

Delivery Plan 2026-2028

Together we are building a society wide movement that stops violence against women and girls before it starts, that promotes a culture where healthy relationships are seen as the norm, where violence against women is never accepted and which enables everyone to thrive.

By focusing on prevention, we can address the root causes of violence and create a future that is not only safer for women and girls, but is more respectful, just and equal for everyone in our society. This change will only be achieved if all of us are involved.

Men and boys have a vital role in ending violence against women and girls. Alongside women and girls they are partners for change, challenging harmful norms, calling out disrespect and abuse, modelling positive behaviour, and helping to create cultures based on equality and respect.

It is only through working together across our communities, wider society and government that we can start to build the transformative change we need.

There is something everyone can do.

Our Vision

A CHANGED SOCIETY WHERE WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE FREE FROM ALL FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND HARM

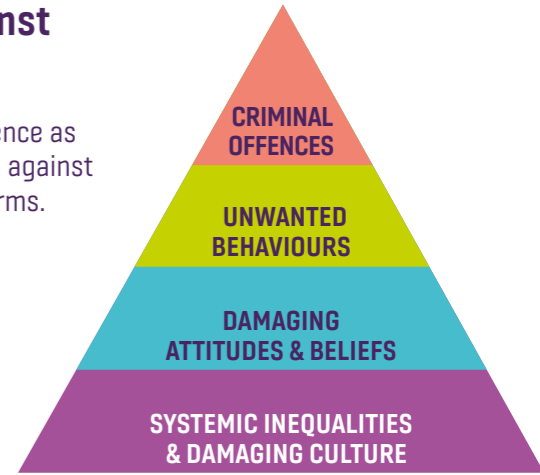
INCLUDING THE ATTITUDES, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES THAT CAUSE THEM

NOTE:
VAWG: Violence against women and girls
EVAWG: Ending violence against women and girls

What is violence against women and girls?

Sometimes people think of violence as only physical, however, violence against women and girls takes many forms.

Violence ranges from everyday misogynistic attitudes and damaging culture to harmful, unwanted behaviours, and **serious criminal offences** and is overwhelmingly but not exclusively carried out by men.



The United Nations defines Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as:

“any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

(UN General Assembly, 1993, p.2.)

Violence against women and girls is comprised of actions and the threat of actions including:

physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence occurring in the family including children and young people (Domestic Abuse), in the general community, or in institutions, including coercive control and stalking.

harmful sexual behaviour which is sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people that are inappropriate or abusive.

sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation in any public or private space.

online and technology facilitated abuse [or gender based violence] including cyberstalking, cyber flashing, sexual harassment, grooming for exploitation or abuse, image based sexual abuse and abuse through emerging technologies such as ‘internet of things’ devices.

workplace sexual harassment ranging from sexual jokes or comments to unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

financial abuse such as controlling a woman’s or girl’s access to their money, taking loans or credit cards in their name, or using their money without their permission.

commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, trafficking, child sexual abuse, so-called honour based violence, including female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and so-called honour crimes.

everyday harm caused by everyday misogyny, sexist jokes and language, and discrimination which contributes to an atmosphere in which the threat of violence, specific or general is consistently in women’s minds.

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What is this about?

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) cuts across all generations, all communities, and all parts of our society. It happens every day, everywhere and impacts how women and girls learn, live, work and socialise.

The Northern Ireland Executive has recognised the importance of this issue and this is why ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) is one of the key priorities within the Programme for Government 2024-2027.

The EVAWG Strategic Framework 2024 -2031 sets out a clear roadmap of how we will work together to achieve the society wide change needed to stop this violence abuse and harm.

The first Delivery Plan which started in 2024, mobilised people from across communities, organisations and government to raise awareness about violence against women and girls and take action to prevent it.

