



Women's Volunteer Organisation Soroptimists Statement in Response to King's Speech 2025

"My government will bring forward plans to halve violence against women and girls."

"Violence against women and girls (VAWG) should be treated as an epidemic – a national emergency."

These are two key statements that have been announced during the last week – the first in the King's Speech and the latter only today by [the National Police Chiefs' Council](#) (NPCC).

This has been further compounded by [news in Derby](#), too – stating that new CCTV is being installed to tackle violence against women and girls.

Something needs to change. Action needs to be taken on a collective scale – and rapidly – to help tackle this prevalent issue that affects millions of women every year.

The stark truth, revealed by [the NPCC's report](#), is that two million women are estimated to be victims of violence perpetrated by men each year. That's one in every 12 women.

The number of recorded offences is also increasing – having grown by 37% in the past five years, and it's also been revealed that the perpetrators getting younger.

The report also states that these estimates are "cautious", due to a lot of crime also going unreported.

Louisa Rolfe, the national lead for domestic abuse and an assistant commissioner in the Metropolitan police, believes this is more stands at 4 million.

While the Labour Government has promised to halve VAWG within a decade, this raises so many questions.

What does this really mean? How will it be monitored and measured?

This needs to be drilled down and fleshed out to reveal what this really means within the Crime and Policing Bill. And the 'how' needs addressing.

There needs to be clarity and action as a matter of urgency.

Also, at this stage, we only know the Government is in post for the next five years, so shouldn't any targets reflect this time period? Is enough being done?

Collaboration With Civil Society is Key

Collaboration and knowledge-sharing with civil society is what the Government needs to prioritise if there's any chance of solving this issue – they can't tackle it alone. We agree it needs a whole-system approach.

There are charities and agencies that live and breathe this topic every single day. They see the people it affects, and they can share insight into what's happening on the ground.

Together, we have the information the Government needs to gain accurate insight and take the best course of action – as well as presenting opportunities for intervention.

Without this insight, they run the risk of the measures they implement not having the impact and outcome we all, as a society, want.

Our message to the Government is: invite us to come and talk to you.

We are demanding a joined-up approach. This is what's needed in order to have the best chance of tackling this widespread issue.

Female Parliamentary Representation

By having more females in government, this will also help to ensure that legislation and policies are inclusive of women and girls' needs and concerns.

And while it's great news that the Prime Minister's cabinet has the most female ministers in history, in truth, this is news that has been long overdue.

It's also vital that this should not be seen by the UK Government as a box being ticked, but rather an important step in the direction that it needs to continue going in.

It's a key move in helping to break down the equal representation barrier in government and is, hopefully, the start of things to come.

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