

# Recent Research, Policy and other Resources

## A focus on victims, vulnerability and policing

### Horizon Scanning Report

#### January 2022



The VKPP *Research and Review* workstream scan literature on a monthly basis to identify key academic journal articles, reports, policy documents, blogs/ podcasts, news articles and other materials relevant to victims, victim engagement, victim voice, policing and the criminal justice system. The team collate these thematically and include the most recently published material, although older pieces may be included where relevant.

The citations contain title, author, date of publication, an abstract or summary of key points and a link to the resource. The team try to identify open access links, so they are easily accessible, but this is not always possible. We indicate near the link if the material is not open access. You may be able to access these pieces via the College of Policing library. If you have a police/pnn email address, you can sign up for free to access the College Library and request help from the librarians – See link [here](#) to request an account with the Library.

We would welcome any feedback, or if readers are aware of other relevant pieces you would like to flag for inclusion in future circulations, please do get in contact with us at [vkpp@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:vkpp@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)

#### About us:

The *Research and Review* team within the VKPP carry out:

- 1) Secondary research such as literature reviews;
- 2) Secondary analysis of case reviews (such as Child Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and MAPPA Reviews) to extract learning for the police; and
- 3) Primary research into contemporary and perennial issues in policing.

The team seek to identify insights from this work, share learning and develop helpful resources for police. Our work continues to inform the evidence-base for the National Vulnerability Action Plan and other workstreams within the VKPP. Our work also seeks to inform national work, policy and debates relating to policing and vulnerability. The team consult regularly with policing and partner agency stakeholders and where possible victims and witnesses to help us make sense of our findings. Equity, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Please contact [debra.allnock@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:debra.allnock@norfolk.pnn.police.uk) for further information about our work.

### Domestic Abuse

**From Her, Kings are Born: Impact and prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in the Sikh/Punjabi Community.**

**Author(s):** Sahdaish Pall BEM and Sukhvinder Kaur

**Date:** November 2021

**Abstract:**

First survey about domestic abuse among Sikh/Panjabi population in UK. Conducted by Sikh Women's Aid. 70 % of responders reported being a victim of DA. 35% reported being a victim of child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse. 87% of victims were women. Almost half of the victims had more than one perpetrator, and only 34% reported abuse or accessed support services despite being aware of abuse and support services. 38% of victims were abused by someone from their family.

**Link to Source**

[https://www.sikhwomensaid.org.uk/files/Sikh\\_Womens\\_Aid\\_From\\_Her\\_Kings\\_Are\\_Born.pdf](https://www.sikhwomensaid.org.uk/files/Sikh_Womens_Aid_From_Her_Kings_Are_Born.pdf)

### Stalking and Harassment

**Intimate partner violence (IPV), stalking and the pandemic: Yet more paradoxes?**

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Key Points**

- The pervasive nature of stalking as a form of IPV creates a continual risk to many women, even though they may have managed to leave their abusive partner and have physical distance from them. Paradoxically, they remain unsafe, well beyond the act of leaving.
- COVID-19 has meant that perpetrators still have a wide arsenal to use that enables them to continue stalking and perpetrating IPV against their ex-partners. When physical stalking and IPV tactics are not possible, perpetrators can continue stalking behaviour enacted through technology. The stalker is 'omnipresent'.
- The 'new normal' during the pandemic is not actually 'new' for many victims of stalking. Governments' exhortations of avoiding public places and big group events are part of many stalking victims' daily lives.

**Link to Source:**

[Intimate partner violence, stalking and the pandemic: Yet more paradoxes? - Bradbury-Jones - 2021 - Journal of Advanced Nursing - Wiley Online Library](#)

### Adult Sexual Exploitation

**Strengthening Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking: Recommendations from Survivors in Cambodia**

**Author(s):** Cordisco Tsai, L. et al.

**Date:** 18th March 2021

**Abstract:**

Survivors' voices have historically been excluded from research on human trafficking. Although research on the importance of survivor voice is growing, minimal research has explored survivors' own perspectives on their experiences in anti-human trafficking programming and their recommendations for strengthening services. In this manuscript, we share recommendations from survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation for improving direct services in the anti-human trafficking movement. We analysed data from the Butterfly Longitudinal Research (BLR) study, a 10-year longitudinal study committed to centring the voices and exploring the lives and trajectories of survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia. We analysed 362 interviews and narrative summaries of interviews conducted from 2011 to 2016 (n = 111). This manuscript presents a series of recommendations from BLR participants which have been categorized into four thematic areas: promote survivor agency and adopt an empowerment-based approach, ensure shelters are responsive to the needs and priorities of survivors, foster healthy engagement between staff and survivors, and strengthen re/integration support and community-based services. Participants' recommendations are consistent with human rights-based and trauma-informed approaches, while simultaneously raising new considerations. This paper provides a novel contribution to the sector and reinforces the heightened call to genuinely and diligently include survivor voices in all aspects of anti-human trafficking organizations' decision-making processes.

