



**Protocol for rapid evidence assessment: Understanding how multi-agency communication influences victim-survivors of VAWG's engagement in criminal justice process.**

**Key aims:**

The key aims of this rapid evidence assessment is to:

- Understand how survivors experience multi-agency communication and what works well or creates barriers in relation to this.
- Understand the impact of multi-agency communication on victim-survivors' engagement in criminal justice processes.

**Literature search strategy:**

Searches within the databases will have in scope the following VAWG offences: domestic abuse, sexual assault/rape, stalking, child abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM), and forced marriage

Individual practice/research organisations will be searched for research/practice findings regarding VAWG specific to their organisation.

The following sources will be examined:

<i>Databases</i>	<i>Practice/Research organisations</i>
PsycInfo	Care Quality Commission
Google Scholar	Changes Future Nottingham
	Opportunity Nottingham
	Victims Commissioner ( <a href="https://victimscommissioner.org.uk/">https://victimscommissioner.org.uk/</a> )
	End Violence Against Women ( <a href="https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/reports-resources/">https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/reports-resources/</a> )
	Rape Crisis ( <a href="https://rapecrisis.org.uk/">https://rapecrisis.org.uk/</a> )
	Suzy Lamplugh Trust ( <a href="https://www.suzylamplugh.org/">https://www.suzylamplugh.org/</a> )
	Victim Support
	SafeLives ( <a href="https://safelives.org.uk/">https://safelives.org.uk/</a> )
	Women's Aid ( <a href="https://www.womensaid.org.uk/">https://www.womensaid.org.uk/</a> )
	London Victims' Commissioner ( <a href="https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-and-strategies/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/about-mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/victims-commissioner?fbclid=IwAR3J7xakKRV4vexC1nfeeyUE9sB41qvZr0M13xzqRCogUI5ILLZsAvxSnKo&amp;ac-1836=1833">https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-and-strategies/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/about-mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/victims-commissioner?fbclid=IwAR3J7xakKRV4vexC1nfeeyUE9sB41qvZr0M13xzqRCogUI5ILLZsAvxSnKo&amp;ac-1836=1833</a> )

	Karma Nirvana ( <a href="https://karmanirvana.org.uk/">https://karmanirvana.org.uk/</a> )
	Hourglass ( <a href="https://wearehourglass.org/">https://wearehourglass.org/</a> )
	NSPCC ( <a href="https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources">https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources</a> )
	Centre for Expertise on CSA ( <a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/</a> )
	Barnados ( <a href="https://www.barnados.org.uk/">https://www.barnados.org.uk/</a> ) (did not appear to have a research element)
	Refuge (did not appear to have a research element)
	Southall Black Sisters ( <a href="https://southallblacksisters.org.uk/">https://southallblacksisters.org.uk/</a> ) – did not appear to have a research element

**Database - PsycInfo/Google scholar search strings:**

domestic abuse OR domestic violence OR intimate partner violence AND attrition  
 domestic abuse OR domestic violence OR intimate partner violence AND disengagement  
 domestic abuse OR domestic violence OR intimate partner violence AND retraction  
 domestic abuse OR domestic violence OR intimate partner violence AND multi-agency

sexual assault OR rape OR sexual abuse OR sexual violence AND attrition  
 sexual assault OR rape OR sexual abuse OR sexual violence AND disengagement  
 sexual assault OR rape OR sexual abuse OR sexual violence AND retraction  
 sexual assault OR rape OR sexual abuse OR sexual violence AND multi-agency

stalking AND attrition  
 stalking AND disengagement  
 stalking AND retraction  
 stalking AND multi-agency

Child abuse OR child sexual abuse AND attrition  
 Child abuse OR child sexual abuse AND disengagement  
 Child abuse OR child sexual abuse AND retraction  
 Child abuse OR child sexual abuse AND multi-agency

female genital mutilation OR FGM AND attrition  
 female genital mutilation OR FGM AND disengagement  
 female genital mutilation OR FGM AND retraction  
 female genital mutilation OR FGM AND multi-agency

forced marriage AND attrition  
 forced marriage AND disengagement  
 forced marriage AND retraction  
 forced marriage AND multi-agency

**Database method:**

First 50 articles returned from the search to be searched for studies that fit the inclusion criteria.

**All searching inclusion/Exclusion criteria:**

- Original research to include samples of survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault/rape, stalking, child abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM), and forced marriage

*Database searching additional criteria.*

*To include:*

- Peer-reviewed papers only
- Papers published between 2013-2023
- Original research and review/meta-analyses
- English language

*To exclude:*

- Book chapters, non-peer reviewed articles

Data to be extracted from the studies

- Publication reference
- Sample details
- Findings/themes regarding survivors' experiences of communication, and more specifically where multiple agencies were involved.

**Pilot research**

*Research question:* How do survivors experience multi-agency communication and does this impact on their engagement with criminal justice process?

*Methods:* Small group focus groups/One-to-one interviews. This will involve a small number of survivors across the three regions and plans to involve both children/young people and adults.

*Involvement:* Any organisation that can facilitate recruiting a participant to take part in the above, please email Emma ([emma.sleath@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:emma.sleath@leicester.ac.uk)) and Sian ([sj444@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:sj444@leicester.ac.uk))

*Progress:* Currently developing research materials and applying for ethical approval.