

Misogyny

Misogyny is hatred or contempt for women or girls. It is a form of sexism used to keep women at a lower social status than men. A person with misogynistic beliefs may not be aware that they are demonstrating a hatred towards women — or even believe that they hate women — but their behaviour and words expose prejudice or hostility to women.

Misogyny may be distinguished from the closely related word sexism, which signifies discrimination based on sex (although it most frequently refers to discrimination against women) and also carries the meaning “behaviour, conditions, or attitudes that foster stereotypes of social roles based on sex.”

Misogyny refers specifically to a hatred of women. The word is formed from the Greek roots *misein* (“to hate”) and *gynē* (“woman”).

[1]

Misogyny is also linked to many other forms of violence, particularly gender-based violence such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. When a person feels hatred towards women generally, it becomes that much easier to commit violence against them.

An individual with a misogynistic world view may view the women in their life as property, and harshly control them. They may also react with anger if a woman does not give them what they feel entitled to, such as sex or romantic love, which may result in sexual assault, physical violence, or even homicide.

Addressing misogyny is critical to ending all types of violence in our society. Misogyny drives domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, homophobia, transphobia, and a range of other gender-based violence.

Legislation in the UK

The terminology around including misogyny in the hate crime bill has been debated in parliament. Hate crime laws traditionally protect minority groups.

Police in England and Wales will, from autumn, be asked to record crimes motivated by “hatred of sex or gender”.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Lewisham's VAWG COVID-19 response

"The term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviour where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity," according to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Under the experimental law in England and Wales, crimes carried out against someone because of their sex or gender will soon fall into this category.

Campaigners have been asking for misogyny to be treated as a hate crime for years and, in a concession to women's rights activists following the death of 33-year-old Sarah Everard, the government has now said it will require all 43 police constabularies in England and Wales to record crimes as a result of a person's sex or gender "on an experimental basis".

Home Office Minister Baroness Williams said in the House of Lords: "On an experimental basis, we will ask police forces to record and identify any crimes of violence against the person including stalking and harassment, and sexual offences where the victim perceives it to have been motivated by a hostility based on their sex".

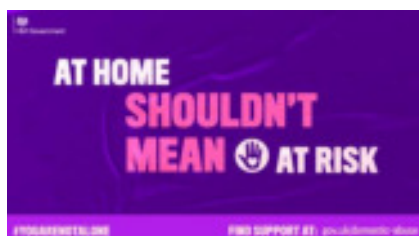
The data collected from recording hate crimes motivated by sex or gender will "help us find solutions", said Williams on the wider social issue of violence against women and girls. ^[3]

Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces, both in urban and rural settings, are an everyday occurrence for women and girls in every country around the world.

Women and girls experience and fear different forms of sexual violence in public spaces, from unwelcome sexual remarks and gestures, to rape and femicide. It happens on streets, in and around public transportation, schools, workplaces, public toilets, water and food distribution sites, and parks.

This reality reduces women's and girls' freedom of movement. It reduces their ability to participate in school, work, and public life. It limits their access to essential services and their enjoyment of cultural and recreational activities, and negatively impacts their health and well-being.

Although domestic and workplace violence is now widely recognized as a human rights violation, sexual harassment and other forms of



Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Lewisham's VAWG COVID-19 response

violence against women and girls in public spaces are often neglected, with few laws or policies in place to prevent and address it.

Local authorities are working to make public spaces for women safe, and to eradicate misogynistic behaviour.

Misogynistic behaviour starts from a very young age. Recently the VAWG team has been asked from various schools to provide training to primary school children around misogyny as they have seen an increase in misogynistic behaviour from young boys.

Support for victims of Misogyny

[Victim Support](#)

A national charity dedicated to helping anyone affected by crime – not just victims and witnesses, but friends, family and anyone else caught up in the aftermath.

[Refuge](#)

Refuge supports women, children and men with a range of services, including refuges, independent advocacy, community outreach and culturally specific services.

[Rape Crisis](#)

A national charity offering confidential help, advice and a range of Rape Crisis Centres around the UK.

[Galop](#)

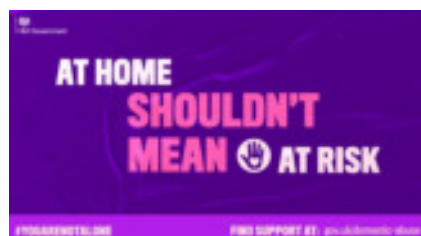
A national charity providing advice and support to members of the LGBT community.

[Crimestoppers](#)

A national charity with a free helpline for reporting crime anonymously.

[Women's Aid](#)

Women's Aid is a national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children.



Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Lewisham's VAWG COVID-19 response

National resources for guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): support for victims of domestic abuse

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse

Apps to support those experiencing domestic abuse

www.hestia.org/brightsky

COVID-19/Coronavirus: Safety Advice for Survivors

www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-safety-advice-for-survivors

Domestic abuse and COVID-19

www.safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19

National campaign to raise awareness of the Silent Solution system

www.policeconduct.gov.uk/news/national-campaign-raise-awareness-silent-solution-system

Useful numbers and websites

Refuge Athena

Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse

Helpline: 0808 2000 247

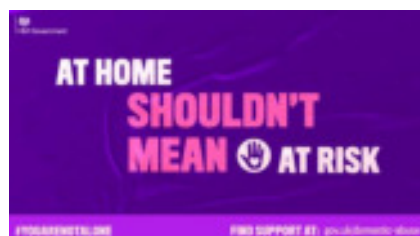
To contact the Athena directly: 08001124052

www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/one-stop-shop-services/athena

www.refuge.org.uk

Early Years Alliance - Lewisham Children's and Family Centres

www.lewishamcfc.org.uk



Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Lewisham's VAWG COVID-19 response

The Deaf Health Charity – Sign Health www.signhealth.org.uk/our-projects/deafhope-projects/
Text: 07970350366

RASASC (Rape and sexual abuse centre)
0808 802 9999

African Advocacy Foundation
www.africadvocacy.org
020 8698 4473

Rights of women:
rightsofwomen.org.uk

National stalking helpline – Suzy Lamplugh Trust
www.suzylamplugh.org
0808 802 0300

Respect Helpline for men
0808 8010327
respectphoneline.org.uk/help-for-domestic-abuse-victims

Women's Aid live chat
This is an online chatting service which is ideal for victims who are self-isolating and do not want to be heard.
chat.womensaid.org.uk
www.womensaid.org.uk
0117 944 44 11

NSPCC

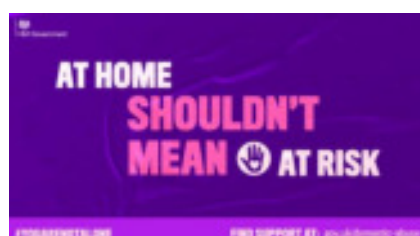
Helpline - 0800 028 3550 or fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

GALOP National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline
0800 999 5428
www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse

Women and Girls Network

Sexual violence helpline - 08088010770

Free advice line - 08088010660



Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Lewisham's VAWG COVID-19 response

Future bulletins

Please let me know if there is anything you would like to feature or promote within these bi-weekly bulletins.

isis.pottinger@lewisham.gov.uk or
charlene.noel@lewisham.gov.uk

For any other enquires please email
Vawg@lewisham.gov.uk

For MARAC enquires please contact
Theresa.Stone@lewisham.gov.uk

References

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/misogyny#learn-more>

<https://www.blackburncenter.org/post/2019/08/14/what-is-misogyny>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/women/misogyny-law-hate-crime-law-sarah-everard-b1819002.html>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/creating-safe-public-spaces>

