

“It’s a Hidden Problem”



The issue of violence against women and girls in Jersey

A report by the Taskforce on Violence Against Women and Girls

- SUMMARY REPORT -

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Introduction

The independent Taskforce on Violence Against Women and Girls in Jersey engaged with victim-survivors, children and young people, professional services and the public to research and report on the very real problem of violence against women and girls on the island.

This report is the outcome of the research undertaken to better understand the nature, extent, and experiences of violence against women and girls in Jersey. It provides recommendations for government and other key stakeholders to reduce such violence in all its forms and to improve the support available for victims and survivors.

This summary report details our key findings and recommendations for addressing violence against women and girls in Jersey. For a more in-depth analysis of our research and findings please see the full report:

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Caring%20and%20support/VAWG%20Taskforce%20Report.pdf>

Foreword

To achieve the aims of the Taskforce, it was essential that the voices of women and girls should be at the centre of our work and that these voices were listened to without prejudice.

I am immensely grateful to the many victims and survivors who have trusted us with their stories, in some cases re-living significant personal trauma, in order for the Taskforce to complete our work. It is thanks to these victim-survivors, the hundreds of young people who participated in our research, and the wider public response and participation in our call for evidence, that we now have a real opportunity to improve the support available to all victims and survivors and reduce the instances of violence and abuse experienced by women and girls living in our island community.

Our research is difficult to read, especially if the findings are a reminder of personal traumatic experiences. I urge anyone struggling to seek support from the dedicated professionals listed in the appendices of this report. There are many well-qualified professionals in Jersey who care passionately about providing you with the support you need.

Others may find the research difficult to accept because they do not personally share or recognise the experiences of those who have provided evidence. If this is the case, I urge you to read this report with an open mind. Remember, these are the previously hidden voices of our daughters, sisters, mothers, partners, family members, friends, neighbours, and colleagues. You may not know who they are, but our research indicates that most women in Jersey experience some kind of VAWG behaviour or crime.

We also know that VAWG is so common place in Jersey that many of the girls participating in our school focus groups did not recognise the behaviours they experience as gender-based violence and abuse. It is simply, as one of our independent researcher's put it to me, the 'wallpaper' to their lives. Women and girls adapt their behaviour almost every day, in a way that men and boys do not, because they are fearful for their safety.

As Chair, I have received a rare view across the system in Jersey that influences VAWG and the experiences of victims and survivors. There are many professionals and experts working incredibly hard to give their best to support victims and survivors. Recent progress, for example, the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022 and a significant increase in rape convictions, must be recognised. However, I would be failing victim-survivors if I did not honestly share my view of the bigger picture: We have a fragmented, male-biased system that is too

often failing the victims of VAWG and even enabling some perpetrators to continue their behaviour or commit crimes.

Our research finds gender inequality is the root cause of VAWG, and effective perpetrator management and education across all settings and services is imperative to improving women and girls' safety in Jersey. This cannot be a job for government alone. A wholesale shift in public awareness and mindset will require each and every one of us to challenge VAWG behaviours when we see them – from harmful banter and catcalling through to psychological and physical abuse and assault. Some of us will need to question and change our own behaviour that, perhaps unwittingly, facilitates an environment where violence against women and girls can go unchecked.

Our young people's survey also evidences that men and boys can be victims of gender-based violence. I would personally welcome the commissioning of a similar piece of research to explore the nature, impact and causes of, and solutions to, violence against men and boys in our community.

It has been a privilege to work with the expert Taskforce members, with special mention to Charley Hacquoil and Tara Murphy, without whom this report would not have been possible. I would also like to thank Connétable Karen Shenton-Stone, whose backbench proposition brought about the funding for the work that has been undertaken by the Taskforce. The work has been complex and each member of the Taskforce has dedicated a lot of time, hard work, and support for this essential piece of work. This has allowed us to deliver a potentially ground-breaking set of evidenced-based recommendations that, if implemented, will significantly reduce gender-based violence in Jersey and improve the lives of women and girls.

It is of course the desire of the Taskforce that all 77 of our recommendations are adopted by government and the judiciary. However, regardless of this outcome, if stakeholders within the different parts of the system seek ways to work together in the interests of reducing VAWG, and independently choose to adopt key recommendations where they can – especially the most challenging ones – I am genuinely optimistic for the positive, long-lasting change that this research will bring for all women and girls living in Jersey.

Kate Wright

Chair of the Taskforce on Violence Against Women and Girls

What does Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) mean?

The definition of VAWG used by the Taskforce is the one set out in Article 1 of the United Nations Declaration (1993) on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which defines Violence Against Women as –

“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

Violence against women and girls refers to acts of violence which disproportionately affect women and girls. These forms of violence include the following behaviours:

Form of violence	What does this mean?
Domestic abuse (including coercive control)	This is when a partner or family member has power and control over their victims and uses abuse to maintain it. Abuse can be physical, emotional, economic, psychological and/or sexual.
Sexual violence and abuse (including rape)	Rape is sex without consent. This means that rape isn't just people being physically forced into a sexual act, it also includes pressure that makes someone feel like they have no choice but to have sex or a sexual act.
Sexual harassment	This is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which violates someone's dignity, makes someone feel intimidated, degraded, or humiliated and/or creates a hostile or offensive environment.
Stalking	This is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention that makes someone feel pestered, scared, anxious or harassed.
So-called “honour” based abuse	This is abuse and violence which is carried out to protect or defend perceived “honour” of the family and/or community.
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	This is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.
Forced marriage	This is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so.
Forced abortion and forced sterilisation	This is when a woman is forced to have an abortion or have surgery to terminate her capacity to reproduce without her consent.
Sexual and commercial exploitation (including children)	This is where someone is being coerced or forced into selling sex or sexual acts.
Online and tech-facilitated abuse	This is violence against women and girls that takes place in digital contexts. It can take many forms including sexual harassment, stalking, zoom bombing, intimate image abuse, trolling, doxing, cyber flashing, and misogynistic hate speech.

The Taskforce and its methodology

The VAWG Taskforce is made up of a range of stakeholders, who all hold a key role in addressing violence against women and girls in Jersey. It includes representatives from specialist support services, criminal justice, safeguarding in health and social care, education, and community support services. A full list of the Taskforce members is included at the back of this report.

The Taskforce held regular meetings since September 2022 and local stakeholders working in criminal justice, immigration, the Family Courts, education and health and social care were invited to present to the Taskforce on local practice.

The Taskforce also heard from experts working to address VAWG in other jurisdictions to learn about international best practice. A list of the themes and issues covered by the Taskforce at their meetings and online webinars can be found in the full Taskforce report:

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Caring%20and%20support/VAWG%20Taskforce%20Report.pdf>

The Methodology

The Taskforce undertook research in two ways:

1. A public call for evidence, to enable as many people as possible to contribute.
2. Targeted, qualitative research with key groups of individuals to ensure that the voices of the people closest to this issue, especially victims-survivors, were captured in a safe and meaningful way.

The Public Call for Evidence

Islanders were invited to take part in the public call for evidence in the following ways:

- Responding to a general public survey: the Taskforce used this survey to explore islander's attitudes and understanding of VAWG. Islanders were also asked about experiences of sexual harassment.
- Submitting a testimony of their VAWG experience: the Taskforce asked victim-survivors about their experiences of accessing justice or support after a VAWG experience, and to share their views on how things can be improved.
- Filling in a safety heatmap: the Taskforce asked islanders to pinpoint areas where they feel unsafe in the island, explain why, and make suggestions for how these areas could be improved.

