ANNEX A

Agenda

- Event starts at 10:00
- **Opening remarks SOHTIS –** on the role of the ambassadors and some of the students will share their experiences of their work so far **- 10.00- 10.10**
- **Reflections from the Minister - 10.10- 10.15**
- **An introduction to Equally Safe -** VAWG Equalities **[Exemption applied – 38(1)(b) personal data]**, **10.15- 10.20**
- **Work Scottish Government is undertaking to respond to Human Trafficking & Exploitation (through a 16 day's lens) -** Human Trafficking/ VAWG Justice (Matthew John & Emily McLean) **– 10.20 -10.30**
- **Police Scotland insights – 10.30-10.40 (DCI Paul McNamara)**
- **GDP programme –** reflections from a member of the SG Graduate Development Programme, working in VAWG Justice **- 10.40- 10.45 (**Britt McArdle**)**
- **Q&A – 10.45- 10.55**
- **Next steps/ opportunities for future collaboration with the ambassador's programme – 10.55- 11.00**
- **Session finishes at 11.00**

ANNEX B

List of known invitees

1. Siobhian Brown, Minister for Victims and Community Safety
2. Emily McLean, VAWG Justice, Scottish Government
3. Brittany McArdle, VAWG Justice, Scottish Government
4. Matthew John, Human Trafficking, Scottish Government
5. Debbie Browett, Student Equalities and Wellbeing, Scottish Government
6. DCI Paul McNamara, Police Scotland

MINISTER FOR VICTIMS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Briefing for SOHTIS Student Ambassadors

Extract from the briefing (event was held online)

ANNEX A

EVENT PROGRAMME

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ANNEX B

Background on SOHTIS & the Student Ambassadors Programme

SOHTIS – Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland

SOHTIS's aims are to:

- prevent, identify, and recover adult and child victims of human trafficking
- encourage, enable, and empower survivors as they rebuild their lives
- advocate for the systemic changes needed to end the exploitation of adults and children in Scotland

Launched in April 2025, the Fairer Funding pilot supports projects across Scotland through targeted grants in areas such as health, education, poverty, and culture. The Victim Centred Approach Fund (VCAF) has been part of the pilot since April 2025 and provides £109k per year to SOHTIS to support Project Freedom. Project Freedom is designed to equip adult and child survivors with the practical knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to navigate systems and regain long-term independence.

Student Ambassadors Programme

- SOHTIS run a Student Ambassador Programme (launched in 2024), which offers students the opportunity to learn about, and contribute to anti-trafficking work in Scotland through undertaking activities such as awareness raising and fundraising. The programme is open to school, college and university students. This initiative aims to empower students to become advocates and leaders to help tackle trafficking & exploitation, with the idea that this may also help inspire them in terms of their future career paths.
- The session we are organising for the student ambassadors during the 16 days will be an opportunity for new entrants to the programme to learn more about the Scottish Government work on Trafficking, Exploitation and VAWG – as well as aiming to help identify opportunities for us to collaborate more with young people on this area of policy. A previous meeting we had with the ambassadors earlier in the year helped inform some information we developed for universities to share with first year students during Freshers, which included information (and signposts to support) on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and wider VAWG.

ANNEX C

KEY MESSAGES

As this year's 16 days of action against violence against women and girls draws to a close it's been very inspiring and energising to hear about your work as part of the ambassador's programme.

Whilst events like the 16 days of action are important in focusing our efforts on such an important issue, our work to tackle violence against women and girls and exploitation must stretch beyond the 16 days.

And this is where the action you are all taking as part of the ambassador's programme is important.

As it's your energy and enthusiasm that will help ensure that we build on our positive work today, for an ever fairer and safer future.

What's key in tackling violence against women and girls and exploitation, is all parts of society coming together and bringing our collective efforts to these issues- which today's session will hopefully illustrate, through the working we are undertaking in government and in partnership with Police.

I'm sure for all taking part in both the programme and today's event this will be a valuable experience, and I wish you all well for the future.

I'd also like to thank SOHTIS for supporting the programme and all those supporting today's event.

