrounds and other</li> </ul>	
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	<p>There is a clear gap in data available in understanding the prevalence of all types of disabilities for victims and survivors of VAWG. There is limited data for all types of disabilities, however those with learning disabilities appear to be further hidden.</p>	<p>minoritised groups - can access help without fear, with safe and informal spaces for victims who need to seek support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MOPAC will work with the MPS to build on the success of 'DA Matters' training and to ensure that there is wider ongoing quality training across all forms of VAWG which is trauma-informed, culturally competent, and is to recognise the intersectional experiences that the victim or survivor may have had.</li><li>- City Hall welcomes the consultative approach the MPS has taken to seek views from communities and reflect them in their work. MOPAC will use our convening role to bring VAWG sector experts together with MPS to openly and collaboratively work through the plans and actions necessary to effect real change and improvements in police handling of VAWG and the culture relating to women and girls within the police service.</li><li>- MOPAC will work with partners including the NHS, the MPS, the voluntary and community sector and local authorities to continue to fund and extend support, applying an intersectional lens, for child victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation and adults who have been victims as children.</li></ul>	
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		<p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity. MOPAC's commissioning is driven by the diverse needs of survivors in London and the needs of marginalised communities such as those from Black, Asian and other minoritised groups, migrant survivors, other protected characteristics and the intersections between them.</p> <p>MOPAC supports an independent VAWG Expert Reference Group which brings together representatives from across the VAWG sector and acts as the voice of the VAWG voluntary sector in its interactions with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the London's Victims' Commissioner, and the VAWG Board.</p>	
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p>There is insufficient data on TQI communities to ascertain any differential experiences/views their views on their safety and their confidence and trust in policing,</p> <p>The best available estimation of the UK's transgender population is at approximately 1% (there is a lack of data on this group nationally)<sup>12</sup>. SafeLives (2001) found that 7% of the people accessing Sexual Violence services were transgender, indicating a disproportionate impact on this group.</p>	<p>The Tackling VAWG Strategy sets out commitments to respond to the experience of VAWG by Londoners, recognising the different specific needs and risks for Londoners.</p> <p>MOPAC has consulted with expert service providers representing the views of survivors for this Strategy and we commit to ongoing engagement with these groups.</p> <p>We further consulted these expert service providers to gain</p>	Positive

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/truth-about-trans#trans-people-britain>

	<p>Research by Stonewall has shown that up to 80% of trans people have experienced emotional, sexual or physical abuse from a partner or ex-partner, and that they are unlikely to report their abuse.<sup>13</sup></p> <p>Our consultation with the LGBTQI+ VAWG sector reported that victim and survivors experience barriers to accessing services and require specialist services. These barriers include: being mis-gendered by services or statutory partners, leading to further traumatisation linked to their gender identity; and, a fear of being denied access to certain services because of their transgender identity.</p> <p>London’s VAWG service providers report that many TQI persons present as needing support following experiences of harmful practices</p> <p>There is a clear gap in data available in understanding the prevalence of VAWG for transgender, non-binary and inter-sex people.</p>	<p>advice and guidance to ensure that our language is appropriate and inclusive.</p> <p>The Strategy specifically refers to who this strategy is for in the document: “This Strategy is for women in all their diversity, recognising how the intersection of inequalities and differences combine to affect VAWG. Race and ethnicity, sexuality, age, class, faith, gender identity, immigration status and disabilities all affect the forms of violence victims may be subjected to; what VAWG means to them; how others respond; and the support victims and survivors are able to access. It is for anyone experiencing VAWG.</p> <p>The Mayor is clear – trans women are women. This Strategy is for them, and for all victims and survivors who would feel aligned to use our VAWG services.”</p> <p>Specific areas of focus that relate to gender reassignment include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors, particularly so victims and survivors can rebuild their lives through access to specialist support services and spaces that meet the needs of London’s diverse communities</li> <li>- Educating Londoners to prevent VAWG</li> </ul>	
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<sup>13</sup> Scottish Transgender Alliance (2010). Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Transgender People’s Experiences of Domestic Abuse. Available at: [https://www.scottishtrans.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/trans\\_domestic\\_abuse.pdf](https://www.scottishtrans.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/trans_domestic_abuse.pdf); Stonewall (2018).

