



Equally Safe: A consultation on challenging men's demand for prostitution Handbook

[Equally Safe: A consultation on challenging men's demand for prostitution](#) is Scotland's first national consultation on prostitution to discuss our future approach to this issue within the context of how women and girls should be treated in an equal society. It is an opportunity to capture the lived experiences of those involved in prostitution to give their views on how we challenge men's demand for prostitution, reduce the harms associated with prostitution and support women involved to exit

We recently published an [Easy Read version](#) of the consultation to improve accessibility and support individuals to engage with the consultation process. Through this handbook and informed by our lived experience engagement event on 23 November 2020, we seek to continue to support individuals to engage with the consultation process.

We understand that lived experiences are key to fully understanding how to support women involved in prostitution in Scotland. We wish to continue to engage with support organisations and peer-led organisations in both the short and long term to ensure these voices contribute to current and future policies which protect women and girls from violence.

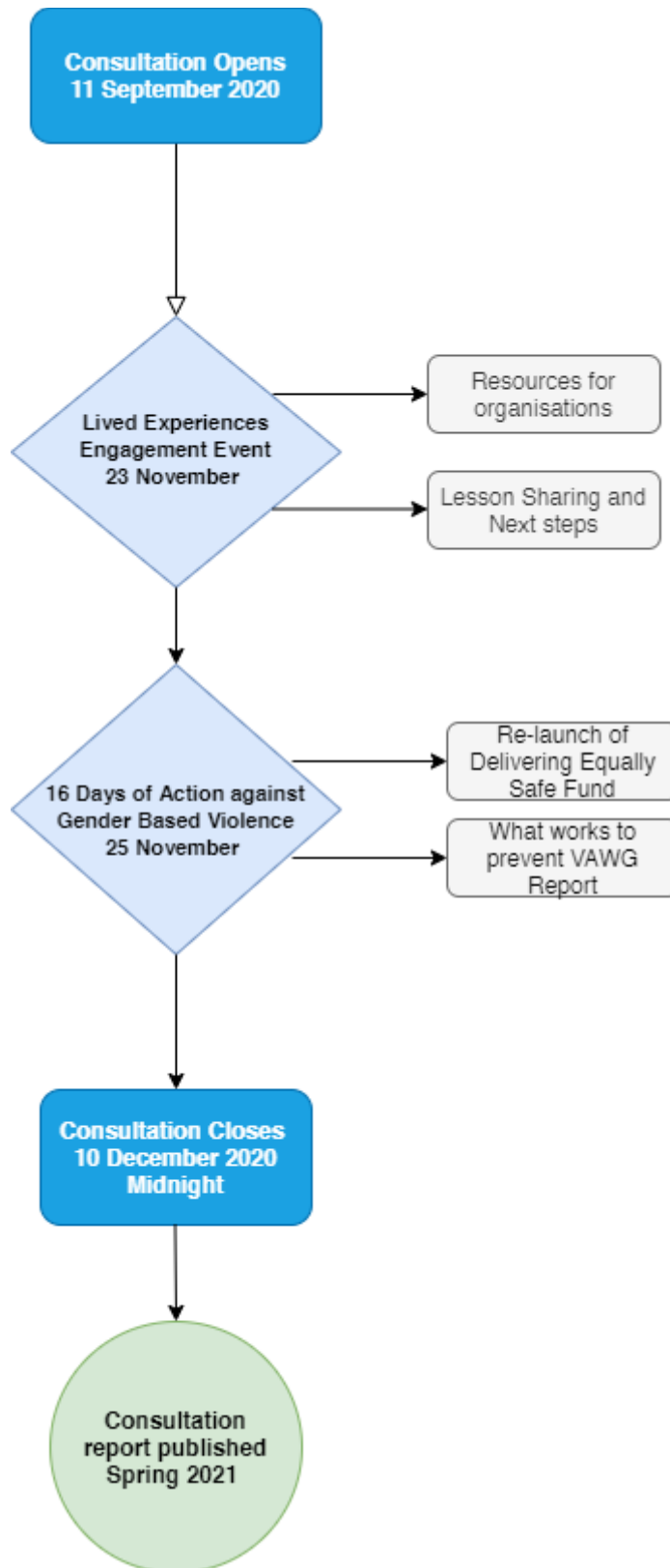
Responses to the consultation will be analysed and set out in a final report, due to be published in Spring 2021. This report and lived experience engagement will help the Scottish government formulate future policies around prostitution, ensuring we understand and provide the necessary support women involved in or seeking to exit prostitution require.

