

GREATER MANCHESTER

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Our Plan to Stop Gender-Based Violence

short version



More accessible version
June 2021

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

This is the short, more accessible version of our plan about gender-based violence.



If you want the full version of the plan, or the document 'Our Commitments About Gender-Based Violence' please download them from our website, or from:

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority is the Mayor and the 10 local councils from each part of Greater Manchester working together on things that affect people across the region such as transport.

Introduction

Some of the words we use may be hard to understand. We have put them in **blue bold letters** and tried to say what they mean.



Over the next 10 years we want to make Greater Manchester a great place for everyone to live.

As part of this we want to make big changes in the way we deal with gender-based violence.

What we mean by Gender-Based Violence

Gender-Based Violence is when a person is treated badly or hurt because of their gender.

Most gender-based violence is done to women and girls by men and boys.

Gender is how male or female someone feels. It is not the same as someone's sex. Someone may have been born with the sex organs of a man, but feel they are a woman. Some people may feel they have no gender, or feel they are somewhere inbetween genders.

Society often looks at and thinks about males and females in certain ways, which is a major cause of gender-based violence.

Violence is not only physically hurting someone.
It can be:



- Making threats
- Putting people down, such as by calling them names.
- Control – getting someone to do things they do not want to do, or stopping someone doing things they do want to do

Gender-based violence can be done by people who know the victim, such as partners, friends or family members, or strangers. It is a crime.



Things we will do to stop gender-based violence

- Change the way people in Greater Manchester look at and think about women.
- Make sure services for victims and survivors listen to them and take into account what they say.
- Get the public, employers, education and the health service to work together with the police and the Criminal Justice System to protect victims and stop violence and harassment.

What we mean by the Criminal Justice System



The **Criminal Justice System** is all the different people and services who may be involved when someone is arrested for a crime. These are the police, courts, prison and the probation service, government departments such as the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and the Crown Prosecution Service.

- Services should put the victim first, be high quality, accessible and work together
- Do things to end **economic and housing insecurity**. This is when people do not have enough money to do things independently. Sometimes people may stay living with someone who is abusing them because they do not have enough money to move somewhere else.

- Deal with homelessness, because people who do not have somewhere to live are very vulnerable to abuse.
- End the **discrimination** and **inequality** people suffer. Discrimination is when you are treated badly or unfairly because of things such as your sex, race, religion, disability or sexual identity, mental or physical health, or immigration status. Inequality is when people are not treated equally and given the same chances.
- Support frontline staff to make up for gaps in services. Let them know about the best ways to work with victims and people who commit crimes.
- Work with employers, government inspectors and groups that represent professional staff, to set better standards and ways of dealing with gender-based violence.
- Look at how well we do and check to see if our public campaigns work.



We think our plan will mean there will be less gender-based violence. This will mean there will be less need for police and health services to have to respond to these sorts of crimes.



We want these and other agencies to be able spend time stopping gender-based violence in the first place.

Different kinds of gender-based violence

- **Domestic homicide** – This is when someone is killed by a partner, ex-partner, relative or someone they live with.
- **Domestic abuse and control** – This is when someone is abused, hurt or made to do things by someone who is a partner, ex-partner, family member or carer.
- Rape and sexual assault
- Stalking – on and offline
- Harassment – in public and at work
- Sexual exploitation
- **Romance fraud** – This is when someone pretends to be in love with someone to get their trust and then cons them out of money.
- **Traditional harmful practices** – These are things such as so-called honour-based crimes, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.
- **Misogyny** – This is disliking and being prejudiced against women.
- **Trafficking and modern slavery** – This is when people are made to do work for little or no pay and are not allowed their freedom. This often involves taking them to a different country.





Making things better

It is better to stop gender-based violence from happening, in the first place instead of just punishing people after the crime has been done.

So, services will do more work with victims, the community they live in and people who may commit gender-based violence, to stop them becoming abusive.

Most gender-based violence is committed by men against women and girls. But we will also look at men and boys who are victims.



Gender-based violence can also be aimed at lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans, gender-queer and non-binary people, who may not be seen as going along with **gender stereotypes**.

