Birmingham City Council

7-Minute Learning

What is Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)?

BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

1 What is VAWG?

Violence, abuse and harmful behaviours that disproportionately affect women and girls because of their sex or gender.

2 Why is it called VAWG?

- Recognises the gendered nature of violence.
- Women and girls experience higher rates of abuse.
- Often linked to inequality and misogyny.



3 What does VAWG include?

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual violence
- Stalking
- Harassment
- Coercive control
- So-called 'honour'-based abuse
- Forced marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Online abuse

4 Why does it matter?

- One in four women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- Serious and lasting impacts on health.
- Affects families, children and communities.
- Preventing violence makes everyone safer.

5 National context

A national strategy to tackle VAWG in England and Wales focuses on:

- Prevention
- Supporting victims
- Bringing perpetrators to justice

In Birmingham, this is delivered through partnership working across policing, health, local authority, education and the voluntary sector.

6 What professionals should know

- Recognise the signs.
- Listen and believe.
- Record concerns.
- Share information appropriately.
- Use a trauma-informed approach.

7 Key messages

- VAWG is preventable.
- Everyone has a role.
- Early intervention saves lives.
- Victims deserve to be believed and supported.

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