

STOP. ■



Violence Against Women and Girls



Keeping Bexley Safe



**BEXLEY
DOMESTIC
ABUSE SERVICES**



What is Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)?

VAWG is a form of gendered violence. This means it covers situations of violence, abusive behaviours and harassment which have a discriminatory aspect based on someone's gender.

The term VAWG recognises that most of these abusive acts are targeted at women and girls, though it is crucial to know that men, boys, trans and non-binary persons can also be victims.

In most types of VAWG, the perpetrator is someone the victim knows, but they can also be a stranger.



Types of VAWG

VAWG covers a wide range of abuse. It can be physical, sexual, financial, economic, emotional, and psychological, including:

Domestic Abuse – Any incident or pattern of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour or abuse between those personally connected (ex-partner, intimate partner, family member).

Sexual Abuse, Violence and Rape – Sexual abuse is any unwanted sexual activity or act (including online), without consent. This includes sexual assault, child sexual abuse and rape.

Sexual Harassment – Any sexual behaviour that makes someone feel upset, scared, offended or humiliated or is meant to make them feel that way. It can take place anywhere including online.

Stalking – Repeated, unwanted behaviour that causes fear, alarm or distress, even if that person has never threatened you, such as call/messages, damaging property, following, cyber-stalking.

Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Forced Prostitution – Where someone else receives something because of someone else performing,

or another performing on them, sexual activities. Someone may be trafficked for that purpose.

Exploitation of Girls by Gangs – Coerced into gangs and offending, girls may be pressured into or experience domestic and/or sexual violence or exploitation from gang members.

Honour-Based Abuse – Abusive practices used to control behaviour within families and communities based on perceived so-called honour.

Harmful Cultural Practices – Practices and beliefs that are harmful to women/girls, such as nutritional taboos, forced feeding, child marriage, harmful fertility practices, son preference, female infanticide, child pregnancy, dowry price.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Also known as 'cutting,' FGM involves the complete or partial removal or alteration of a female's external genitalia for non-medical reasons.

Forced Marriage – Marriage conducted without valid consent of one or both parties, because they cannot or do not consent or have been coerced or threatened.



Think **STOP**

Say **ENOUGH**

Go **REPORT**

Offer **SUPPORT**

Only intervene if safe to do so

www.bexley.gov.uk/VAWG

Tackling VAWG is everyone's business. VAWG is more common than you think, and victims can be seriously affected by it. We should all be allies and help nurture an environment where VAWG is not welcome, and victims are supported.

Reporting VAWG

Police:

In an emergency: always call 999. If you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone, call **999**, then press **55**

In a non-emergency:

- Call 101
- Visit Bexleyheath Station at:
2 Arnsberg Way, Bexleyheath, DA7 4QS
- Report online at www.met.police.uk

Crimestoppers: Call 0800 555 111 to report anonymously

Speak to someone you trust for help reporting



Support Services

Domestic Abuse Freephone Helpline:

Call 0808 2000 247

Rape Crisis Helpline: Call 0808 500 2222

National Stalking Helpline: Call 0808 802 0300

Revenge Porn Helpline: 0345 6000 459

Solace Women's Aid, Bexley: Call 020 31984 659
or email Bexley.community@solacewomensaid.org

One Stop Shop (multi-agency support service):

Visit Central Library, Townley Road, Bexleyheath, DA6 7HJ - 12.30-3pm every Wednesday

Victim Support: Call 0808 168 9291 or
visit www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support

Respect phoneline (for men): Call 0808 8010 327

Walk and Talk: To book a walk and talk with a female police officer, email SEMailbox-.WalkandTalk@met.police.uk

For more services in your area, visit www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/find-help