		<p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MOPAC will work with all partners to explore how we can enhance our collection and use of data to improve our understanding of VAWG in London. Where possible, we would seek the publication of information across protected characteristics.</li><li>- MOPAC will work with partners to ensure that victims of domestic abuse – including migrant victims and those from minority ethnic backgrounds and other minoritised groups - can access help without fear, with safe and informal spaces for victims who need to seek support.</li><li>- MOPAC will work with the MPS to build on the success of 'DA Matters' training and to ensure that there is wider ongoing quality training across all forms of VAWG which is trauma-informed, culturally competent, and is to recognise the intersectional experiences that the victim or survivor may have had.</li><li>- City Hall welcomes the consultative approach the MPS has taken to seek views from communities and reflect them in their work. MOPAC will use our convening role to bring VAWG sector experts together with MPS to openly and collaboratively work through the plans and</li></ul>	
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		<p>actions necessary to effect real change and improvements in police handling of VAWG and the culture relating to women and girls within the police service.</p> <p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity. MOPAC's commissioning is driven by the diverse needs of survivors in London and the needs of marginalised communities such as those from Black, Asian and other minoritised groups, migrant survivors, other protected characteristics and the intersections between them.</p> <p>MOPAC supports an independent VAWG Expert Reference Group which brings together representatives from across the VAWG sector and acts as the voice of the VAWG voluntary sector in its interactions with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the London's Victims' Commissioner, and the VAWG Board.</p>	
<p><b>Marriage and civil partnership</b></p>	<p>Domestic abuse is highest amongst those who have separated, followed by those who are divorced or single. Police recorded crime 20/21 data reflects that fact that those who have separated from their partners may be more willing to report their experience of domestic abuse to the Police.</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out commitments to respond to the experience of VAWG by Londoners, recognising the different specific needs and risks for Londoners.</p> <p>Specific areas of focus that relate to marriage and civil partnerships include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors, particularly so</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p>

