

Each year across the UK, three million women experience violence, and there is many more living with the legacies of past abuse. It can take many forms including:

- domestic violence
- rape and sexual violence
- sexual harassment
- female genital mutilation
- forced marriage
- crimes in the name of honour
- trafficking
- sexual exploitation

(End Violence Against Women website)

2. Latest available figures show that in 2002 in England and Wales 1,288 individuals were prosecuted for the rape or attempted rape of a child under 16. 292 (23 percent of those prosecuted) received a conviction (NSPCC).

3. For the children who experienced sexual abuse in the family, the most common perpetrator was a brother or stepbrother (NSPCC).

4. There is a huge gap between the estimated need and service availability for children who have experienced sexual abuse. The shortfall in provision ranges from between 55 and 88,500 therapeutic places for children (CSA Service Mapping Report, NSPCC and University of Edinburgh, 2009).

5. Approximately 80,000 women suffer rape and attempted rape every year (End Violence Against Women website).

6. A poll for Amnesty in 2005 found that:

- a third of people believe women who flirt are partially responsible for being raped
- a quarter of those asked said that they thought a woman was partially or totally responsible for being raped if she was wearing sexy or revealing clothing
- more than a quarter of people (30 percent) said that a woman was partially or totally responsible for being raped if she was drunk.

7. On average, two women in England and Wales are killed every week by a current or former male partner (End Violence Against Women website).

8. There is a strong link between domestic violence and child maltreatment. For young adults who said that during childhood they had been neglected, 88 percent had lived with some level of domestic violence, and for 59 percent the violence was constant or frequent (NSPCC).

9. The total cost of domestic violence to services (the criminal justice system, health, social services, housing and civil legal) amounts to £3.1 billion per year, while the loss to the economy is £2.7 billion per year in England and Wales (The cost of domestic violence, DTI, 2004).

10. Estimates show that around 66,000 women resident in England and Wales had been subjected to female genital mutilation (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development - FORWARD).

11. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it an offence for FGM to be carried out anywhere on UK nationals or permanent residents.

12. In 2004, the Metropolitan Police decided to re-open 114 murder cases from the previous decade, which they now think may be so-called 'honour' killings (Metropolitan Police, 2004).

13. Reunite International estimate that 1,000 British Asian girls are forced into marriage each year (National Union of Teachers, Silence is not always Golden, 2005).

14. Only 19 percent of women working as prostitutes in flats, parlours and saunas are originally from the UK (The Poppy Project, Sex in the City: Mapping Commercial Sex Across London, 2004).

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