Qualitative Research

Qualitative research consisted of targeted engagement with victim-survivors, children and young people, and professional services which took the form of an online survey, 1-1 interviews and focus groups. The Taskforce commissioned IFF Research to analyse the data from the public call for evidence, and Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) to undertake the qualitative research with victim-survivors, children and young people and professionals across a range of sectors. For more information on the research methodology that was used, please see the full report:

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Caring%20and%20support/VAWG%20Taskforce%20Report.pdf>

Over the course of our research...

>50

victim-survivors engaged in our qualitative research

34

victim-survivors submitted testimonies

>40

professionals took part in the qualitative research

279

islanders filled in the safety heatmap

1800

children and young people (aged 11-25) responded to the survey

80

young people (aged 11-18) took part in focus groups

326

islanders responded to the public survey

Key findings:

Experiences of VAWG in Jersey

Sexual Harassment

"I am scared to walk alone at any time of day."

– Victim-Survivor

Almost all general public survey respondents had experienced at least one form of **sexual harassment** in their lifetime.

> 3/4

More than three quarters of general public survey respondents had experienced sexual harassment in the last 12-months.

> 1/3

Over a third of hotspots showing where respondents to the safety heatmap felt unsafe were in St Helier.

> 2/3

More than two thirds of general public survey respondents told us that wolf-whistling or catcalling should be a crime.



Almost 8 out of 10 general public survey respondents had experienced unwanted touching in their lifetime.



9 out of 10 general public survey respondents who had experienced sexual harassment, reported that the harasser was male.



8 out of 10 general public survey respondents adapt their behaviour in outdoor public spaces and more than three quarters adapt their behaviour in indoor public spaces to avoid sexual harassment.

The most common location that general public survey respondents reported experiencing sexual harassment was in the street (42%), followed by clubs, pubs, or bars (33%).

Taskforce recommendations

The Government of Jersey should strengthen legislation to combat sexual harassment and misogynistic behaviour in public spaces (see recommendation 8).

A campaign to tackle street harassment should be rolled out across St Helier (see recommendation 7).

Sexual Violence

"I am not the only one. I know of many other girls/women that have been assaulted or raped. It is all too common."

– Victim-Survivor

"I told a couple of (female) friends, and they brushed it off saying it happens to everyone, but it shouldn't be that way."

– Victim-Survivor

"It still feels like government and authorities want to sweep our experiences under the rug and ignore it."

– Victim-Survivor



1 in 4

general public survey respondents have experienced rape and/or attempted rape in their lifetime.

>1/2

More than half of general public survey respondents have experienced unwanted, overt sexual touching in their lifetime.

Almost all victim-survivors who engaged in the qualitative research had **experienced a form of physical abuse.**

2/3

Two thirds of general public survey respondents to the general public survey did not agree that the Government of Jersey takes physical forms of VAWG seriously.

2/3

Almost two thirds of general public survey respondents did not agree that the Courts in Jersey take physical forms of VAWG seriously.

Coercive and controlling behaviour

>85%

More than 85% of victim-survivors surveyed had experienced emotional or psychological abuse.

85%

85% of victim-survivors surveyed had experienced jealous and/or controlling behaviour.

Taskforce recommendations

The Attorney General should publish guidance on the application of the new offence of domestic abuse that was established by the new Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022 in June 2023. In particular, this guidance should make clear what behaviour constitutes coercive and controlling behaviour under the domestic abuse offence (see recommendation 4).

Half of the general public survey respondents have **received unwanted messages of a sexual nature** in their lifetime.



9 out of 10 respondents to the general public survey told us that someone sending photos of their genitalia when this has not been asked for should be a crime.



8 out of 10 respondents to the general public survey think that the Government of Jersey does not take online forms of VAWG seriously.



8 out of 10 respondents to the general public survey think that the Courts in Jersey do not take online forms of VAWG seriously.

> 1/3

More than a third of victim-survivors surveyed had experienced a form of online or tech-facilitated abuse.

> 2/3

Almost two thirds of the general public survey respondents who are under the age of 25 have received unwanted messages of a sexual nature.

> 1/2

Just over half of the general public survey respondents have experienced displays of pornographic or offensive material in their lifetime.

Taskforce recommendations

The Government of Jersey should ensure that online platforms used in Jersey are protecting their users, in line with similar protections to those afforded in the UK by the Online Safety Bill (see recommendation 10).

The Government of Jersey should strengthen legislation around online and tech-facilitated abuse (see recommendation 11).

Children and Young People (11-25 years)

“There is pressure to do sexual things.”

-Girl, 15

“It takes some time to recognise that being touched isn’t a compliment and to start to realise that it didn’t feel comfortable.”

-Girl, 16

“Nudes being spread around school has happened before – it’s not fair that these things happen to women.”

-Boy, 15

“Girls worry about their safety – boys don’t have to.”

-Girl, 17

“If it is your word against theirs, then you won’t be believed.”

-Girl, 17

“Things are often blamed on the woman; ‘you walked there, or you wore that.’”

-Girl, 15

More than half of the young women and girls who responded to the survey for children and young people (11-25 years) have experienced at least one form of VAWG.

As young women grow older, they are more likely to experience VAWG:



1 in 5 girls surveyed aged 11-14 had direct experience of VAWG.



2 in 5 girls surveyed aged 15-16 had direct experience of VAWG.

>40% More than 40% of girls surveyed aged 16-17 had direct experience of VAWG.

67% of survey respondents felt that Jersey was safer than other places, with the UK being the most frequent comparator, but only **34%** of these respondents were young women or girls.



What is causing violence against women and girls in Jersey?

Evidence shows that gender inequality is the key driver of VAWG. Women and girls are statistically more likely to be victims of certain types of violence, such as sexual violence or domestic abuse, whilst men are statistically more likely to be the perpetrators.

Violence against women and girls does not just happen. These acts of violence are a culmination of certain events, behaviour

patterns and cultural expectations that create an environment wherein violence against women is able to happen. We call this environment 'the conducive context'.

Over the course of the research, the Taskforce identified that a range of factors in Jersey were creating a conducive context wherein violence against women and girls was able to occur on the island. These can be summarised as:

	The conducive context
Culture	A <u>culture</u> that promotes gender inequality and misogynistic attitudes
Understanding	A poor <u>understanding of violence against women and girls</u>
Trust and accountability	Low levels of <u>trust and accountability</u>
Capacity to respond	A range of structural barriers that are limiting <u>our capacity to respond to VAWG</u>

Taskforce recommendations

The Government of Jersey should seek extension of the Istanbul Convention on the elimination of violence against women (see recommendation 1).

The Government of Jersey should develop a centralised dataset on violence against women and girls in Jersey (see recommendation 3).

Legislation, policy and practice are all linked. Without the correct legislation, professionals may be unable to effectively protect victim-survivors from their abusers. Without the correct policies, implementing consistent professional practice is virtually impossible. And without the correct professional practice, the efficacy of legislation and policy can be significantly curtailed.

Legislation, policy and practice interact to form different systems. In this section of the report, we look at how the composition of the following systems is impacting women's safety in Jersey:

- The Criminal Justice system
- The Healthcare system
- The Immigration system
- The Housing system
- Support services
- The Family Court System

The Criminal Justice System

“There is no justice on Jersey – not for women.”

– Victim-Survivor

“Poor legal outcomes, so ‘what’s the point in reporting it?’”

– Service Professional

“Why do drug dealers get longer sentences than rapists?”

– Boy, 16

Key finding

A lack of trust in the criminal justice system was a key theme across the research. Victim-survivors told the researchers that a strong belief nothing will be done is a key barrier to reporting to the police.

What’s creating this distrust?