	<p>London’s VAWG service providers report that there was an increase in sexual violence and abuse within interpersonal relationships including within marriages and civil partnerships, particularly during the pandemic.</p> <p>There is a clear link between marriages/civil partnerships and migrant survivors of VAWG. Those with insecure immigration status who are resident in the UK due to a spousal visa may apply for support that makes gives recourse to public funds. This is not the case for those who are on any other type of visa.</p> <p>There is a clear gap in data available in understanding the prevalence of other forms of VAWG and how marriage or civil partnerships may impact upon these experiences.</p>	<p>victims and survivors can rebuild their lives through access to specialist support services and spaces that meet the needs of London’s diverse communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe reporting and support for all victims and survivors, including migrant survivors who may be resident in the UK on spousal visas.</li> </ul> <p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work together with the MPS to ensure that migrant victims and survivors of VAWG are protected and use MOPAC’s oversight mechanism to support the MPS in delivering on HMICFRS recommendations made in response to the Super-Complaint by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters. This will include overseeing the effective implementation of clear policies and processes on data sharing that create a safer environment for all victims and survivors to report to the police should they choose to.</li> <li>- The Mayor will continue to lobby the Home Office to implement the recommendations for them in HMICFRS’s response to the Super-Complaint by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters and will lobby the Government to introduce a ‘firewall’ between policing and immigration enforcement in the forthcoming Victims’ Law.</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MOPAC will work with partners to ensure that victims of domestic abuse – including migrant victims and those from minority ethnic backgrounds and other minoritised groups - can access help without fear, with safe and informal spaces for victims who need to seek support.</li> <li>- MOPAC will advocate for all new arrivals to the UK to be given VAWG support and reporting information, including by writing to the Home Office to suggest that they provide all new migrant women and girls with information on support and how to report VAWG.</li> <li>- MOPAC will proactively engage with London’s VAWG sector, including specialist ‘by and for’ agencies, to amplify relevant and compatible campaigns directed at legislative reform including in relation to child marriage, vaginoplasty, and virginity testing.</li></ul> <p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity. MOPAC’s commissioning is driven by the diverse needs of survivors in London and the needs of marginalised communities such as those from Black, Asian and other minoritised groups, migrant survivors, other protected characteristics and the intersections between them.</p>	
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<p><b>Pregnancy and maternity</b></p>	<p>It is a well-established risk that domestic abuse is likely to increase during pregnancy or when they have children. Nearly one in three women who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant</p> <p>In 2011, the Home Office identified that 70% of teenage mothers are in a violent relationship<sup>14</sup>, showing that the danger women can be in when pregnant.</p> <p>Pregnancy is widely known as a risk factor for domestic abuse. 20% of women in Refuge’s services are pregnant or have recently given birth, (<i>Refuge Performance Report, 2017-18</i>)</p> <p>It is estimated that four to nine in every 100 pregnant women are abused during their pregnancy or soon after the birth <a href="#">Angela Taft (2002)</a></p> <p>There is a link between abuse during pregnancy and a woman’s chance of being killed by her perpetrator <a href="#">J. McFarlane et al. (2002)</a></p>	<p>The Tackling VAWG Strategy sets out commitments to respond to the experience of VAWG by Londoners, recognising the different specific needs and risks for Londoners.</p> <p>Specific pregnancy and maternity related areas of focus include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preventing and reducing VAWG</li> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors</li> <li>- London’s diverse communities</li> <li>- Equality and freedom for women and girls in public and online spaces</li> <li>- Educating Londoners to prevent VAWG</li> <li>- Helping victims and survivors to rebuild their lives through access to specialist services</li> <li>- Early intervention for individuals displaying potentially harmful attitudes and behaviours</li> </ul> <p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work with all partners to explore how we can enhance our collection and use of data to improve our understanding of VAWG in London. Where possible, we would seek the publication of information</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p>

<sup>14</sup> Home Office VAWG EIA. 2011

		<p>across protected characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- City Hall will work with health and VAWG sector partners to develop information on support and referral pathways into specialist support and training for health professionals.</li><li>- The Mayor supports the right of women to choose to have an abortion free of intimidation. The Mayor will continue to oppose any harassment around clinics and will back buffer zones underpinned by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to prevent threatening behaviour.</li><li>- MOPAC will commit further investment in, and support for, community-based education solutions for harmful practices in London, such as community champions, as well as work to strengthen community-based education responses where relevant across harmful practices.</li><li>- MOPAC will continue to pilot early intervention projects in children’s social care, across ten boroughs, using the Safe and Together™ programme which frames domestic abuse as a harmful parenting practice and seeks to enable social workers to focus on perpetrators’ behaviour.</li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- City Hall will continue to support London’s business community, employers, professional bodies and government inspectorates to tackle VAWG. This includes the Mayor’s Good Work Standard which provides best employment practice and links to resources and support so workplaces can better support victims of VAWG and domestic violence. It builds on the reinvigorated Ask for Angela campaign launch in 2021 by the Mayor, MPS and Safer Business Network. It also includes standards for responding to reports of VAWG in the workplace, such as abuse perpetrated by or against professionals working in the sector.</li> <li>- City Hall, with the support of the Mayor’s Health Board will convene a round table discussion with partners to determine how the NHS and health economy can tackle VAWG collectively. It will explore the possibility of a wider Summit with NHS leaders, Directors of Public Health, VAWG sector and other partners to move towards a pan-London approach to VAWG for the health sector and the successful implementation of the statutory duty on integrated care boards to create strategies to address domestic and sexual violence. This will include working with borough Directors of Public health to make VAWG a key priority locally</li></ul>	
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		<p>including within Joint Strategic Needs Assessments.</p> <p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity. MOPAC’s commissioning is driven by the diverse needs of survivors in London and the needs of marginalised communities such as those from Black, Asian and other minoritised groups, migrant survivors, other protected characteristics and the intersections between them.</p> <p>MOPAC supports an independent VAWG Expert Reference Group which brings together representatives from across the VAWG sector and acts as the voice of the VAWG voluntary sector in its interactions with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the London’s Victims’ Commissioner, and the VAWG Board.</p>	
<b>Race</b>	<p>During the consultation for the Plan and Strategy, we heard from Minority Ethnic Londoners about the continued concerns in the community about the service provided by the police and the justice system – and a desire that the Mayor continue to do everything he can to ensure that the MPS is an organisation all Londoners can have trust and confidence in, reduce disproportionality and ensure that there is transparency and accountability when things go wrong.</p>	<p>The Tackling VAWG Strategy recognises the disproportionately lower levels of trust and confidence in policing in London’s ethnic minority communities and underlines the Mayor’s commitment to ensuring that Londoners of all races have confidence in the police, receive a high-quality service from the justice system and that ethnic disproportionality is identified and addressed. The Strategy is supplemented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivering the Mayor’s Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing.</li> <li>- The MPS will deliver on its new Strategy for Diversity,</li> </ul>	Positive