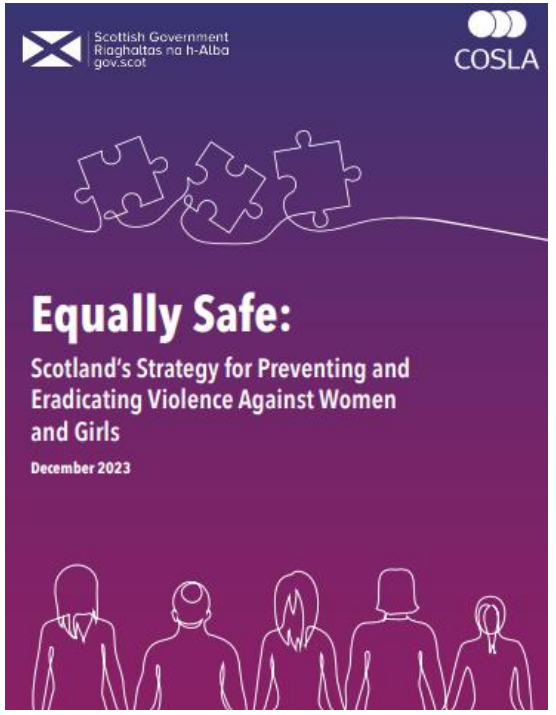
I look forward to hearing more about the programme over the course of next year.

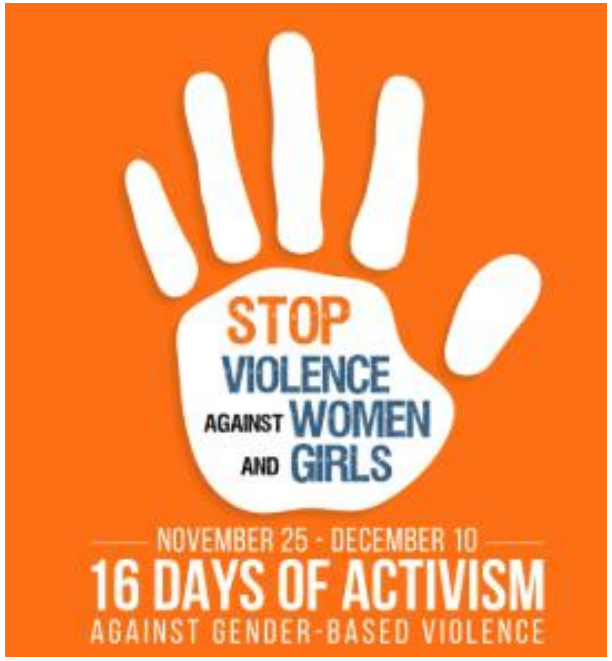
SOHTIS Student Ambassadors & Scottish Government meeting

WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION

An Introduction to Equally Safe

- Equally Safe is Scotland's Strategy for tackling violence against women and girls. It was originally published in 2014, with the most up to date version published in 2023.
- It is rooted in a collaborative approach, which is vital because all spheres of government and all sectors of society have a role to play in tackling this issue- we all have a role to play.
- By challenging misogyny, harmful assumptions and stereotypes, we pave the way for effective dismantling of gender-based discrimination starting from childhood, and continuing into adulthood, preventing, and tackling the deep harms that gender inequalities cause in the lives of girls and women and boys and men.
- It's definition of violence against women and girls it includes Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
- The refreshed strategy recognises the growing issues of online VAWG, and its delivery plan, published in 2024, has actions related to this.
- The higher and further education sectors contribute to the delivery of this strategy through the Equally Safe in Colleges and Universities Core Leadership Group.





SG work to tackle Human Trafficking & Exploitation

- Like Equally Safe our Human Trafficking Strategy takes a public health and holistic approach – recognising the need for a collaborative response to tackle trafficking and supporting survivors. The updated strategy was published in July 2025 and also recognises the issue of online exploitation.

- As part of out work to tackle VAWG and Trafficking & Exploitation we also have a strategic approach to challenge demand for prostitution and improve support for those with experience of it.

- With both strategies close working with stakeholders including Police Scotland is key.

Helpful links

- STRIVING FOR A SAFER SCOTLAND - SAFER.SCOT
- EQUALLY SAFE: SCOTLAND'S STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING AND ERADICATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS
- SCOTLAND'S TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY 2025 - GOV.SCOT
- STRATEGIC APPROACH - PROSTITUTION - CHALLENGING AND DETERRING MEN'S DEMAND: STRATEGIC APPROACH - GOV.SCOT
- PROSTITUTION - POLICE SCOTLAND
- WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING? – UNSEEN
- FEARLESS CRIMESTOPPERS: UNDERSTANDING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION