

Equally Safe (Violence Against Women and Girls) Fund 2017–20

Eligibility Criteria

1. Purpose of the Equally Safe (Violence Against Women and Girls) Fund 2017–20

The Scottish Government's Equally Safe (Violence Against Women and Girls) Fund (ESVAWGF) aims to support work to progress the outcomes in Equally Safe, Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. The fund will assist with the development of measures to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls, including projects that build capacity in local partnerships to strengthen responses to violence and abuse, the delivery of frontline services, or projects which focus on prevention and early intervention.

2. Fund Outcomes

Applicants must demonstrate that their project outcomes will contribute to delivering a minimum of one and up to a maximum of three of the following ESVAWGF Fund outcomes:

1.	Societal understanding of gender based violence is increased and tolerance of it is decreased (leading to a reduction in violence and abuse experienced by women and children, and an increase in positive gender norms and expectations).
2.	Service providers have increased understanding of all forms of gender based violence, and work effectively together to address these issues through the provision of appropriate, high quality services.
3.	The harmful effects of gender based violence experienced by women and children are reduced by early intervention and their safety and wellbeing needs are better met by effective service provision.
4.	Interventions, service design and service delivery are improved as a result of the participation of women and children affected by gender based violence.

3. Fund Eligibility

The following organisations are eligible: incorporated third sector organisations; community interest companies; statutory bodies; and partnerships where the lead applicant must be an incorporated Third Sector organisation. However, as a focus of this funding is to ensure the provision of high quality front line services, applications from incorporated third sector organisations that can demonstrate a record of effective and successful delivery on violence against women and girls, are likely to be prioritised.

Organisations previously in receipt of funding under the Children's Services Fund are invited to submit an application to the ESVAWGF for project work relating to children and young people in line with the outcomes above. If you are unsure as to whether your organisation is eligible for this funding, please contact VAF at esenquiries@vaf.org.uk.

To be eligible for funding, applicants are required to demonstrate the following in their application:

Ethos and values

- Ensure that the work of your project is underpinned by a gendered analysis of violence against women and girls.

Multi-agency working

- The organisation must be a member of their local multi-agency VAW Partnership, or actively engaged with the National Violence Against Women Network if not a local organisation.
- Demonstrate that your project will engage in partnership working which can include financial support, in-kind support, involvement in other related partnerships, e.g. with the community safety sector, children's services planning, etc.
- Demonstrate how you will engage in an integrated response to violence against women and girls. This includes how you will work in collaboration with other agencies and structures, e.g. Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and multi-agency VAW Partnerships.
- Ensure that the project does not duplicate existing work being carried out at either a national or local level.

Governance

- Have in place effective and accountable governance, management and financial systems and structures.
- Have policies which state exactly how your service users are able to input into service development.

Equality and Diversity

- Demonstrate commitment to equality and diversity.
- State clearly how your project activity will reduce barriers to services and seek to address the needs of specific groups of women and girls, for example, those who share other protected characteristics; women and girls experiencing substance misuse or mental health issues; etc.
- Demonstrate how you will work with women in a variety of circumstances, for example, within both their homes and in refuge; with women who are separated from, and continue relationships with, men who abuse, where it is safe to do so; etc.
- Ensure that your service is inclusive to lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex (LBTI) women. An LBTI Inclusion Plan should be submitted along with your application. An LBTI Inclusion Plan template is available on the VAF website.
- Demonstrate how you will contribute to achieving the Scottish Government's aim in relation to preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls through work to progress the priorities, key objectives and the National Performance Framework outcomes as described in Annex A. In applying for this fund, you are also accepting that you will work within the context and definitions outlined in Annex B.

4. How much is available?

The value of the ESVAWGF 2017–20 is likely to be approximately £6.8 million per annum. Funding will be available for three periods: 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018; 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019; and 1 July 2019 – 31 March 2020. Priority for funding will be given to projects that can demonstrate a strong track record of delivering effective services.

The Equality Budget for 2017–18 is £20.3 million, however, the value of the Equality Budget in 2018–19 and 2019–20 will not be known when grant offers are made. Any grant offer, therefore, will only provide indicative figures for 2018–20, which will be confirmed once the Equality Budget has been agreed for those financial years. If the Equality Budget in 2018–19 or 2019–20 should reduce from £20.3 million, it is likely that there will be reductions in the indicative offers of grant made in those financial years. The detail of the way in which this will be managed will only be determined once the Equality Budget figure is known.