	<p>London is a truly diverse and multicultural city. We recognise that women from different ethnic groups in London experience VAWG differently and at different rates.</p> <p>People from minority ethnic backgrounds are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse than their white counterparts. According to the Police recorded data, the highest rate of domestic abuse victimisation is amongst Black females aged 25-34. Black males also hold higher victimisation rates than men from any of the other ethnic groups.</p> <p>Over the last few years women with mixed heritage have been at a higher risk of being victims of domestic abuse over White or Asian women.<sup>15</sup></p> <p>During a recent annual accounting of women<sup>16</sup> killed by men in 2021, 24 of 117 women (20%) lived in London: of these at least 8 were people from minority ethnic backgrounds.</p>	<p>Inclusion and Engagement (STRIDE).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will implement the Tackling Ethnic Disproportionality in the Youth Justice Service Action Plan.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy sets out commitments to respond to the experience of VAWG by Londoners, recognising the different specific needs and risks for Londoners.</p> <p>MOPAC has consulted with survivors and expert service providers representing the views of survivors for this Strategy, and these commit to ongoing engagement with these groups.</p> <p>Specific race-related areas of focus include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helping victims and survivors to rebuild their lives through access to specialist services</li> <li>- Safe reporting and support for all victims and survivors</li> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors</li> <li>- Equality and freedom for women and girls in public and online spaces</li> </ul>	
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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/womenmostatriskofexperiencingpartnerabuseinenglandandwales/yearsendingmarch2015to2017>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2019>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

<sup>16</sup> All named in the House of Commons by Jess Phillips MP on International Women’s Day, 2021

