



Towards ending violence against women and girls in Wandsworth



Part 1 Report
March 2023

Violence against women and girls

Violence against women and girls includes things like:



- being harmed or hurt by someone



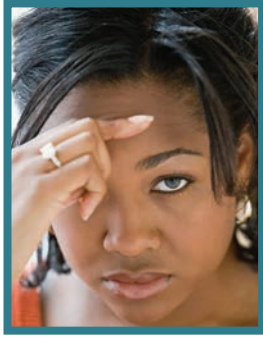
- being made to do something you don't want to do



- rape or being forced to have sex or do sexual things



- being threatened, pestered or followed by someone



- being bullied, or someone making you feel scared or ashamed



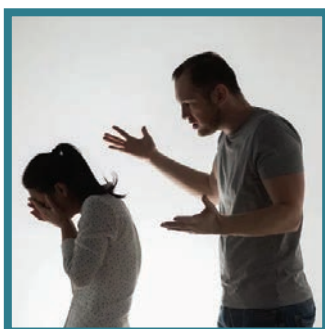
- sharing pictures of women and girls on a phone or online



Violence can happen online, on the phone, at home or in the community.



You could be harmed by someone you know or by a stranger.



Violence against women and girls is usually done by men and boys.



About this report

We are Roots to Change CIC.



We are working on a project called **Towards ending violence against women and girls in Wandsworth.**

The short name for the project is **TEVEA Wandsworth.**



There are a few parts to our project. This report looks at part 1.



For this part of our project, we spoke to lots of people about:

- why there is a lot of violence against women and girls in Wandsworth



- what can be done to stop violence from happening in the first place



- who can help make change happen



We have put all the information we found into this report.

We will use this to make a plan for what to do in the next part of the project.



We want to share this report with local people, businesses and organisations in Wandsworth.



It gives everyone ideas of what we can all do to change things.

Everyone can help make change happen



Everyone can help to make change and end violence against women and girls.



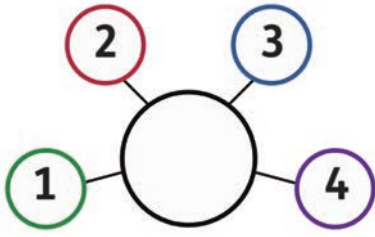
This includes:

- you
- people in the community
- local businesses
- the council and local government
- schools and colleges
- the police



We all need to work together to make sure change happens.

What we found out



Violence against women and girls happens for lots of reasons. Some of these reasons are:



1. Women are not treated with the same respect or seen as being as important as men



Not enough money is given to support jobs lots of women do. Jobs like being a teacher or a nurse.



And not enough money is given to groups that support women with things like getting a job or doing a course.



Men are not asked to take time off to look after children and others.

This means women often have to do more of this unpaid work.



All these things help teach people to think that women are not as valuable or important as men.

What could be done

Businesses and other organisations could do more to make sure:

- women get paid properly for the work they do and are not paid less than men for the same work
- men are able to take time off to look after children and others





- women are not treated unfairly for taking time off work



- groups that support women have enough money to do their work

2. How people think men and women should behave



Lots of people think that men and women should behave in a certain way.



Many people think men should:

- earn most of the money for the family



- protect women and girls
- be strong and in control. Not cry or show emotion



Many people think women should:

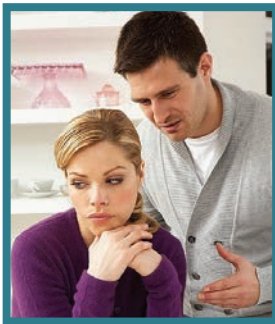
- be gentle and caring



- be polite



- do what men want



Men who think like this can often have bad attitudes and be violent towards women and girls.

What could be done

More work could be done to help people think differently about what men and women should be like.



3. Seeing violence against women and girls as normal and ok



Violence against women and girls is more common in countries that think violence is ok.



In the UK, excuses are made for the way people think about and treat women and girls.

For example, they might say they were just having a bit of a laugh.



Women and girls are often blamed for violence that happens to them.

For example, when a woman or girl is raped, people look at how they were dressed. They don't look at what the man did.



Our laws do not always protect women and girls from violence.



Violence against white women and girls often gets more attention.



Violence against women and girls who are not white gets less attention.



This is not fair.

What could be done



More could be done to get people of all **genders** to stand up to bad things.



Gender can mean how you feel about yourself. You might feel you are male, female, trans or none of these.



The police, businesses and other organisations could think about what to do.



They all have a part to play in making things better for everyone.

4. How women are seen in the media



Media means things like TV, films, magazines, newspapers, music and songs.



In the media, women are often shown for their bodies, faces and to please other people.



They are often shown wearing fewer clothes than men and being controlled by them.



This shows women and girls as being weaker and less powerful than men.

What could be done



More could be done to help people understand how badly the media treats women and girls.

Also to help people understand how they can stand up to it.

5. Groups of people who say hateful things about women and girls



There are some groups of men who say bad things and spread hate about women and girls. This happens mainly online.



These groups try to get other men and boys to join them.

What could be done

More could be done to:

- support men and boys to think about these harmful thoughts and the way they act.

And when they see these harmful things, to stand up to them



- support teachers, youth workers and family members to be aware of these groups.

And then give more support on how to deal with them



- give people of all genders more chances to meet and listen to each other.

This will help build new and good relationships



6. Not enough understanding of rights



Rights are things you are allowed to do and how you should be treated.

Every human being has the same rights.



Equality means everyone is important and has the same chances in life.



There is not enough being done in the UK to teach people about rights and equality.



This means people don't always see when they or someone else is being treated unfairly.



What could be done

More could be done to help people understand their rights. The rights of all people should be protected.

7. Understanding what happy healthy relationships look like



We see lots of unhealthy relationships and violence in films on tv and online.



If people see lots of unhealthy relationships, they might not know what a good relationship looks like.



This includes relationships with friends, family and boyfriends or girlfriends.

What could be done



- more could be done to help people understand what a healthy relationship looks like



- more money and support could be given to schools.

This will be spent on teaching children and young people about different kinds of relationships



- more information about healthy relationships should be given from a younger age



- schools, parents and carers could work together.

They could help more children and young people to have good thoughts and behaviours



- more support to help children and young people stay safe when using **social media**.

Social media is things like Facebook or Twitter



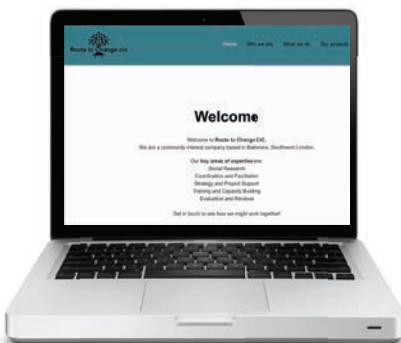
Contact us

If you have any questions or want to know more about this work, contact us.



Email us:

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Look at our website:

www.rootstochangecic.com



Thank yous

Here are the organisations who helped to pay for the work we have done:



- Battersea Power Station Foundation



- The National Lottery Community Fund

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

- Greater London Authority



Wandsworth Council SEND Participation Team have paid for this report to be in easy read.