

# Proposed Domestic Abuse (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to make provision for the prevention of domestic abuse and improve support for those affected, including by requiring: those convicted of offences related to domestic abuse to provide information for a register; use of this information to prevent further harm; use of rehabilitation measures in relation to offences related to domestic abuse; collation and reporting of data related to domestic abuse; and domestic abuse education in schools.

The consultation runs from 29 August 2022 to 20 November 2022

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation Document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

*No Response*

## About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.  
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

on behalf of an organisation

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).**

Networking Key services (NKS) Limited is a health and welfare organisation focusing its services on South Asian women and their families. We provide one to one family support where women are supported with a range of issues including domestic violence and marital problems.

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Only give the name of your organisation if you are submitting a response on its behalf).

(Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Networking Key Services Limited (NKS)

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number.

We will not publish these details.

[REDACTED]

**Aim and approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").**

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

The reason for fully supportive of the Bill is that we believe that a register will make it mandatory and place legal obligation on many statutory services such as police, local authority and Scottish Government to monitor and manage a serious offence such as domestic abuse and evaluate accessibility to services for underrepresented communities. There will be more transparency and accountability for all stakeholders and the register will definitely deter perpetrators to re-offend. The mandatory rehabilitation will help reduce domestic violence cases, and education in schools is a good preventative measure in the long run.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

There are a range of measures already in place, but these are not mandatory. Legislation will make it mandatory and legal requirement placed on all statutory bodies to work towards reducing domestic violence cases.

## Domestic Abuse Register

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on creating a register of those convicted of domestic abuse related offences?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response. Please include any views you have on the list of policy details set out in bold on pages 23 and 24 of the consultation document.**

The register will definitely deter perpetrators to re-offend. It will not only reduce cases of domestic violence, but will also protect potential victims from violent partner. The register will attach stigma to domestic violence that will deter individuals to offend.

## Rehabilitation Measures

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of introducing mandatory rehabilitation measures for those convicted of domestic abuse?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response. Please include any views you have on the list of policy details set out in bold on page 26 of the consultation document.**

Although we are fully supportive of rehabilitation measures, further thought given to the idea. For example - the root cause of domestic violence in each case should be explored and restorative justice measures can be a two way communication where not only perpetrator made aware of the offence, but victim also fully understands the reasons that led to deteriorating circumstances. Also, it has been suggested that mandatory rehabilitation costs should be paid by the perpetrator, we would suggest that in many cases the root cause of violence can be unemployment or deteriorating economic circumstances. In no way we are

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of introducing mandatory rehabilitation measures for those convicted of domestic abuse?

suggesting that in these cases violence is justified, but each case is different and the measures should be person-centered.

## Data

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposals for data collection and reporting set out in the consultation document in bold on pages 30 and 31?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response including what information could usefully be collated and which groups in society could most benefit from improved information on their access to domestic abuse services and support.**

Mandatory annual report published by the Scottish Government will no doubt be beneficial to all stakeholders. The report should include breakdown of data for the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. This will evidence the prevalence of domestic violence under each category and accessibility to services by each community and protected characteristic category. It will certainly be helpful to improve services for those categories who are not using services relatively. The services can be evaluated and outcomes incorporated to improve services.

## Education

Q6. Which of the following best expresses your view of introducing mandatory education in schools on domestic abuse?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response including any comments on the issues in bold on page 32 of the consultation document.**

We fully support compulsory education in school curriculum for pupils and young people to learn about domestic violence and what is not acceptable in any relationship. However, we have to be careful that we do not ingrain in young minds that only males can be violent. We should be careful not stigmatising males as violent species. The violence and abuse can from females at home too. In addition of education in schools for long term impact, there should be adult education in general among men and women in communities to raise awareness of domestic violence and what could be the consequences for perpetrators. The adult education could be the basic preventative measure. Third sector organisations have a big role to play in raising awareness of women's rights and educating men and women of domestic abuse.

## Financial Implications

Q7. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

some increase in costs

**Please explain the reasons for your answer, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.**

Although, to begin with there will be some increase in costs to introduce the legislation and obligations on service providers, in the long run the costs to the Scottish Government will reduce. As we put system in place, the domestic violence cases will come down (hopefully), leading to less financial strain on tackling domestic violence.

## Equalities

Q8. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

The impact of the legislation introduced will depend on how well it is promoted and raised awareness of it among citizens. There is a risk that people from BAME communities may have less access to information about the legislation. There may be number of challenges and barrier for individuals falling under protected characteristic categories top access information about services and legislation. And the lack of information can have negative impact on communities leading to marginalisation and exclusion.

## Sustainability

Q9. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? (If you do not have a view then skip to next question)

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

The proposal most certainly have positive impact on society. If domestic abuse rate comes down, we will have healthy, happy and thriving communities.

## General

Q10. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

In short, the idea of register and mandatory obligations on service providers will improve situation in Scottish society, we need to be very thorough about the criteria used to put people on register and for how long and if rehabilitation measures have been used. Also, how is domestic violence evidenced. Once on register, it can have long term impact on an individuals life (and they could be totally innocent).