Birmingham City Council

7-Minute Learning

Intersectionality and VAWG

BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

1 What is intersectionality?



A way of understanding how different aspects of a person's identity (such as gender, race, disability, sexuality, age or socio-economic status) can overlap and create unique experiences of inequality and harm, including VAWG.

2 Why does it matter for VAWG?



- Abuse does not affect all women and girls in the same way.
- Overlapping forms of discrimination can increase risk, severity and barriers to support.
- A one-size-fits-all approach can miss or exclude the needs of some victims and survivors.

7 Key takeaways



- Recognise and respect the complexity of people's experiences.
- Avoid assumptions and ask about individual needs.
- Ensure support is inclusive, accessible and culturally appropriate.
- Work in partnership with specialist and community organisations.



3 Examples of intersecting identities



- Black, Asian and racially minoritised women and girls.
- Disabled women and girls (including neurodiverse women and girls).
- LGBTQ+ women and girls.
- Women and girls from refugee or migrant backgrounds.
- Women and girls experiencing poverty, homelessness or multiple disadvanatge.

6 What this means for professionals



- Use an intersectional lens in risk assessment, safety planning and support.
- Be aware of and challenge your own biases.
- Understand the wider inequalities that may affect a person's safety and choices.
- Follow a trauma-informed, person-centred and inclusive approach.

4 How it can increase risk



- Higher risk of experiencing abuse (e.g. domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking).
- Greater barriers to reporting (e.g. fear of racism, homophobia, immigration concerns or disbelief).
- Increased risk of repeat harm and more serious outcomes.

5 Key identities and factors

Intersectionality can include, but is not limited to:

- **Gender** (Girls and women)
- **Race & ethnicity**
- **Disability** (including neurodiversity)
- **Sexuality** (LGBTQ+)
- **Age** (e.g. younger and older women)
- **Socio-economic status** (e.g. poverty, housing)
- **Migration status** (e.g. refugees, asylum seekers)
- **Religion or belief**
- **Other compounding factors** (e.g. care experience, substance use, homelessness)



Working together to safeguard people and end violence against women and girls in Birmingham.