	<p>London’s VAWG sector can evidence many cases where women from Black, Asian or other ethnicities have faced extra barriers in accessing justice and support when they have become a victim of VAWG.</p> <p>There are known barriers in accessibility to information, support and justice for persons who have insecure immigration status. The threat of being deported is used by perpetrators as a further tactic of control. This is compounded by services in London not being able to guarantee that their details not being shared with the Home Office when they report their experiences to the Met.</p> <p>From our Survivor Consultation, we know that services have seen an increase of women with a European nationality where immigration status has been a factor of their abuse due to impact of Brexit.</p> <p>Our Survivor Consultation highlighted a number of common experiences in London for survivors from minority ethnic backgrounds, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural barriers that prevent reporting</li> <li>- Negative experiences in reporting to the police and the investigation process</li> <li>- Trust and confidence is needed to be rebuilt to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educating Londoners to prevent VAWG</li> <li>- Building Trust and Confidence</li> </ul> <p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work with all partners to explore how we can enhance our collection and use of data to improve our understanding of VAWG in London. Where possible, we would seek the publication of information across protected characteristics.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with partners to ensure that victims of domestic abuse – including migrant victims and those from minority ethnic backgrounds and other minoritised groups - can access help without fear, with safe and informal spaces for victims who need to seek support.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with the MPS to build on the success of ‘DA Matters’ training and to ensure that there is wider ongoing quality training across all forms of VAWG which is trauma-informed, culturally competent, and is to recognise the intersectional experiences that the victim or survivor may have had.</li> <li>- City Hall welcomes the consultative approach the MPS has taken to seek views from communities and reflect</li> </ul>	
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	<p>regain the confidence and trust of women and girls,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Longer waiting time for specialist services and time-limited support</li> <li>- Several survivors for whom English is a second language said they had encountered difficulties at various points in their 'journeys' due to language barriers.</li> <li>- Crucially, it was reported that interpreters were often refused to some because they speak English, but that "... because it's not her mother tongue there is a barrier to really truly expressing what she is saying".</li> </ul>	<p>them in their work. MOPAC will use our convening role to bring VAWG sector experts together with MPS to openly and collaboratively work through the plans and actions necessary to effect real change and improvements in police handling of VAWG and the culture relating to women and girls within the police service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work together with the MPS to ensure that migrant victims and survivors of VAWG are protected and use MOPAC's oversight mechanism to support the MPS in delivering on HMICFRS recommendations made in response to the Super-Complaint by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters. This will include overseeing the effective implementation of clear policies and processes on data sharing that create a safer environment for all victims and survivors to report to the police should they choose to.</li> <li>- The Mayor will continue to lobby the Home Office to implement the recommendations for them in HMICFRS's response to the Super-Complaint by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters and will lobby the Government to introduce a 'firewall' between policing and immigration enforcement in the forthcoming Victims' Law.</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MOPAC will work with the MPS to ensure an intersectional approach is applied to all investigations, drawing from initiatives such as Valerie’s Law.</li><li>- The Mayor supports the forthcoming review by Baroness Casey into culture and standards of behaviour in the MPS and the inquiry led by Dame Eilish Angiolini focusing on establishing a comprehensive account of the police career of the killer of Sarah Everard to identify any missed opportunities to prevent any such incidents happening again in future. The Mayor will hold the new Commissioner to account and use MOPAC’s oversight role to ensure that the recommendations and findings from both the Casey Review and Angiolini Inquiry are fully addressed. MOPAC will also consider how it can support any findings that require change at a national level.</li></ul> <p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity. MOPAC’s commissioning is driven by the diverse needs of survivors in London and the needs of marginalised communities such as those from Black, Asian and other minoritised groups, migrant survivors, other protected characteristics and the intersections between them.</p>	
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		<p>MOPAC supports an independent VAWG Expert Reference Group which brings together representatives from across the VAWG sector and acts as the voice of the VAWG voluntary sector in its interactions with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the London’s Victims’ Commissioner, and the VAWG Board.</p>	
<p><b>Religion and belief</b></p>	<p>The Faith and VAWG coalition run by Standing Together report that Many survivors with a faith feel that some specialist services and society, in general, are unable to understand their experiences of abuse, and their barriers to accessing support due to their religious identity, their faith community and any spiritual abuse that they may experience at the hands of their perpetrator.</p> <p>Our Survivor Consultation identified some cultural barriers to reporting including restrictions to disclosing ‘home’ experiences, fear of stigmatisation should a disclosure be made, and a general mistrust of authorities.</p> <p>There were reports of survivors being retraumatised through the criminal justice process and its insensitivity to the cultural norms of the survivor.</p> <p>With regard to FGM, survivors reported struggling to reconcile the ‘demonisation’ of FGM in the UK and the cultural environment in which they were raised. One</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out commitments to respond to the experience of VAWG by Londoners, recognising the different specific needs and risks for Londoners.</p> <p>MOPAC has consulted with survivors and expert service providers representing the views of survivors for this Strategy, and these commit to ongoing engagement with these groups.</p> <p>Specific religion and belief related areas of focus include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helping victims and survivors to rebuild their lives through access to specialist services</li> <li>- Safe reporting and support for all victims and survivors</li> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors</li> <li>- Equality and freedom for women and girls in public and online spaces</li> <li>- Educating Londoners to prevent VAWG</li> <li>- Building Trust and Confidence</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p>