- Poor criminal justice outcomes: there were only two rape convictions in 2021 and 2022, despite a total of 113 rape allegations being made.¹
- Negative reporting experiences: victim-survivors reported encountering victim-blaming attitudes and inappropriate conduct from the police.
- Poor communication: in cases where a prosecution had not been pursued, victim-survivors told us that the rationale behind this decision had not been made clear to them.
- Suspicion around sentencing: the absence of publicly available sentencing guidelines or decision-making protocols is allowing negative community perceptions of sentencing to grow.

“He didn’t get prosecuted, I was so scared, no one told me anything.”

– Victim-Survivor

“When I contacted the police they finally went to see him and told me he said he wouldn’t do anything again. About two weeks after, he threw a paving block through the windscreen of my car.”

– Victim-Survivor

¹ One of these convictions resulted from a guilty plea. The other conviction for rape was made following a trial but was subsequently overturned by the Court of Appeal. It should be noted that since 2022, a number of convictions for rape offences have been secured. In the first 10 months of 2023, there have been six rape trials, four of which have led to convictions. One of these convictions was in a case following a Victim’s Right to Review a charge decision. In addition, there were two defendants who pleaded guilty to rape charges. Four further defendants have been indicted on rape charges and are listed for trial at the end of the year or 2024.

How can Jersey improve public confidence in the criminal justice system?

Taskforce recommendations	Why?
An independent review of the Jersey criminal justice system should be conducted in relation to domestic abuse, rape, and serious sexual offences to determine whether current arrangements deliver the best outcomes for victims, defendants, and justice (see recommendation 15).	Independent reviews of the criminal justice system are considered best practice within a wider workplan to address VAWG. Reviews into the handling of VAWG cases have been treated as a matter of priority in the UK, a jurisdiction that has faced significant criticism for poor VAWG criminal justice outcomes and has similar rape conviction rates to Jersey.
The Law Officer's Department should more clearly signpost to the <u>Code on the decision to prosecute</u> and should also publish a simplified version of the guiding principles and general rationale used to make decisions on whether to pursue a prosecution (see recommendation 20).	Making the rationale behind these decisions more accessible to the public will help build transparency and confidence in the criminal justice system
Data, grouped by gender of the perpetrator, on prosecution rates, acquittal rates and sentencing length, alongside information on how sentencing decisions are made should be published (see recommendation 23).	Accurate data on sentencing will help to challenge misconceptions about sentencing in Jersey. Providing the public with access to the rationale behind why and how sentencing decisions are made will build transparency and community confidence in the criminal justice system.

Key Finding

Gaps in Jersey's legislation are undermining the ability of the criminal justice system to protect victim-survivors or effectively manage perpetrators.

There are no emergency barring orders under the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022.

Emergency barring orders are an important protective measure for victims of domestic abuse at risk of immediate danger. They have been in use in the UK since 2014.

Why does this matter?

Without emergency barring orders, the police do not have the power to remove a suspected perpetrator of domestic abuse from the residence of the victim whilst they investigate.

Non-fatal strangulation is not codified in legislation as an offence in Jersey.

Professionals estimate that there are between 1 and 4 cases of non-fatal strangulation in Jersey every month.

99% of general public survey respondents told us that non-fatal strangulation without consent should be a crime.

Why does this matter?

Non-fatal strangulation is one of the strongest high-risk markers on the domestic homicide timeline.

Strangulation increases the likelihood that a woman will be murdered by 8 times.

Economic abuse is not defined as a form of coercive control under the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022.

Economic abuse has been a legally recognised form of domestic abuse in England and Wales since 2021.

Over 57% of victim-survivors surveyed had experienced financial or economic abuse. The high occurrence of economic abuse cited by victim-survivors in our research is underscored by the evidence provided by key support services, such as Jersey Women's Refuge and Jersey Domestic Abuse Support.

Why does this matter?

The absence of economic abuse within the definition of the coercive control offence may make it more difficult to successfully convict perpetrators of economic abuse.

Stalking is not a named offence in Jersey.

28% of the victim-survivors surveyed had experienced stalking.

95% of general public survey respondents told researchers that stalking should be a crime.

Stalking has been a named offence in the UK since 2012.

Why does this matter?

Victims of stalking described feeling powerless, with the police unable to combat the behaviour of their stalker.

The absence of a stalking offence is having an impact on criminal justice outcomes. 192 reports of stalking were made in Jersey between 2016-2021, resulting in only 2 convictions.

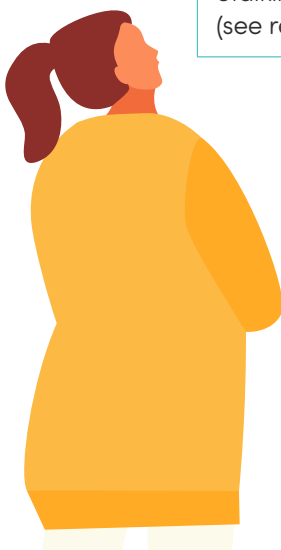
Taskforce recommendations

Emergency barring orders should be introduced into the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022 (see recommendation 24).

Non-fatal strangulation should be named as a standalone offence. (see recommendation 25).

Guidance should be issued that makes it clear that economic abuse is covered under the new offence of domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022 (see recommendation 26).

Stalking should be named as an offence in Jersey legislation (see recommendation 28).



The Healthcare System

"I went to my doctor... I broke down, I was really struggling to cope... I told him about the abuse, and I was told that 'going for a good walk' can clear your head. It made me distrust services over here."

– Victim–Survivor Interview

Key finding

Victim-survivors experiences suggest that routine or targeted enquiry into VAWG is not common practice across healthcare services in Jersey.

Routine enquiry is a term used to describe a process wherein all service users are asked about their experience of domestic and sexual violence. It does not require the service practitioner to recognise signs of abuse or to suspect abuse. In contrast, targeted enquiry involves practitioners only asking a service user if they are experiencing abuse if the user presents certain indicators of such abuse.

Why does this matter?

Women in contact with health services are more likely to be experiencing VAWG, so implementing routine or targeted enquiry within these organisations creates a key opportunity to identify victims and help them to access safety and support:

- Victim-survivors are most likely to seek medical assistance in relation to domestic abuse from their GP.
- 47% of women attending sexual health services will have experienced domestic violence or abuse at some point in their lives.
- 30% of domestic abuse begins during pregnancy.
- Women in contact with mental health services are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than other women.
- Women experiencing, or with a history of experiencing, VAWG are more likely to struggle with substance misuse.

Taskforce recommendations

Routine enquiry should be implemented in all:

- Sexual health services (see recommendation 41).
- Reproductive healthcare services (see recommendation 42).
- Mental health services (see recommendation 43).
- Alcohol and drug service (see recommendation 44).

Targeted enquiry should be implemented by frontline professionals working across Health and Community Services (see recommendation 45).

² These findings are based on figures collected in Jersey. The Taskforce has been advised that there is no data on whether these GPs have received training in the UK.

67% of professionals surveyed agreed that there was a lack of awareness of VAWG in universal services.

Why does this matter?

Victim-survivors are more likely to make a disclosure of abuse to a health professional than to other professionals. So, it is important that these professionals are trained to respond appropriately to victim-survivors, what safeguarding pathways to follow, and where to refer them for specialist support.

More than a third of GPs practicing in Jersey have not completed level 1 IRIS training.²

IRIS is a specialist domestic violence and abuse training, support, and referral programme for GPs. It is led by an Advocate Educator employed by FREEDA/Jersey Women's Refuge.

Why does this matter?

Women with a history of abuse are more likely to suffer from a range of chronic health problems. Given that GPs are usually the first port of call for individuals experiencing these symptoms, it is important that they can recognise indicators that a patient might be experiencing abuse.