**Link to source**

[Strengthening Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking: Recommendations from Survivors in Cambodia: Journal of Human Trafficking: Vol 0, No 0 \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

**BLOG: It's time to wake up and listen to the victims of adult grooming and sexual exploitation**

**Date:** 26 November 2021

The Victims' Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird, shares her reflections on the need for government to recognise and address sexual exploitation of adult women.

[BLOG: It's time to wake up and listen to the victims of adult grooming and sexual exploitation - Victims Commissioner](#)

Additional link briefly outlining some of the work of the STAGE Project: [Listening to adult survivors of sexual exploitation - Channel 4 News - My CMS \(changing-lives.org.uk\)](#)

**Missing and Absent**

**Title:** 'The silence': examining the missing voices of disabled people in police custody

**Author(s):** Macdonald, S. et al.

**Date:** November 2021

**Abstract:**

The role of the Appropriate Adult was established to protect the rights of suspects considered 'vulnerable' due to a number of miscarriages of justice during the 1970s. Appropriate Adult services are now a legal requirement in England and Wales for detained adults with mental health issues, learning disabilities or difficulties who have been detained in police custody. The aim of this project was to evaluate the extent and involvement of disabled adults who are or have been in police custody. The study concludes by suggesting the application of a social model approach within police custody, to meet the needs of service users and to avoid any miscarriages of justice.

**Link to Source:**

[The Silence - MD edit3.pdf \(sunderland.ac.uk\)](#)

**Managing of Sexual and Violent Offenders**

**Title:** You're never really free': Understanding the barriers to desistance for registered sexual offenders in the community

**Author(s):** Mann, N. et al.

**Date:** 2021

**Abstract:**

This article explores the relationship between the current model of community sex offender management, which is underpinned by mechanism of control and enforcement, and desistance from sexual offending. Utilizing data from qualitative interviews with 20 men convicted of sexual offences, we found that while existing practices offer some reassurance to those managing the public protection arena, they do little to encourage the substantive processes of identity change which is necessary for long-term desistance. This raises important considerations for how current risk management practices may be improved to encourage desistance and community reintegration.

**Link to Source**

['You're never really free': Understanding the barriers to desistance for Registered Sexual Offenders in the community \(anglia.ac.uk\)](#)

**Adults at Risk**

No new publications identified this month

## Child Abuse

**Title:** 'It's like we're locked in a box': Girls' and mothers' experiences of the police and legal system following child sexual abuse.

**Date:**

23 August 2021

**Abstract:**

This article focuses on girls' and mothers' experiences of police and criminal justice system responses and the impact of investigation processes following reporting of child sexual abuse. Participants spoke of a lack of timely therapeutic provision and the subsequent role of female caregivers in providing support. Problems with criminal justice processes and the subsequent impact on families' wider lives were also discussed. Findings suggest that criminal justice processes need to be better attuned to these micro level impacts and should show more sensitivity to the overall experience of children in the aftermath of sexual abuse. Implications for practice are discussed.

**Link to Source**

['It's like we're locked in a box': Girls' and mothers' experiences of the police and legal system following child sexual abuse \(wiley.com\)](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2214.2021.012556.x)

## Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation

**Evaluating the value of the police Independent Advisory Group (IAG): Honour Based Abuse Crime (HBA), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

**Author(s):** Aplin, R.

**Date:** 30 December 2021

**Abstract:**

This article examines focus group responses from an England Police Force Independent Advisory Group (IAG). It explores the role played by IAG members in advising police on cultural matters associated with Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Findings illustrate that IAG members, largely ethnic minority female in composition, possess a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience. They adeptly scrutinise officer decision-making, provide useful case management interventions and challenge the dominant narrative. They propose that statutory services inadvertently perpetuate racial stereotypes by tokenistic use of ethnic minority professionals. IAGs expose that health professionals hold vital information about FGM adult victims, which under current UK guidance they are not obligated to disclose. IAGs are an untapped operational resource, capable of supporting professionals (and thereby victims) within Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. Documenting of IAG decisions is necessary to evaluate their consistency, value, and long-term impact.