	<p>survivor reported that the perceived demonisation of the ‘perpetrator’ prevented her from reporting he FGM.</p> <p>London’s VAWG service providers report that cultural and religious beliefs significantly underpin perpetrator rationale for ‘honour’ based violence and other harmful practices.</p>	<p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work with all partners to explore how we can enhance our collection and use of data to improve our understanding of VAWG in London. Where possible, we would seek the publication of information across protected characteristics.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with partners to ensure that victims of domestic abuse – including migrant victims and those from minority ethnic backgrounds and other minoritised groups - can access help without fear, with safe and informal spaces for victims who need to seek support.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with the MPS to build on the success of ‘DA Matters’ training and to ensure that there is wider ongoing quality training across all forms of VAWG which is trauma-informed, culturally competent, and is to recognise the intersectional experiences that the victim or survivor may have had.</li> <li>- MOPAC will use its convening role to bring VAWG sector experts together with MPS to openly and collaboratively work through the plans and actions necessary to effect real change and improvements in police handling of VAWG and the culture relating to</li> </ul>	
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		<p>women and girls within the police service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MOPAC will commit further investment and support for community-based education solutions for harmful practices in London, such as community champions, as well as work to strengthen community-based education responses where relevant across harmful practices.</li><li>- The Mayor will support sustained multi-year, multi-channel communications and public engagement on VAWG, building on the success of his new #HaveAWord campaign which asks all men to challenge problematic misogynistic attitudes and behaviour. This will include working with employers, TfL, faith communities, sports clubs and with schools, colleges and universities as well as the specialist VAWG sector to extend its reach.</li><li>- The Mayor supports the forthcoming review by Baroness Casey into culture and standards of behaviour in the MPS and the inquiry led by Dame Eilish Angiolini focusing on establishing a comprehensive account of the police career of the killer of Sarah Everard to identify any missed opportunities to prevent any such incidents happening again in future. The Mayor will hold the new Commissioner to account and use MOPAC's oversight</li></ul>	
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		<p>role to ensure that the recommendations and findings from both the Casey Review and Angiolini Inquiry are fully addressed. MOPAC will also consider how it can support any findings that require change at a national level.</p> <p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity. MOPAC’s commissioning is driven by the diverse needs of survivors in London and the needs of marginalised communities such as those from Black, Asian and other minoritised groups, migrant survivors, other protected characteristics and the intersections between them.</p> <p>MOPAC supports an independent VAWG Expert Reference Group which brings together representatives from across the VAWG sector and acts as the voice of the VAWG voluntary sector in its interactions with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the London’s Victims’ Commissioner, and the VAWG Board.</p>	
<b>Sex</b>	<p>The rationale for undertaking this VAWG strategy lies in significant differences between the genders in relation to victimisation and offending in gendered crimes, such as domestic abuse or stalking. Violence against women has been defined by both the World Health Organisation and the United Nations as a form of discrimination: ‘violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman</p>	<p>The Mayor has recognised the scale and harm of violence against women and girls in the development and publication of this Strategy for London. This Strategy sits alongside his Police and Crime Plan for London 2022-25, which sets out his broader agenda for the safety of all Londoners.</p> <p>MOPAC consulted widely with Londoners for the Plan and</p>	Positive