This Delivery Plan and investment builds on that foundation. It aims to drive further action, rally multiple sectors, strengthen collaboration, and embed a focus on prevention and early intervention across government and wider society. It will continue the momentum, ensuring continuity, consolidating good practice and allowing for the expansion of initiatives that have proven effective.

This is a Delivery Plan for everyone in our society. We all have a responsibility to take action, to speak up, and to work together to prevent violence against women and girls.

How we deliver

Investing in communities – Through the Local and Regional Change Funds we will invest in grassroots community groups and regional expert organisations to raise awareness about VAWG, equip everyone to have healthy relationships and ensure women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.

Society Wide Campaigns – We will lead and work together with our partners to deliver strategic campaigns so that everyone, including our children and young people, understands what VAWG is and knows how to take action to prevent it.

Collaboration across society and government – We will work with partners across government and society to mobilise action in multiple sectors and embed prevention of violence against women and girls. Delivery of other relevant strategies will be strengthened through a collaborative and joined-up approach including the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

The voice of lived experience and young people will inform delivery of actions.

EVAWG DELIVERY PLAN 2026-2028

The second two-year Delivery Plan will drive action, rally multiple sectors, strengthen collaboration and continue to embed a focus on prevention and early intervention across government and society.

Prevention



Changed Attitudes, Behaviours & Culture
Healthy, Respectful Relationships
Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

Justice System



A justice system which has the confidence of victims, survivors and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls

Protection & Provision



Quality frontline services, protection, and provision for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls

Working better Together



All of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls

- Continue the Local Change Fund through **partnership with Local Councils** to implement a community-led grants programme and Council-led initiatives to maintain momentum and prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) at the local level.
- Continue the Regional Change Fund through **partnership with the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS)** to support educational and awareness-raising activities on VAWG across schools, workplaces, and communities throughout the region.
- In **partnership with Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and DOJ and other key stakeholders, including lived experience**, design and plan Phase Three of Power to Change Campaign for roll out 2026-27.
- Continue the roll out of the 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' (H.S.K.T) Coercive Control Campaign including training for cross-sectoral frontline workers in **partnership with key stakeholders**.
- Develop and deliver a **major media campaign** to focus on VAWG prevention, building understanding of what VAWG is, its root causes and how to play an active role in preventing it.
- Deliver in **partnership with the Department of Education (DE)** an agreed EVAWG action plan to coordinate interventions targeted at children and young people and focused on healthy relationships, delivered with early years providers, schools and community groups, parents and carers.

7 Partner with the Department of Education (DE) and the Education Authority (EA) Youth Services to embed a diverse youth voice in the EVAWG programme through integration of EVAWG into curriculum, youth leader training and Youth Voice structures.

8 Work with existing sectoral groups (safer socialising; workplace; and tertiary education) to deliver EVAWG actions while collaborating with **new sectors** such as arts and sport to stimulate further action on EVAWG.

9 Support the delivery of recommendations arising from the EVAWG community led review on rural women and girls in **partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), sectoral partners, other government departments and Arm's Length Bodies**.

10 In partnership with sectoral partners continue community-led reviews on the needs of deaf and disabled women and girls and migrant women and girls, and initiate further Community Led Reviews as identified in the EVAWG Strategic Framework.

11 Work in partnership with key partners across government, including the DoJ and community and voluntary sector, to improve access to information, to build confidence in the justice system for women and girls including through legislative reform, campaigns and strengthened protection measures; to be able to better support victims, survivors, and witnesses through their Justice Journey.

12 In partnership with Northern Ireland Civil Service Human Resources (NICSHR) and other departments continue to support the development and roll out of the EVAWG training portfolio across the NICS.

13 Commission specific Northern Ireland (NI) reports to fill identified evidence gaps and inform future initiatives.

14 Develop an EVAWG online hub and digital communication tools, including social media platforms, to ensure that programme information is more accessible to the public.

15 Commission an independent interim review of EVAWG Programme in 2027/28.

KEY

Prevention

Protection & Provision

Justice System

Working Better Together