Taskforce recommendations

- All health professionals should receive training on how to identify and respond to patients experiencing VAWG (see recommendation 45).
- All mental health services should receive training on the relationship between mental health problems and experiences of VAWG (see recommendation 43).
- Professionals working within the Alcohol and Drug Service should receive regular training on the connection between VAWG experiences and substance misuse issues (see recommendation 44).
- Level 1 IRIS training should be made mandatory for all GPs practicing in Jersey (see recommendation 40).

The Immigration System

“No choice but to stay, where do you go? I had no housing qualifications, I was on maternity leave so I had no job, it was the pandemic, I couldn’t get a rented place unless I had a full-time work contract, everything is expensive and hard to access.”

– Victim-Survivor Interview

“[the biggest barrier] is affordable accommodation, if you haven’t been here 5 or 10 years you can’t buy so you have to rent, that’s a huge cost and it forces people to stay in relationships where they are unsafe.”

– Specialist Service Interview

Key finding

The immigration rules and policies in Jersey are compounding the violence experienced by women who do not have 5 years residency in the island.

Women who are dependent on their partner for their residential status are:

At a higher risk of experiencing VAWG

Why?

Differences in residential status can create power imbalances within a relationship, which can exacerbate the potential for VAWG to occur.

Depending on a partner for rights to live and work in Jersey can also make it more difficult to leave an abusive relationship.

Less able to report abuse

Why?

These women face additional barriers to reporting abuse because they fear that the police will share their data with immigration enforcement, and that they will be forced to leave the island.

Unable to access the practical support they need to escape abuse

Why?

Access to economic support and safe accommodation are fundamental to the ability of these women to escape domestic abuse situations because it removes dependency on their abuser.

Women on a spousal visa do not have access to public funds, which means that they cannot access financial support or social housing.

Taskforce recommendations

- States of Jersey Police and Jersey Customs and Immigration Service should consider establishing an agreement that data on immigration status will not be shared without a victim-survivor’s consent in cases where they are reporting abuse (see recommendation 52).
- The Justice and Home Affairs Minister should introduce a concession for victim-survivors of domestic abuse on spouse visas to ensure they have access to public funds and access to the safety which this can afford them (see recommendation 49).

Key Finding

Access to justice for migrant workers who rely on their work permit to reside in Jersey is severely limited.

Migrant workers face significant barriers to:

Reporting abuse that is perpetrated against them by their employer.

Why?

Migrant workers who rely on their work permit to reside in Jersey fear that reporting abuse will result in a loss of their work permit, and therefore their right to live and work on the island.

Accessing legal remedies for abuse that has been perpetrated against them by their employer.

Why?

There is currently no legal aid provision for issues that involve employment law, so a migrant worker would not be eligible for legal aid under this scenario.

Taskforce recommendations

- Jersey Customs and Immigration Service should develop publicly available practice guidance for responding to migrant workers who are abused by their employer (see recommendation 57).
- Legal aid provision should be made available to migrant workers who face employment-based discrimination and/or abuse (see recommendation 58).

What are the options for victim-survivors of domestic abuse with less than 5-years residency?

Indefinite leave to remain (Domestic Violence)

In Jersey, victim-survivors of domestic abuse on spouse visas can apply to JCIS to gain residency status that is independent of their spouse through an immigration route known as Indefinite leave to remain (domestic violence) (hereafter 'ILR (DV)'). For an application to be approved, the victim-survivor is required to provide evidence that the relationship with their spouse was caused to permanently break down because of domestic violence.

The problem

Professionals who provide specialist support to victim-survivors told us that the evidential test for providing domestic abuse is currently too high.

A key part of the problem is that Jersey Customs and Immigration Service (JCIS) categorises evidence that necessitates interaction with the police, such as convictions or cautions, as strong, but considers evidence that does not require police involvement, such as photos or texts, as weak. As explained earlier, victim-survivors with less than 5-years residency face significant barriers to reporting to the police, so the way JCIS categorises evidence makes it extremely difficult for them to gather the evidence needed for a successful ILR (DV) application.

What can a victim-survivor do if their ILR(DV) application is rejected?

They can make an application to an alternative immigration route in order to obtain indefinite leave to remain on the island, alternative routes include Access Rights to Children, Long Residence or Private life.

The problem

Changing from one immigration route to another will result in the applicant losing any time accrued on the route they were on previously. This means that, if an individual is changing from ILR (DV) to Access Rights to Children – because their ILR (DV) application was rejected – the applicant will only obtain ILR under rights of access to children once they have been on this route for 5 years. As a result, they will be subjected to significant employment and housing restrictions until they have accrued 5 years continuous residency on the new route. The Taskforce contends that this issue will be largely resolved by reviewing the evidential test for proving domestic abuse in ILR (DV) applications (see recommendation 66), as this should result in less ILR(DV) applications being rejected.

Taskforce recommendation

JCIS should work with specialist support agencies to review the evidential test for proving domestic abuse in ILR (DV) applications (see recommendation 56).

Support Services

"I've been asking and asking for follow up counselling, there is none here, nothing specialist, that's really set me back."

– Victim-Survivor Interview

A lack of specialist counselling support is damaging the long-term recovery of victim-survivors.

Victim-survivors told the research team that a lack of specialist counselling support was damaging their long-term recovery.

Victim-survivors did not feel that specialist support professionals were able to support them through experiences of coercive control, particularly economic abuse. These women described feeling that some professionals were "waiting" for physical violence to occur before they could act.

- 100% of victim-survivors surveyed said that raising awareness about emotional abuse and coercive control was 'very important'.
- 100% of victim-survivors surveyed said that raising awareness about economic abuse was 'important' or 'very important'.

Young people aged (11-25 years) have a worrying low level of awareness regarding the specialist support provision for victim-survivors in Jersey.

Of the young people surveyed:

- 59% did not know about Dewberry House Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- 44% did not know about Jersey Action Against Rape
- 44% did not know about Jersey Domestic Abuse Support

Professionals reported low levels of confidence in managing perpetrators.

27% of the professionals surveyed told us that they did not feel confident responding to perpetrators. In comparison, less than 3% told us that they did not feel confident responding to victim-survivors and less than 5% did not feel confident responding to children or young people.



Taskforce recommendations

A gap analysis of the current specialist counselling provision for victim-survivors should be undertaken. (see recommendation 59).

All specialist support services should enrol in training on coercive and controlling behaviours (see recommendation 4).

All specialist support professionals should receive regular and in-depth training on how to identify and respond to economic abuse (see recommendation 5).

The Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) department should work closely with these specialist support services to promote better awareness of these services within schools and other sites for young people (see recommendation 65).

Professionals working in a range of public services should receive in-depth and regular training on how to identify and manage perpetrators (see recommendation 68).

The Family Court System

Across jurisdictions, research has found that family court systems are failing to prevent perpetrators of domestic abuse from using the family court system to continue the abuse of their former partner and their children.

In April 2023, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls published a report which found that perpetrators of domestic abuse were successfully using allegations of parental alienation to delegitimise allegations of domestic abuse in child custody cases. In June 2020, the UK Ministry of Justice published the 'Harm Panel' report which identified how a number of structural barriers were resulting in the systemic minimisation

of domestic abuse and ongoing harm from court orders in child contact cases.

The testimony of the victim-survivors who engaged in our research suggest that the issues identified by the research undertaken by the UN and the Harm Panel may also be present in the family court system in Jersey. Although we do not know how representative the concerns raised by the victim-survivors who engaged in our research are, the experiences they have shared indicate that the way the family court system in Jersey approaches domestic abuse cases may be having harmful effects in some instances.

Key finding

The testimony of victim-survivors has surfaced a range of issues within the Jersey Family Court system that demonstrate significant parallels with the issues identified by international research on family court systems in other jurisdictions.