	<p>or that affects women disproportionately'<sup>17</sup> .</p> <p>Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) or accessing an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service are women. Similarly, women are much more likely than men to be the victims of sexual violence.</p> <p>Men are most frequently the offender in all reported types of domestic abuse (88%) and sexual abuse (97%). From September 2017 to August 2020, 94% of charged homicide offenders were male.</p> <p>Of the 2,140 homicide victims in London between 2005 and 2020, 361 (17 per cent) were victims of domestic abuse. Three-quarters of these domestic abuse victims were women. During a recent annual accounting of women<sup>18</sup> killed by men in 2021, 24 of 117 women (20%) lived in London.</p> <p>An NSPCC report (Barter et al., 2009) found that almost 25% of 13-17 year old girls reported experiencing physical abuse in their own intimate partnership relationships. 18% of boys reported</p>	<p>Strategy, with a good representation across the sexes. MOPAC has consulted with expert service providers representing the views of survivors for this Strategy and we commit to ongoing engagement with these groups.</p> <p>We further consulted these expert service providers to gain advice and guidance to ensure that our language is appropriate and inclusive.</p> <p>Increasing trust and confidence is a key priority in the Plan. The Plan recognises the impact of incidents such as the murder of Sarah Everard and the urgent need to address wider cultural issues that exist within the MPS. The Mayor will oversee the MPS, working with the next Commissioner to ensure that the necessary changes happen.</p> <p>The Strategy also highlights that it is “Our role...to provide safe spaces for people seeking support. The Equality Act allows for the provision of separate or single-sex services in certain circumstances, under ‘exceptions’ relating to sex, in order for some women and girls to address and heal from the trauma they have experienced. No agency we fund is obliged to act any differently from the requirements of equalities legislation. That is the way we will continue to operate until such time as</p>	
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<sup>17</sup> CEDAW GR 19

<sup>18</sup> All named in the House of Commons by Jess Phillips MP on International Women’s Day, 2021

	<p>experiencing physical abuse.</p> <p>London has the highest prevalence rate in the UK for FGM<sup>19</sup> with an estimated 2.1% of women and girls affected. The NHS recorded 5,395 individual women and girls who had an attendance where FGM was identified in the period April 2020 to March 2021<sup>20</sup>. 1864 of these were in London and 840 were newly identified individuals</p> <p>The CSEW estimated that for the year ending March 2020 there were 773,000 adults aged 16 to 74 years who were victims of sexual assault (including attempts) in the previous year, with almost four times as many female victims (618,000) as male victims (155,000).</p> <p>Women feel less safe in 2021 than they did two years ago, and 41% do take active preventative action to feel safer in public spaces<sup>21</sup></p> <p>CSEW data<sup>22</sup> for 2019-20 shows that almost a fifth of women (19.6%) and a tenth of men (9.6%) had been stalked, with 4.6% of women and 2.5% of men reporting in the last year. Women were far more likely to be stalked by</p>	<p>legislation requires us to review practice.”</p> <p>The Victims’ Commissioner for London and MOPAC have engaged with expert service providers to further understand the views and experiences of male, non-binary and gender diverse survivors. This has included a roundtable to better understand the barriers to male victims receiving support and help.</p> <p>The Mayor has taken the lead to ensure that all victims – regardless of gender identity – can access support. This includes men, boys, gender diverse and non-binary people as well as women and girls – creating a comprehensive service available to all.</p>	
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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/publications/prevalence-female-genital-mutilation-england-and-wales-national-and-local-estimates/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/april-2020-to-march-2021>

<sup>21</sup> <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/lifestyle/articles-reports/2021/11/01/women-feel-less-safe-walking-home-alone-night-2018>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/stalkingfindingsfromthecrimesurveyforenglandandwales>

	<p>an ex/partner and the rates are higher for younger women</p> <p>During the consultation for the Plan and the Strategy, we heard from women and girls about the impact on trust and confidence in policing following the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving officer, and subsequent incidents of misogyny, abuse and criminality by MPS officers.</p>		
<p><b>Sexual orientation</b></p>	<p>Sexual orientation hate crime offences have been increasing in London since 2018 (<a href="#">Source</a>)</p> <p>Public Attitude Survey data indicates that LGB communities are less positive than heterosexual Londoners that the MPS reflects their communities. Based on the User Satisfaction Survey, there are no differences in levels of victim satisfaction between LGB and heterosexual communities.</p> <p>There is insufficient data on TQI communities to ascertain any differential experiences/views.</p> <p>During the consultation for the Plan and the Strategy, we heard from LGBTQI+ Londoners about their concerns regarding the protection the community receives from the MPS, concerns amplified following the murders of four gay men in London by Stephen Port and serious failings in the</p>	<p>MOPAC has consulted with London’s LGBTQI+ communities and expert service providers representing the views of survivors for this Strategy, reaching out to Londoners and to representative groups. The Plan makes a commitment to sustaining this engagement, recognising and aiming to address the lower levels of confidence in policing within this community.</p> <p>Specific areas of focus that relate to sexual orientation include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting all victims and survivors, particularly so victims and survivors can rebuild their lives through access to specialist support services and spaces that meet the needs of London’s diverse communities</li> <li>- Educating Londoners to prevent VAWG</li> </ul> <p>Key commitments that respond to this characteristic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work with all partners to explore how we</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p>