**Link to Source**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2021.102556>

From <<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277539521001199>>

**Investigating honour-based abuse and other crimes in South Asian communities: the benefits, limitations and impacts of 'ethnic matching' and ethnic 'difference' of police officers**

**Author(s):** Aplin, R.

**Date:** 10 Dec 2021

**Abstract:**

This article considers the benefits, limitations and potential impacts of 'ethnic matching' South Asian (SA) police officers to victims, or conversely allocating 'different' non-SA officers to reported honour-based abuse (HBA) cases and other crimes. To explore these themes, semi-structured interviews in one English police force with 15 police specialist detectives in Public Protection took place. Lack of cultural competence by some non-SA officers was evident, exposing stereotyping and tokenism. Some professional race anxiety features, but to a lesser extent. Cultural ignorance impacts an officer's ability to identify crime patterns; results in misconstruing victim perspectives and means that officers may not recognise cues that victims are at risk. The opposing perspective identifies that there are enormous benefits to 'ethnic matching' SA officers and victims when investigating crimes, notably enhanced insight due to cultural competence, excellent victim rapport and the use of foreign language skills. Conversely, findings indicate that in exceptional circumstances cultural bias by some same ethnicity officers can act as an impediment, influencing officer decision-making and detrimentally affecting victims' best interests. Extant literature reinforces the contention that victims do not want to be 'ethnic matched' to the police or other professionals, for fear that officials may leak information to the wider community. Albeit there are notable benefits to ethnic matching, factors such as training and experience are equally important. Nevertheless, the article affords valuable insights into the strengths and limitations of ethnic matching and ethnic difference, which will aid operational supervisory police officers when resourcing such incidents.

**Link to Source (This article is not open access):**

[Full article: Investigating honour-based abuse and other crimes in South Asian communities: the benefits, limitations and impacts of 'ethnic matching' and ethnic 'difference' of police officers \(tandfonline.com\)](https://www.tandfonline.com)

**Abused by the Patriarchy: Male Victims, Masculinity, "Honor"-Based Abuse and Forced Marriages**

**Author:** Idriss, MM.

**Date:** 25th February 2021

**Abstract:**

The causes and effects of what is often referred to as "honor"-based violence/abuse (HBV/A) and forced marriages on men and boys is an under-researched field of patriarchal violence. This lack of research has resulted in an imperfect understanding of how and why men become victims of HBV/A and an absence of an effective theoretical framework in which to analyse their experiences. Through an examination of 29 Case Files obtained through a gender-neutral domestic abuse refuge charity in the East Midlands, the United Kingdom, this original research will explore the ways that men, particularly younger males and those who do not conform to cultural norms of masculinity, are harmed by patriarchal structures. In doing so, this article brings

to light new data and adds to the patriarchal framework for understanding HBV/A and why it is committed against men. The results of this study reveal that the ways in which HBV/A and forced marriages were presented in the Case Files present both analogies to and distinctions with the infliction of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in similar circumstances. This discovery is important for several reasons: (a) it demonstrates that men and boys are harmed by patriarchy and that patriarchal theories of violence must therefore evolve to better recognize groups of male victims; (b) it provides a typological framework to identify the different types of male victims, the types of abuse and the perpetrators involved, including the involvement of mothers as primary and secondary perpetrators; and (c) that male victims require appropriate intervention and must be taken seriously by state agencies if men are to come forward and disclose abuse.

**Link to Source**

[Abused by the Patriarchy: Male Victims, Masculinity, “Honor”-Based Abuse and Forced Marriages \(sagepub.com\)](https://www.sagepub.com)

## Modern Slavery and Trafficking

### Victims of modern slavery to be further protected from prosecution by earlier investigation

**Author(s):** CPS

**Date:** 02 December 2021

**Abstract:**

Victims of modern slavery will be identified earlier in criminal investigations - saving them from being wrongly prosecuted – as prosecutors reinforce best working practices in [new legal guidance](#) published today. The CPS has previously carefully considered the claim of suspects who say they have offended because they were trafficked. Today’s change shifts the focus of this to before a suspect is charged and reminds prosecutors to be alert to the full situation and vigilant to potential indicators of trafficking.

The guidance says that where someone is suspected or claims to be a victim of modern slavery – that they were coerced or directed to commit a crime as a result – as far as possible police or law enforcement will need to fully investigate suspects’ situations before the CPS will be able to make a charging decision. It is expected that the updated Modern Slavery guidance, which is based on the experience of prosecutors over the past few years, will help to continue to increase the number of prosecutions of criminals exploiting modern slaves, while safeguarding against the criminalising of trafficked victims.

Investigations into whether a person is a victim of modern slavery are often raised after charge, which often delays the progression of cases and increases the number of court appearances and adjournments while they were followed up.

The changes will mean that prosecutors can make more informed decisions at point of charge and reduce the number of cases where a claim is made halfway through a prosecution.