Harm Panel research finding	Taskforce research finding
Evidence collected by the Harm Panel raised repeated concerns about the treatment of children and adult victims of domestic abuse in a considerable number of cases.	Victim-survivors who participated in Taskforce research told the researchers that they felt their allegations of domestic abuse had been dismissed in child residency cases.
UN research finding	Taskforce research finding
Research by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls found that perpetrators of domestic abuse were successfully using allegations of parental alienation to delegitimise allegations of domestic abuse in child custody cases.	Victim-survivors who participated in Taskforce research told researchers that their abusive former partners had used counter-allegations of parental alienation to silence their allegations of domestic abuse.
Harm Panel research finding	Taskforce research finding
The evidence received by the Harm Panel suggested that, where mothers are perceived to be at fault, they are regarded more negatively and are more likely to be expected to change their behaviour than are fathers who have perpetrated domestic abuse.	Victim-survivors who participated in Taskforce research told researchers that they felt they were being treated with less care than their male counterparts.

Harm Panel research finding	Taskforce research finding
The Harm Panel concluded that in the cohort of submissions they received, the presumption of parental involvement had detracted from the court's focus on the child's individual welfare and safety.	Victim-survivors told researchers that the Court's presumption that parental contact was in the best interests of the child was resulting in contact orders that prioritised parental contact over the rights of their child to be protected from abuse.

Harm Panel research finding	Taskforce research finding
A major theme of the submissions the Harm Panel received was that victims felt that the family court proceedings had further empowered and strengthened the perpetrators of abuse and increased their dominance. In their view, perpetrators had found that they could use the court process to inflict further harm on their victims.	Victim-survivors told researchers that their abusive former partners were able to continue to intimidate and exert control over them by manipulating family court processes.

Taskforce recommendations	
Given the significant parallels between the research findings of the Harm Panel, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls and the Taskforce research, the Taskforce recommends that further research is undertaken in the form of an independent review of the family court system, so that the prevalence and extent of the issues that have been surfaced by this initial piece of research can be fully understood (see recommendation 29).	The training received by the judiciary on the relationship between allegations of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and parental alienation should be reviewed (see recommendation 32).
Mandatory training should be introduced for all professionals working within the family court system so that they are better able to respond to cases where there is suspected domestic abuse (see recommendation 30).	Family court professionals should receive training on how perpetrators of domestic abuse may use the family court system to try and continue the abuse of their former partner (see recommendation 38).
JFCAS should develop a specific practice pathway for domestic abuse cases to ensure that JFCAS officers are able to consistently respond appropriately to cases where domestic abuse is alleged or suspected to be present (see recommendation 31).	JFCAS officers should receive training on how to identify and respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse within their caseload (see recommendation 38).

Key Finding

The Family Courts in Jersey follow UK practice directions (PD12J) for managing cases where there is suspected or alleged domestic abuse.

Work is currently underway to develop Jersey's own practice directions, based on the UK practice directions we already follow.

Why does this matter?

PD12J has come under heavy criticism by the authors of the Harm Panel report for presuming that parental contact is in the best interests of the child and decisions about when allegations of domestic abuse are deemed relevant.

Taskforce recommendation

When developing Jersey-specific practice guidance for cases where there is suspected or alleged domestic abuse, consultation with the authors of the Harm Panel should be undertaken to ensure that the weaknesses of PD12J are avoided (See recommendation 33).

How can Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) be addressed in Jersey?

Addressing violence against women and girls is about creating cultural change

Addressing VAWG is about creating a cultural change. Efforts to successfully tackle violence against women and girls are grounded in an understanding that VAWG is the outcome of a number of interacting factors at different levels which, together, produce a context wherein this violence is more likely to occur.

The socio-ecological model can help us to understand how individual incidents of VAWG are driven by a broader context of cultural norms, institutional practices, and social structures.⁸

Examples of structures, norms and practices found to increase the probability of violence against women, at different levels of social ecology:



Understanding how factors at different levels contribute to VAWG can help us to identify how best to address and reduce this violence at these different levels. Efforts to tackle VAWG have historically focused on responding to perpetrators and supporting the recovery of victim-survivors.

To tackle VAWG at the societal level, we need to use our knowledge of the underlying drivers of this violence to prevent it from happening in the first place. This is known as a primary prevention approach.

A primary prevention approach focuses on addressing the underlying drivers of violence against women and girls, with the goal of creating a context wherein the perpetration of this violence is unthinkable.

This involves work to challenge and change the systems, structures, norms, attitudes, practices, and power imbalances that drive this violence. In this way, the primary prevention approach seeks to address the causes of VAWG across all levels of the socio-ecological model.

⁸ Socio-ecological model designed using information from Our Watch, Changing the Story framework.

What about men and boys?

The Taskforce has been clear from the outset that we do not condone violence against any person. We recognise that men and boys can be victims of violence at the hands of women and girls and that this is also unacceptable. Men and boys are entitled to and should receive support when they experience violence and abuse.

Male-perpetrated violence against women and female-perpetrated violence against men are often driven by different causes and therefore require different solutions.

The types of violence that the Taskforce has been tasked with understanding are disproportionately perpetrated against women, by men. The evidence shows that these types of violence are perpetrated against women and girls, because of their gender.

These forms of violence are also perpetrated against men by women, but at much lower rates. To prevent and reduce these types of violence, it makes sense for work to begin with a focus on the primary way it is experienced and perpetrated.

Violence against men and boys is an important issue that warrants dedicated work to understand the problem and take action to prevent it. However, this issue cannot be resolved with the same strategies that are used to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls.

How can we create cultural change?

By improving knowledge and awareness within the community...

Campaigning to raise awareness about VAWG is an essential part of shifting attitudes within the community.

Taskforce recommendation

An ongoing and comprehensive VAWG campaign should be introduced, which begins with improving the community's basic understanding of the nature of VAWG in Jersey, before moving onto changing community attitudes (see recommendation 73).

By ensuring responsible reporting of VAWG cases within the media...

The media plays an important role in shaping cultural narratives around VAWG. VAWG is a complex issue, but media outlets often oversimplify or misrepresent the issue in their reporting. This can inadvertently perpetuate harmful narratives about VAWG such as victim-blaming attitudes or rape myths, which contribute to a context where male-perpetrated VAWG is more likely to occur and more difficult to challenge.

In recognition of this, the Taskforce has developed a dedicated media toolkit to support media professionals in Jersey to report responsibly on VAWG issues.

Taskforce recommendation

All media professionals in Jersey should use this toolkit (see recommendation 74). The toolkit is available at:

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Caring%20and%20support/VAWG%20Media%20Toolkit.pdf>



By engaging men and boys...

Men and boys play a key part in preventing violence against women. It is important that they are included in conversations about how we can challenge VAWG-conducive behaviour and how they can support the safety of the women and girls around them. Evidence shows that constructions of masculinity shape men's treatment of women. Ensuring that boys grow up with positive role models that can engage them in violence prevention efforts without making them feel alienated is key to addressing VAWG.

Taskforce recommendation

The engagement of men and boys is an integral element of future work to tackle VAWG in Jersey (see recommendation 75).

By challenging VAWG-conducive behaviour in schools...

Educating young people about the causes and impacts of VAWG is very important, but challenging VAWG-conducive behaviour in schools goes beyond what children and young people learn in the classroom.

To effectively address sexual harassment, sexist attitudes and misogynistic behaviour, all staff working within schools need to be comfortable and confident to challenge this behaviour and set high standards for the way students should treat and respect one another.

Taskforce recommendations

Education on sex and healthy relationships, alongside the causes of VAWG, should be a core element of PSHE curriculum. In addition, all professionals working with young people in educational settings should receive bystander training to effectively challenge VAWG-conducive behaviour (see recommendations 76 and 77).

By coordinating work to address VAWG in Jersey...