	<p>MPS investigation of these offences.</p> <p>Data that compares the experiences of heterosexual women to lesbian or bisexual women is not available for London.</p> <p>SafeLives data shows that 2.1% of cases heard at MARAC related to LGBTIQ+ victims. Research has found that bisexual women are almost three times as likely as heterosexual women to experience any form of domestic abuse, and that domestic abuse is experienced by 50% more bisexual women than lesbians.<sup>23</sup></p> <p>Lesbian and bisexual women face the added barrier to justice as research has found that their abuse is not taken seriously when the perpetrator is another woman.<sup>24</sup></p> <p>Our Survivor Consultation has found that homophobia and the fear of homophobia impacts the women’s experiences seeking support for VAWG.</p> <p>London’s VAWG service providers report that many</p>	<p>can enhance our collection and use of data to improve our understanding of VAWG in London. Where possible, we would seek the publication of information across protected characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPAC will work with partners to ensure that victims of domestic abuse – including migrant victims and those from minority ethnic backgrounds and other minoritised groups - can access help without fear, with safe and informal spaces for victims who need to seek support.</li> <li>- MOPAC will work with the MPS to build on the success of ‘DA Matters’ training and to ensure that there is wider ongoing quality training across all forms of VAWG which is trauma-informed, culturally competent, and is to recognise the intersectional experiences that the victim or survivor may have had.</li> <li>- City Hall welcomes the consultative approach the MPS has taken to seek views from communities and reflect them in their work. MOPAC will use our convening role to bring VAWG sector experts together with MPS to</li> </ul>	
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<sup>23</sup> Office for National Statistics (2020). ‘Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics’, year ending March 2020. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixtables>

<sup>24</sup> Government Equalities Office (2018). National LGBT Survey: Research Report. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/721704/LGBT-surveyresearch-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721704/LGBT-surveyresearch-report.pdf).

	<p>harmful practices are perpetrated upon survivors who are lesbian, gay or bisexual.</p>	<p>openly and collaboratively work through the plans and actions necessary to effect real change and improvements in police handling of VAWG and the culture relating to women and girls within the police service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- City Hall will work with partners to promote good practice and ensure a consistent frontline response to all victims and survivors, through programmes such as IRIS, which trains GPs and healthcare staff to identify VAWG. These programmes must recognise an individual's experience of trauma; how individual circumstances (for example, ethnicity, substance use, mental health or any combination of these and/or many others), may lead to further disadvantage; and how these impact on disclosure.</li><li>- MOPAC will work with the MPS and VAWG sector partners to improve the effectiveness of investigations and increase prosecutions for FGM and other harmful practices.</li></ul> <p>MOPAC has developed commissioning principles which guide its work which includes a relentless pursuit of equality, inclusion and diversity. MOPAC's commissioning is driven by the diverse needs of survivors in London and the needs of marginalised communities such as those from Black, Asian and</p>	
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		<p>other minoritised groups, migrant survivors, other protected characteristics and the intersections between them.</p> <p>MOPAC supports an independent VAWG Expert Reference Group which brings together representatives from across the VAWG sector and acts as the voice of the VAWG voluntary sector in its interactions with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the London's Victims' Commissioner, and the VAWG Board.</p>	
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