Gender stereotypes are when someone looks, dresses and acts in the usual way society expects one sex to be. For example, women wearing dresses and make-up, girls playing with dolls, or men being forceful, or telling women what to do.

We will start a Gender-Based Violence Panel. This will be a group of people made up of victims and survivors of abuse and people from services, who meet regularly.

The Panel will:

- See how the plan is being put into action.
- Make action plans of what should be done.



- Work with Greater Manchester's Women and Girls Equality Panel
- Work with Greater Manchester Racial Equality Panel.
- Review how the police, criminal justice system and health service are doing.

Getting Greater Manchester working together



Victims of gender-based violence are more likely to tell a friend or family member about it, than the police. So, the public, colleges, employers need to know about gender-based violence, recognise the signs of it and be able to talk to victims and know how they can get help.

Supporting victims and survivors

Victim means someone who has recently experienced a crime such as an assault against them. It is usually used by the police, courts and some other services.

Some people prefer the term **Survivor**, showing their strength when they are dealing with the effects of the crime done against them. Some people do not wish to be labelled by any word.

- We will get victims and survivors from different backgrounds to have a big say in how services that deal with gender-based violence are set up.
- Victims and survivors will also check services to see how well they work.
- We will make services and information more accessible to everyone including people who do not speak English well, people with disabilities and others who may be put off getting help and support.



Meeting the needs of children and young people

Children and young people are at risk of being the victim of or being a witness of abuse – a witness is someone who sees a crime happen. This can have a bad effect on them for the rest of their lives.

- We will work with schools and colleges to change how some people think about things such as sexism are OK.
- We will support groups that teach people about the dangers of dating violence, bullying and controlling behaviour.

- We will make sure this sort of education is available for pupils and students who have autism, or a learning disability or both, as they may be at more risk of abuse, of **exploitation** – This is taking advantage or conning people, grooming – this is someone getting the trust of someone to exploit them.
- It is very important that we help young people act in ways that do not make things worse when they see people being victims of gender-based violence.
- We will push for **gender and sexual equality** - This means being treated fairly and being given the same chances whatever your gender.

Best ways to deal with people who commit gender-based violence

- We will change the way some men think badly about women.
- We will try to get the public to act if they see abuse.
- We will work with the people who commit gender-based violence, to find out why they do it, and look at ways of helping them stop doing it.
- We will make a list of all the support there is for people who commit this sort of crime. This will help everyone who needs support or to go on courses.

Getting the police and Criminal Justice System to work better

Dealing with gender-based violence is about more than the police and courts punishing people who do it.



The Criminal Justice System can be hard for victims to understand. They may have to re-tell their story to different people, which can add to stress. If a case goes to court victims have to relive bad experiences and sometimes feel they are not believed.



In Greater Manchester, victims have not always got the service and support they should have. We will support Greater Manchester Police to get better at dealing with cases of gender-based violence.

To do this we will:

- Tell the Chief Constable if things are not working well and how we want to see things get better.
- Give training to police call handlers – these are the staff who take calls from the public.
- Train police about stalking, harassment and controlling behaviour, so they know why victims may find it hard to report these sort of crimes.



- Train police about differences between different sorts of gender-based violence.
- Train police about how they should deal with children and young people who abuse their parents.
- Police will keep a record of misogynistic incidents, the same way as they do with racist and homophobic ones.



Getting health and social care to work better together

The NHS is the first service a lot of victims of gender-based violence come into contact with.

- Not every victim will show signs of abuse, so health staff need to be able to spot victims of abuse and know how to get them the right help and support.
- We will give more training to GPs and other health staff such as midwives and health visitors because it is important that victims get support early.
- We will help health services to know it is important to make victims feel comfortable and give services in places they are used to, such as hospitals and health centres.



Health services also need to be careful and understanding when they are dealing with people's culture.

Some victims want to be supported by groups that understand them. This is why we support special services for women, men, people from faith communities and ethnic minorities and people who are **LGBTQ+**. This stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Trans-Sexual and Queer.



- We will also look at the services we offer to older people.