The Taskforce's initial report has provided a crucial starting point from which a much larger piece of work to address VAWG on the island can begin.

Taskforce recommendation

The Government of Jersey should develop a strategy to coordinate this work across government bodies, third sector services and community organisations (see recommendation 72).

Conclusion

This research has shone a light on the nature, extent, and very real issue of violence against women and girls in Jersey.

In drawing directly on their experiences to help form the Taskforce recommendations, we hope that victim-survivors living in Jersey feel that their voices have been respected and heard. The Taskforce hopes that by bringing their experiences to the attention of the public, women and girls will feel more confident that Jersey can create the momentum that is needed to enable real and lasting change.

Many of those reading the report, who do not have direct experiences of these issues, will undoubtedly be shocked by the findings. Those who have experienced violence directly, and those involved in work to support victim-survivors, may be less surprised.

The experiences of victim-survivors shared in this report have shown that violence against women and girls is taking many different forms and is happening in many different settings on the island. Systemic barriers created by existing policies, legislation, and practice, are compounding women's experiences of violence by creating additional barriers to their ability to access safety and support.

Tackling violence against women and girls in Jersey is not a small task. It will require a significant shift in community attitudes towards this issue, substantial efforts to improve understanding and recognition of this violence, the development of transparency and accountability mechanisms, and sizeable changes in the way systems currently respond to this problem. All these changes will require dedicated resource and investment.

This report summarises the key research findings and recommendations for addressing violence against women and girls in Jersey.

For a more comprehensive insight into our research findings and analysis, please see the full report: <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Caring%20and%20support/VAWG%20Taskforce%20Report.pdf>

Throughout this report the Taskforce have made a series of recommendations on courses of action to address violence against women and girls in Jersey. In some places the Taskforce have made clear and specific recommendations for change. In other parts of the report, the Taskforce have recommended that further in-depth and targeted research is undertaken to better understand the issues that have been surfaced by our work. It is the hope of the Taskforce that these clear recommendations for action will be taken forward by the Government of Jersey and other relevant bodies.

In cases where these recommendations are not taken forward, the Taskforce request that the rationale for doing so is made public alongside alternative proposals for action. Bringing these discussions into public view will help key institutions to build transparency and improve public confidence in their commitment to address violence against women and girls on the island.

Women and girls deserve to feel safe no matter where they are, whether that be at their place of education or at work, in public spaces, at home or online. This research has shown that this is not the reality for many women and girls in Jersey. This report represents the beginning of a much larger piece of work to address the issues of violence against women and girls in Jersey and prioritise the safety of women and girls across the island.

Our recommendations for addressing VAWG in Jersey

1	The Government of Jersey should seek extension of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence 2013 (the Istanbul Convention).
2	Government of Jersey should apply an intersectional approach to all future strategies and other work to address VAWG. Such an approach should include further research with women from marginalised groups in Jersey and the development of specific solutions to improve their safety.
3	The Government of Jersey should undertake a review of all the data collected on VAWG across services, in order to measure the prevalence of VAWG on the island.
	Following this work, further work should be undertaken to produce a future VAWG data development agenda and a centralised data set on VAWG that acts as a single source of truth for statutory, commissioned and third sector services.
4	The Attorney General should publish guidance on the application of the new offence of domestic abuse that was established by the new Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022 in June 2023. In particular, this guidance should make clear what behaviour constitutes coercive and controlling behaviour under the domestic abuse offence.
	All statutory and third sector support services that support victim-survivors of VAWG should conduct their own training needs analysis in regards to coercive and controlling behaviour and enrol the appropriate staff into training on coercive and controlling behaviour where needed.
5	All professionals supporting women who have experienced domestic abuse should receive regular and in-depth training on how to identify and respond to economic abuse.
6	The Government of Jersey should undertake further victim-survivor centred research on experiences of sexual and commercial exploitation on the island.

7	A campaign to tackle street harassment should be rolled out across St Helier.
	A stronger police presence should be introduced in Cheapside, Parade Gardens, Belmont Road area, and the Snow Hill area.
	Dedicated support for rough sleepers should be introduced in Parade Gardens.
8	Better street lighting should be introduced in the Snow Hill area.
	The Government of Jersey should strengthen legislation to combat sexual harassment and misogynistic behaviour towards women and girls in public spaces. In doing so, the Government of Jersey should draw on the recent work of Scotland and the UK to inform its approach on how best to improve women's safety in the public sphere.
9	The Government of Jersey should undertake further research to understand the prevalence and experiences of 'so-called' honour based abuse, FGM and other harmful practices such as forced marriage and force sterilisation, in Jersey.
	The Government of Jersey and the Safeguarding Partnership Board should deliver an awareness raising campaign amongst health professionals to ensure the mandatory reporting duty is understood and that they are aware of the multi-agency procedures that exist in this area.
10	The Government of Jersey should ensure that similar protections to those afforded by the UK Online Safety Bill, in relation to the regulation of online platforms to ensure they are protecting their users, are brought in through other means.
11	The Government of Jersey should review and strengthen the current legal framework to better protect islanders from online and technology-facilitated abuse. In particular, we recommend that the following should be considered:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The criminalisation of cyber flashing and the use of deep fakes. - The problem and evidential burden of motivation thresholds that require proof of intention to cause distress or gain sexual gratification. - The criminalisation of different forms of tech-facilitated abuse, including cyberstalking.

12	The Government of Jersey should invest in a comprehensive and ongoing programme of learning and development in order to strengthen the capacity of service providers (specialist and universal) to effectively respond to online and technology-facilitated VAWG.
13	The Government of Jersey should consider options for working with specialist support services in the UK to provide advice and support to victim-survivors in Jersey in the short-term.
	The Government of Jersey should provide and maintain accessible information for citizens in Jersey about online and tech-facilitated VAWG.
14	The Government of Jersey and the States of Jersey Police should collect data on online and tech-facilitated VAWG and track trends in the prevalence of this violence.
15	An independent review of the Jersey criminal justice system should be conducted in relation to domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences to determine whether current arrangements within the criminal justice system deliver the best outcomes for victims, defendants and justice.
16	States of Jersey Police should publish their procedure for managing concerns about police behaviour, including disciplinary processes and actions.
17	States of Jersey Police officers should receive training on how to manage conflicts of interest.
	States of Jersey Police should publish their policy for managing conflicts of interest within the police service.
18	States of Jersey Police data on number of calls, who makes reports and what actions are taken should be reviewed to identify if there any differences in how the police services respond to reports made by men and women.
19	Structure and staffing of IDVAs should be reviewed to ensure the service is adequately resourced to support victim-survivors in line with best practice.
	Service offer and publicity of the IDVA service should be reviewed to ensure victim-survivors understand the support provisions that are available.

20	The Law Officer's Department should more clearly signpost to the Code on the decision to prosecute.
	A simplified version of the guiding principles and general rationale used to make decisions on whether to pursue a prosecution should also be published.
21	The decision-making process for accepting and rejecting applications for special measures should be reviewed.
22	Professionals who support victim-survivors should be provided with up-to-date information and education on the Jersey legal context and the criminal justice system to ensure they are able to provide accurate advice and information.
23	Sex disaggregated data on prosecution rates, acquittal rates and sentencing length should be published in one place.
	Clear and simple information on the guiding principles and general rationale used to make sentencing decisions in Jersey should be published.
24	Emergency barring orders should be re-introduced into the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022.
	An accountability mechanism for the use of emergency barring orders by the police service should be established in their design.
25	Non-fatal strangulation should be named as a standalone offence.
	Guidance on the evidentiary basis for proving non-fatal strangulation should be issued alongside the offence.
26	Guidance should be issued that makes it clear that economic abuse is covered under the new offence of domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022.
27	The Minister for Home Affairs should undertake a review of the Domestic Abuse (Jersey) Law 2022 within the first five years of its enactment with the objective of ascertaining whether or not this legislation has been able to achieve the consistent and successful prosecution of perpetrators of economic abuse.
	If the legislation is not found to achieve this intended purpose, the legislation should be amended to ensure the successful prosecution of economic abuse.

