



Aberdeenshire Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership

The Aberdeenshire Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership (AVAWGP) is a multi-agency partnership committed to preventing and eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls in Aberdeenshire. The AVAWGP has a role in supporting the delivery of [Equally Safe](#), the Scottish Government's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls across Scotland. By tackling gender inequality, we will make our women and girls safer, stronger, and more able to thrive and reach their true potential.

Leigh Jolly, Aberdeenshire Council's Head of Children's Services, Chairs the AVAWGP. Midge Mackay is Aberdeenshire Councils Strategic Development Officer for Violence Against Women and Girls. This partnership meets regularly throughout the year and is formed by committed partners from public and third sector organisations. Aberdeenshire Council representatives include Health and Social Care, Housing, Education, Community Justice to name but a few. We are joined by colleagues from Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, Rape Crisis Grampian and Grampian Women's Aid, this list is not exhaustive and remains fluid although membership is agreed by the group, and everyone is hugely committed to the cause.

AVAWGP recognises that violence against women and girls can take many forms and that some women and girls may experience different or multiple forms of male violence over their lifetime.

We use Violence Against Women and Girls to refer to a range of actions that harm, or cause suffering and indignity to women and children. These include but are not limited to rape, attempted rape, domestic abuse, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, 'honour' killings and physical, sexual, and psychological violence including coercive control and financial abuse.

By adopting a gendered definition, the Partnership does not deny or minimise the use of violence against men or within same sex relationships. The gendered analysis is a reflection that women and girls are disproportionately affected by a particular form of violence that they experience because they are women and girls which has its roots in gender inequality. Whilst a particular form of violence, including domestic abuse, is disproportionately experienced by women, men also experience domestic abuse and are entitled to support in the same way that women are. The AVAWGP condemns all forms of violence and abuse and also recognises the critical role men play in challenging violence and inequality.

Delivering support in Aberdeenshire has never been more important. We work and live in more rural communities, and we know that for those living with any form of abuse this can be even more isolating.

It is so important that women and girls that are affected by any form of violence to know that they are not alone, help and support are available from many sources within Aberdeenshire. Here are just a few links below:

[Domestic abuse - Police Scotland](#) – in cases of emergency dial 999

[Home - Rape Crisis Grampian \(rcgrampian.co.uk\)](http://rcgrampian.co.uk)

[Home | Grampian Womens Aid \(grampian-womens-aid.com\)](http://grampian-womens-aid.com)

[Getting help for domestic violence and abuse - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)