This handbook provides further information on the consultation journey, social media and communication information, a FAQ and published resources

The consultation will close at midnight on 10 December 2020.



Consultation Journey





Scottish Government – Consultation Social Media and Communication

We have been and will continue to promote interaction with the consultation through our social media and communication channels. We encourage organisations supporting women in prostitution to retweet and share this content through their own channels, and have provided the following key communication dates to be aware of:

Twitter Activity

25 November – 16 days of action against gendered violence tweet, with link to consultation via @scotgovjustice

1 December 2020 - 10 days to go tweet via @scotgovjustice

5 December 2020 – 5 days to go tweet via @scotgovjustice

10 December - 24 hours to go tweet (released shortly after midnight – early AM) via @scotgovjustice

16 Days of Activism against Gendered Violence

Tweets will be shared every day from the @scotgovfairer account during the 16 days of Activism. Key posts to note:

Wednesday 25 November – Launch of Equally Safe Delivery Plan Progress Report, tweet via @scotgovfairer

Thursday 26 November – Parliamentary Debate: Making Scotland Equally Safe: Marking the Annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

28 November - Action to tackle increased violence against women and girls during the pandemic tweet via @scotgovfairer

9 December – What works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls report is published tweet via @scotgovfairer

10 December - What Works to prevent Violence Against Women report, tweet via @scotgovjustice



FAQ

Can late responses to the consultation be accepted?

Whilst it is preferred that we receive all responses by the closing date (10 December 2020), we can accept late responses for the purposes of enabling those with lived experience to share their views. In order to submit a response late, we must be notified before the closing date and given an estimated time for receiving the response.

What is the Scottish Government's Equally Safe – Scotland's Strategy for tackling violence against women and girls?

Equally Safe - Scotland's strategy for tackling violence against women and girls - promotes a shared understanding of the causes, risks and scale of violence against women and girls, including prostitution. It also seeks to understand what causes this violence, and how we can ensure the safety of all women, children and young people.

You can find the strategy here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/equally-safe-consultation-challenging-mens-demand-prostitution-working-reduce-harms-associated-prostitution-helping-women-exit>

Where can respondents complete the consultation?

Please give us your answers to this consultation online at:

<https://consult.gov.scot/violence-against-women-team/equally-safe-reduce-harms-associated-prostitution>

If you are unable to respond using 'Citizen Space', please send your views and comments either by email to vawgconsultations@gov.scot

or by posting a paper copy to:

Violence against Women and Girls and Barnabus Justice Unit
Scottish Government
GWR St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Please ensure the women you work with complete the Respondent Information Form (RIF), however they respond. The RIF can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/respondent-information-form/>



When will the consultation report be available?

Responses will be analysed by an external research organisation to ensure impartiality, with a full written report available in Spring 2021. This report will explain the main issues identified across responses, and anonymised individual responses to the consultation will be published at this time.

Does the Scottish Government seek to ban prostitution?

It is already a crime in Scotland to publically solicit or loiter for the purposes of purchasing sex. This consultation does not propose changes to the law, though respondents can voice their support or opposition to this in their responses.

The consultation does not commit to any particular course of action and asks broad questions on challenging men's demand for purchasing sex and on how we can reduce harms for women involved in prostitution and ensure women are supported, including to exit.

Receiving views from those with a wide range of lived experiences of prostitution will ensure we fully understand prostitution in Scotland, which will contribute to policies which reduce violence against women and girls.



Research & Resources – Capturing Lived Experiences

The Poverty and Inequality Commission, Involving Experts by Experience, September 2020

This guidance details how experts by experience should be involved in policy and decision making, outlining practical steps and further resources to involving those with direct experience.

<https://povertyinequality.scot/publication/guidance-for-the-poverty-and-inequality-commission-involving-experts-by-experience/>

NHS/Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA), Lived Experience: Capturing peoples experience during COVID-19 Guide, 2020

Developed by (NHS) AQuA's Lived Experience Panel, this brief guide explores how to capture lived experiences in health and social care settings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://aqua.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/lived-experience-guide-covid-19-part-one-v1.0.pdf>

Mind, Influence and Participation Toolkit, 2017

This Influence and Participation Toolkit has been developed by Mind, and it is recognised as a valuable resource for anyone whose organisation or workplace wants to engage with people with lived experiences of mental health problems in a meaningful way.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/influence-and-participation-toolkit/>