28	Stalking should be named as an offence in Jersey legislation.
29	Further research should be undertaken in the form of an independent review of the family court system, so that the prevalence and extent of the issues surfaced by the research of the Taskforce can be accurately characterised and understood.
	This review should provide recommendations on areas for improvement and should also include a follow up review to monitor the progress that has been made by the Family Court system in Jersey.
30	Mandatory training should be introduced for all professionals working within the family court system to ensure they are better able to identify and respond to cases where there is suspected domestic abuse. This training should cover the different forms that domestic abuse can take, including economic abuse, post-separation abuse, stalking and harassment, and its impact on both the non-abusive parent and their children, and an accurate understanding of false allegations of domestic abuse.
31	JFCAS should develop a specific practice pathway for domestic abuse cases in order to ensure that JFCAS officers are able to consistently respond appropriately to cases where domestic abuse is alleged or suspected to be present.
32	The training received by the judiciary on the relationship between allegations of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and parental alienation should be reviewed.
33	Family court professionals should undertake consultation with the authors of the Harm Panel report and other UK experts to ensure that development of Jersey-specific practice guidance is informed by an understanding of the weaknesses of UK guidance and avoids the limitations of Practice Direction 12].
34	JFCAS should prioritise a review of outcomes according to the gender of the party over the past 5-years.

35	The family courts should undertake a review of contact, residency and shared residency orders made in the past 5-years to assess if the presumption of parental involvement has undermined children's safety in cases where there is alleged domestic abuse. Those involved in the design of the review methodology should mitigate the risk of further harm or re-traumatisation to the vulnerable adults and children involved in these cases.
36	The family courts in Jersey should keep the ongoing safety of child arrangement orders under review in every case where domestic abuse has been alleged, in order to ensure that these arrangements are working in the best interests of the children and victims-survivors involved.
37	The Family Justice Council that is being led by the Deputy Bailiff for the purpose of unifying the approach to family justice across the family court system in Jersey, should have specific regard to the way the Family Courts, JFCAS and Children's Services interact and work together in cases where there is suspected or alleged domestic abuse.
38	JFCAS officers should receive training on how to identify and respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse within their caseload. This training should be formalised under the JFCAS domestic abuse practice pathway (see recommendation 36).
	A dedicated perpetrator referral process into Jersey Domestic Abuse Programme should be included within the JFCAS domestic abuse practice pathway.
39	Training on the role of IDVAS and the qualifications they have completed should be introduced for all Family Courts professionals.
40	Level 1 IRIS training should be made mandatory for all GPs practicing in Jersey in order to ensure that all victim-survivors receive an appropriate standard of care.
41	All sexual health services in Jersey should implement routine enquiry into their practice.
42	All reproductive healthcare services should implement routine enquiry procedures when a patient requests an abortion.

43	All mental health services and practitioners in Jersey should adopt routine enquiry processes.
	All mental health services and practitioners in Jersey should receive training on the relationship between mental health problems and experiences of VAWG.
44	Professionals working within the Alcohol and Drug Service should receive regular training on the connection between VAWG experiences and substance misuse.
	The Alcohol and Drug Service should implement routine enquiry within their practice.
45	All health professionals should receive training on how to identify and respond to patients experiencing VAWG, and the available referral pathways for victim-survivors.
	Targeted enquiry should be implemented by frontline professionals working across Health and Community Services.
46	Training on identifying non-fatal strangulation should be available to all frontline health practitioners working across HCS and primary care.
	A self-referral pathway for non-fatal strangulation should be made available to victim-survivors to see a forensic physician.
47	Veterinary professionals in Jersey should receive regular training on the link between animal abuse and domestic abuse, indicators of domestic abuse and the referral pathways available to victim-survivors on the island.
48	Further research should be undertaken to understand the experiences of health and social care workers in Jersey in relation to VAWG behaviours and crimes. The findings of this research should be published alongside recommendations to safeguard health and social care workers from harassment and abuse.
49	The Justice and Home Affairs Minister should introduce a concession for migrant victims-survivors on spouse and work visas to ensure they have recourse to public funds and access to the safety which this can afford them.

50	JCIS should improve the information available to the public on the immigration system and the rights and entitlements of migrants.
	Migrants should also receive information on specialist VAWG support services. This information should be presented in a user-friendly format.
51	A definition of “immigration abuse” should be included within the Attorney General’s guidance on the scope and application of the offence of domestic abuse (see also recommendation 4).
52	States of Jersey Police and Jersey Customs and Immigration Service should work together to review their data sharing policies and legislative reporting duties and consider establishing an agreement that data on immigration status will not be shared without a victim-survivor’s consent in cases where they are reporting abuse.
	Data sharing policies that exist between States of Jersey Police and Jersey Customs and Immigration Service should be made publicly accessible and easy to understand, so that victim-survivors and support services are clear on what these are.
53	Additional and independent advocacy services should be established to support individuals from minority communities to navigate services and ensure that they receive the benefits they are entitled to.
54	JCIS should review its process around communicating immigration decisions to ensure the rationale behind the decision is clear to the applicant concerned.
	JCIS should consider options to ensure that individuals are aware of the complaints and appeals process that exist for challenging immigration decisions.
55	Immigration officers should be trained to recognise the indicators of VAWG and factors that may escalate the risk to victims-survivors.
	JCIS should implement targeted enquiry processes and have consistent safeguarding processes in place so that victims-survivors can be referred to the appropriate services for support.

56	<p>JCIS should work alongside specialist domestic abuse support services to review their evidential thresholds for proving domestic violence in ILR (DV) applications. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JCIS should recognise that evidence submitted by specialist domestic abuse support services on behalf of ILR (DV) applicants, can be considered strong evidence of abuse under the UK Home Office guidance. - Specialist domestic abuse support services should work with JCIS to better understand the evidential requirements of the UK Home Office guidance. This will help to ensure that they provide evidence that fulfils the criteria that JCIS requires in order to be considered strong evidence of domestic abuse under the ILR (DV) route.
57	JCIS should develop practice guidance for responding to migrant workers who are abused by their employer or colleague. This guidance should be publicly available.
58	Legal aid provision should be made available to migrant workers who face employment-based discrimination and/or abuse.
59	The Government of Jersey undertakes a review of the follow-on accommodation available to victim-survivors who are moving on from temporary refuge accommodation. If it is found that there is insufficient accommodation available to this group, additional investment into the establishment of such accommodation should be considered.
60	A gap analysis of the current counselling and therapeutic support provision available to victim-survivors should be undertaken.
	Following the findings of this gap analysis, subsequent investment should be made to improve the appropriateness and availability of counselling and therapeutic support provision where needed.
61	Training programmes for all statutory and non-statutory specialist support services should be reviewed to ensure that all support workers working with victim-survivors have received adequate and regular levels of training on the dynamics of VAWG and using a trauma-informed approach.