5. How much can be applied for?

This is an open and competitive fund. Although there is no upper limit that projects can apply for, applicants are advised that this funding round is likely to be extremely competitive and no applicant is guaranteed funding. Applications should therefore be moderate and realistic, and associated costs focused on the direct delivery of the project. In order to support various projects across all of the protected characteristics, any costs considered not directly relevant or excessive will not be recommended for funding.

For projects that have previously been funded under the Violence Against Women and Girls Fund or the Children's Services Fund and would be interested in applying for funding in 2017–20, please note that it will not be possible to provide significant increases in funding without reducing the number of projects that the Scottish Government can support. Applications will be assessed on the strength of the outcomes proposed and awards will be proportionate to the outcomes.

6. What is not eligible for funding?

The purpose of the ESVAWGF is not to core fund organisations. The primary function is to provide time-limited funding for specific projects focused on improving outcomes for women and girls experiencing violence perpetrated by men.

Funding does not cover:

- Trustees' expenses
- Capital projects (for example, purchase of buildings, building works and refurbishment or ICT infrastructure)
- Attendance at non-outcome related conferences (either UK or international)
- Projects that do not benefit those who the ESVAWGF is intended to support
- The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups)
- Trips abroad
- The repayment of loans or payments of debts
- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before a decision is made on awarding a grant (retrospective funding)
- Overhead costs exceeding 20% of the total funding
- Individuals or groups without a constitution, and for-profit agencies.

7. How to apply

An ESVAWGF Word application form, an Excel budget form, application guidance and an LGBTI Inclusion Plan template can be downloaded from the VAF website:

www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk. Please follow the links under the Funding heading on the homepage.

The deadline for applications is **midnight on Friday 17 March 2017**.

Completed applications, budgets and supporting documentation should be submitted to esapplications@vaf.org.uk. The mailbox has an automated response acknowledging receipt of your application. Please contact Irene Glasgow (01383 620780) if you do not receive an automated response.

Scottish Government approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

Our aim:

Our aim is to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls, creating a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from such abuse - and the attitudes that help perpetuate it.

To achieve this our priorities are to ensure that:

- Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
- Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
- Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women and girls
- Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

Our key objectives:

- Positive gender roles are promoted
- Women and girls feel safe, respected and equal in our communities
- Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated
- People enjoy healthy, positive relationships
- Women and men have equality of opportunity particularly with regard to access to power and resources
- Women and girls access relevant, effective and integrated services
- Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal justice system
- Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour
- Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls, and respond effectively
- Men who carry out violence against women and girls must change their behaviour and are supported to do so

National Performance Framework outcomes:

- We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- We have strong resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to people's needs
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
- We live longer, healthier lives

What do we mean by Violence Against Women and Girls?

To be fully effective in our work, it is important that everyone involved has a shared understanding of violence against women and girls: the causes, risk factors and scale of the problem in Scotland.

For the purposes of this approach, we define violence against women as actions which harm or cause suffering or indignity to women and children, where those carrying out the actions are mainly men and where women and children are predominantly the victims. The different forms of violence against women – including emotional, psychological, sexual and physical abuse, coercion and constraints – are interlinked. They have their roots in gender inequality and are therefore understood as gender-based violence.

The Scottish Government approach is informed by the definition developed by the National Group to Address Violence Against Women based on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993) which is as follows:

Gender based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims of such violence. By referring to violence as 'gender based' this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women's and girl's subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women's vulnerability to violence.

Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse; sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking; dowry related violence; female genital mutilation; forced and child marriages; honour crimes.

Activities such as pornography, prostitution, stripping, lap dancing, pole dancing and table dancing are forms of commercial sexual exploitation. These activities have been shown to be harmful for the individual women involved and have a negative impact on the position of all women through the objectification of women's bodies. This happens irrespective of whether individual women claim success or empowerment from the activity. It is essential to separate sexual activity from exploitative sexual activity.

A sexual activity becomes sexual exploitation if it breaches a person's human right to dignity, equality, respect and physical and mental wellbeing. It becomes commercial sexual exploitation when another person, or group of people, achieves financial gain or advancement through the activity.

This is not to suggest that all men are violent. To be clear, the majority of men are not violent. Nor is it to deny that women use violence or that men use violence against men, including

male partners. But evidence shows that men commit the vast majority of violent crimes and sexual offences. During 2015-16, there were 58,104 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland. Of these, 79% had a female victim and a male perpetrator.

Evidence also shows that the tactics of coercive control - behaviour that seeks to strip away the victim's freedom and sense of self - are rooted in gender inequality, roles and assumptions.

More information about the Scottish Government approach to violence against women and girls can be found in the Equally Safe strategy: <https://blogs.gov.scot/equally-safe/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/03/ES-update-18-April1.pdf>.