



Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
Welsh Women's Aid

Rhoi Merched a Phlant yn Gyntaf
Putting Women & Children First

Prevention: Spiking and wider VAWDASV

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Welsh Women's Aid

- Welsh Women's Aid is the umbrella organisation in Wales that supports and provides national representation for independent third sector violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) specialist services in Wales.



Setting the Scene

- COVID-19 Pandemic
- Increase in reports of spiking
- Senedd debate on spiking
- Development of new national VAWDASV strategy
- UK Government national VAWG strategy/ Domestic Abuse Act



Prevalence of sexual violence and harassment

- 1 in 3 women in Wales will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. (FRA Report)
- Live Fear Free Helpline responded to 30,063 contacts last year – there was a 22% increase in contacts from survivors and 43% increase in contacts from concerned others. (Live Fear Free 2020-21 statistics)
- Four out of five women in Wales have experienced some form of workplace sexual harassment. (No Grey Area: Welsh Women's Aid)
- 97% of women aged 18-24 have been sexually harassed. (UN Women)
- 1.5% of reported rape cases result in a charge. (Home Office)

What is actually happening:

Survivors are unable to access support due to lack of resourcing

- Unable to meet support needs (around drug and alcohol) (27%)
- Unable to meet support needs (around mental health) (61%)
- Unsafe (perpetrator knows the location of the survivor/ refuge) (92%)
- No/ limited recourse to public funds (29%)

What is actually happening:

**Prevention is under invested in despite a duty on public bodies under the
VAWDASV (Wales) Act 2021**

Public bodies as well as specialist sector organisations consistently cite a lack of capacity and resources as barriers to implementing primary prevention interventions.

What needs to be done about it:

- Prioritising ending violence against women in Wales by investing in prevention.
- Ensuring support is available and resourced for all survivors where and when they need it.
- Ensuring the new RSE duty in the new curriculum provides high-quality education in line with a whole education approach to ending violence against women and girls.
- Challenging victim blaming culture and language, by enabling communities to challenge misogynistic attitudes and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.
- Investing in accredited perpetrator programmes

Practical next steps

Change that Lasts

Our approach:

- **Listen** – always listen to survivors and place their needs at the centre
- **Ask & Act** – ask the right questions safely & act appropriately
- **Specialist support** – know when and how to refer to your local specialist service
- **Tools** – provide clear procedures, roles, information and training across agencies
- **Sustained independence and freedom** – work together for an independent future for survivors.

Thank you



Llinell Gymorth Live Fear
Byw Heb Ofn Free Helpline

0808 80 10 800

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