62	The Government of Jersey should consider investment into the establishment of by-and-for services for victim-survivors from marginalised groups.
63	The Government of Jersey should consider investing into the establishment of an online support provision for victim-survivors.
64	An accurate and centralised dataset on Harmful Sexual Behaviour should be developed. This work should be undertaken as part of the larger VAWG data development agenda (see recommendation 3).
65	The Children and Young People Education and Skills (CYPES) department should work closely with Dewberry House Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Jersey Action Against Rape and Jersey Domestic Abuse Support to promote better awareness of these services within schools and other sites for young people.
66	The Government of Jersey should work with the Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) department to develop an education programme for parents to better support their children who have questions about, or experiences of, VAWG. This programme should also provide parents with background information on the main drivers of VAWG.
67	Schools should ensure that all students are aware of the provision of school counsellors on site, and how to access this service.
68	Key public services such as housing, health, education and social security, should be provided with in-depth and regular training on how to identify and respond to perpetrators of VAWG.
69	Jersey Domestic Abuse Programme should be assessed for Respect Accreditation.
70	The Government of Jersey should reignite efforts to develop a statutory system of post-custodial supervision for offenders who have been sentenced to imprisonment for six months or longer.
	Post-custodial supervision arrangements should ensure that offenders are supported to navigate a range of key services upon their release and these services receive training to better understand the importance of their role in supporting offenders to reintegrate into the community.

71	The States of Jersey Police should make efforts to increase public awareness of the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme. Professionals working with women who are at risk of abuse should receive training on how to request a public interest disclosure.
72	The Government of Jersey should develop a comprehensive strategy to coordinate work tackle VAWG across government and third sector services.
	The strategy should be independently governed to ensure accountability.
73	An ongoing and comprehensive campaign to boost awareness and change communities around VAWG issues should be introduced.
74	All media professionals should utilise the dedicated toolkit we have developed on the responsible and sensitive reporting of VAWG issues.
75	The engagement of men and boys should be a key feature of future efforts tackle VAWG in Jersey and should be represented as such in all future strategies.
76	CYPES should develop a core PSHE curriculum on sex and healthy relationships which continues throughout a student's school career.
	CYPES should ensure that the PSHE curriculum includes explicit links between gender inequality, misogyny, victim blaming and violence directed towards young women and girls.
	CYPES should make training mandatory for all teachers who teach PSHE to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence in delivering content around sex, relationships, violence and abuse.
	CYPES and schools should utilise the skills and knowledge of Brook in the meaningful engagement of students in the future development of the PSHE Curriculum.
	CYPES should include an explicit audit of VAWG in the Jersey Schools Review Framework
	CYPES should include explicit reference to an assessment of VAWG in schools' annual safeguarding audit
77	CYPES should consider rolling out a 'whole-of-school' approach across schools.
	Professionals working with young people in educational settings should receive Bystander training to develop a culture of vigilance, challenge and high standards of gender equality and safety.
	Schools should work with students to develop a Bill of Rights which is explicit in describing what is not acceptable behaviour.

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Tara Murphy

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(Supporting Officer)

Support Services

Some readers may have found the content and research findings shared in this report upsetting. These local support services can listen and guide you, providing you with the support you may need, and many of them are confidential.

If you've experienced or witnessed violence against women and girls, you might want to report it.

For more information on reporting a crime and the justice process visit Victims First Jersey: www.victimsfirst.je

FREEDA/Jersey Women's Refuge

FREEDA/Jersey Women's Refuge provides emotional and practical support and advice for victims of domestic abuse and their children. Their services include a helpline, safe house and specialist team ready to listen, with the offer of putting together support and safety plans meeting your needs and wishes.

Call their helpline: 0800 735 6836 (always open)
Email: hello@jerseywomensrefuge.org
Website: <http://jerseywomensrefuge.org/>

Jersey Domestic Abuse Support (IDVA AND ISVA)

Jersey Domestic Abuse Support is an independent service developed to protect and support victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Their qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisors provide support and advice to develop long-term safety solutions for men, women and their families.

Call: +44 (0) 1534 880505
Email: JDAS@gov.je
Website: <https://www.jdas.je/>

Dewberry House Sexual Assault Referral Centre

Dewberry House is staffed with a team of professionals that work to help and care for people who have been victims of sexual assault. They'll always provide you with a safe, non-judgemental and caring service, that will always focus on your needs.

Call: +44 (0) 1534 888222
Email: dewberryhouse@gov.je
Website: <https://www.dewberryhouse.je/>

Jersey Action Against Rape

Jersey Action Against Rape is an independent and confidential service helping people to recover from the trauma of sexual violence. They have a dedicated helpline, website and on-site counselling where you can have access to qualified and specially trained counsellors and psychotherapists.

Call their confidential helpline: +44 (0) 1534 482800
Email: help@jaar.je
Website: <https://jaar.je/>

Victims First Jersey

Victims First Jersey is a free independent and confidential service supporting victims and witnesses of crime in Jersey. The service offers free support and advice to anyone affected by crime in Jersey. It does not matter if the crime has not been reported to the Police, Victims First Jersey are available to help you cope and recover after your experience of crime.

Call their free support line: 0800 7351612

Email: victimsfirstjersey@gov.je

Website: <https://www.victimsfirst.je/>

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NSPCC

NSPCC's mission is to protect children at risk, prevent abuse and trauma from happening, and transform society so it's safer for children everywhere. Their practitioners in Jersey deliver lifechanging services for children, young people and families. Whether that's helping them deal with the extra stresses of parenthood, or moving on from abuse.

Call: 0808 800 5000 (for those aged 18 and over)

0800 1111 (childline for those aged under 18)

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

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Children and Families Hub

The Children and Families Hub provides information, advice and support for families and young people. Their aim is to make sure you get the right help, at the right time. This could be some advice on the telephone or a one-to-one consultation. They'll also put you in touch with any services that can help you. The hub also responds to any safeguarding concerns you may have for a child or young person.

Call: +44 (0) 1534 519000

Email: childrenandfamilieshub@gov.je

Website: [https://www.gov.je/Caring/](https://www.gov.je/Caring/ChildrenAndFamiliesHub/pages/childrenandfamilieshubhomepage.aspx)

[ChildrenAndFamiliesHub/pages/childrenandfamilieshubhomepage.aspx](https://www.gov.je/Caring/ChildrenAndFamiliesHub/pages/childrenandfamilieshubhomepage.aspx)

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Single Point of Referral (SPOR)

Single Point of Referral for Adult Social Services provide 1 point of contact to raise concerns about the immediate safety or welfare of an adult.

Call: +44 (0) 1534 444440

Email: spor@gov.je

Website: <https://www.gov.je/pages/contacts.aspx?contactId=760>

Housing

The Housing Advice Service provides information, advice and support for Islanders around all aspects of housing.

Call: +44 (0) 1534 444444

Email: housingadvice@gov.je

Website: <https://www.gov.je/Home/HousingAdviceService/Pages/AboutHousingService.aspx>

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Citizen's Advice

Citizen's Advice give independent, confidential and impartial advice that Islanders need for the problems they face. They champion the rights of individuals and promote equality and justice for all. They give people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward, whoever they are and whatever their problem.

Call: 0800 735 0249

Email: advice@cab.org.je

Website: <https://www.citizensadvice.je/>

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Shelter

The Shelter Trust is the leading provider of accommodation and support services for the homeless community in Jersey. The Trust provides accommodation, food, support and encouragement for around 100 people per night at 4 sites in and around the town area.

Call: +44 (0) 1534 730235

Email: admin@shelter.org.je

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Liberate

Liberate is the Channel Island's equality and diversity charity. Liberate offers free counselling to anyone from a minority group in Jersey who is experiencing poor mental health.

Email: counselling@liberate.je

Website: <https://liberate.je/counselling/>

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Mind Jersey

Mind Jersey is an independent local charity that provides support to people living with mental illness. Mind Jersey offers free counselling as well as a range of other support services.

Call: +44 (0) 7829 933929

Email: admin@mindjersey.org

Website: <https://www.mindjersey.org/>



“It’s a Hidden Problem”

**The issue of violence against
women and girls in Jersey**

A report by the Taskforce on
Violence Against Women and Girls