**Lynette Woodrow, CPS lead for modern slavery**, said: “Modern slavery victims who are often given little or no choice but to follow orders by unscrupulous criminals should not usually be prosecuted for their actions. “We have seen that by identifying early these victims forced to commit crimes they can be given the support and protection they need, while those exploiting them face justice. “This practice is working well, and we are setting it out for the first time in this updated legal



guidance as a result of the positive impact our prosecutors have seen it makes. “Working with the police in this way will continue to help save court time by reducing the number of adjournments while claims are raised and investigated as well as help increase in modern slavery prosecutions.”

When the facts around a victim are investigated early, others who should be held responsible can be identified.

The updated legal guidance, which is published so that the public can see and understand the considerations behind our decision-making, also:

- Points to practical support for victims and witnesses, and the ability to run victim-less prosecutions where they do not need to give evidence in court.
- Reminds of other special measures to support trafficked victims, including the use of virtual recorded interviews which can be played in court to a jury.
- Highlights video links for victims who have chosen to return to their home countries so that they can still give evidence if needed.
- Reiterates the right of prosecutors to disagree with a finding of decision-makers in the Single Competent Authority that someone was trafficked, where it is necessary to do so and encourages prosecutors to make clear the evidence upon which they have challenged the decision.

Last year the CPS prosecuted 335 modern slavery cases, an increase on the year before, with a conviction rate of 74.4%\*.

**Link to Source:**

[Victims of modern slavery to be further protected from prosecution by earlier investigation | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

**Serious Sexual Offences**

**Project Vigilant intervention scheme set to expand after stranger rapes fall by 50%**

**Date:** 14th December

**Abstract:**

Thames Valley Police’s Project Vigilant, which combines plain clothes and uniform officers to identify and prevent predatory behaviour in the night-time economy, has seen significant reductions in stranger rapes and sexual offences; now the scheme is set to expand after being one of a number of projects to receive ‘Safety of Women at Night’ funding, as Policing Insight Deputy Editor Sarah Gibbons reports.

**Link to Source:**



[Project Vigilant intervention scheme set to expand after stranger rapes fall by 50% - Policing Insight](#)

### Serious Sexual Offences

London Rape Review 2021

**Author(s):** Wunsch, D. et a. (MOPAC)

**Date:** December 2021

**Abstract:**

Examination of 450 rape allegations: observed that only 7% of cases were submitted to the CPS, CPS charged 2% and 1% were convicted at trial. In 65% of cases the victim withdrew support, and in 25% of cases the police took no further action (NFA). In terms of sex differences, 64% of females withdraw support for the investigation, compared to 55% of males, and there showed a tendency for victims to withdraw support early on into the investigation (most within the first month of reporting). The identified reasons for withdrawal included: not wanting/intending to report to the police in the first place; wanting to forget and move on from event; external stressors; not wanting to negatively affect the life of the perpetrator. Only two individuals reported dissatisfaction with the police procedure as the reason they withdrew support.

'Those who report rape in London continue to be predominantly female and young, with almost one third under the age of 18 at the time of the offence. Suspects continue to be men with a slightly older age profile compared to victim/survivors. When compared to their overall proportions in the London population, there continues to be an over-representation of both Black victim/survivors and Black suspects. Finally, and again consistent with previous research, in the majority of cases victim/survivor and perpetrator are known to one another and there is considerable overlap with Domestic Abuse.'

Similar to the 2019 Rape Review, this review identified that it is procedural characteristics that predominantly contribute to victim withdrawal/police NFA, compared to victim, suspect, or offence characteristics. Concerningly however, it was identified that inconsistencies in a victim/survivors account makes it 12x more likely that police will take NFA.

'Officers talked about having gone into their roles with the specific goal of working with and supporting victims. In this sense they spoke about feeling a sense of care and protectiveness, and that they considered it important for victims to have a positive, supportive experience of the police. This is in stark contrast to the negative experiences that were frequently recounted by the survivors who responded to the survey. More than half of the survey respondents (26 out of 41) described experiencing negative interactions with the police. The main concerns included victim blaming attitudes, poor communication and a perceived absence of empathy and support. Repeatedly victims felt their treatment was more akin to that of a suspect.'

**Link to Source:**

[Microsoft Word - London Rape Review 2021 Final draft feedbackAddressed.docx](#)

### Child Sexual Exploitation

Hope to Despair: Children and Young People's Lived Experiences of Trafficking Abuse, *The British Journal of Social Work*, 2021; <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcab249>

**Author:** Glearon, A.

**Date:** 15 December 2021

**Abstract:**

Despite the increasing awareness of child trafficking and modern slavery as a growing societal issue, little is known about the direct experiences of children and young people in trafficking situations. This paper contributes to this gap by reporting findings from a qualitative study that was conducted in England with young people who had lived experiences of child trafficking. Drawing on personal testimonies through in-depth interviews, this paper reports how children's journeys of hope turned into despair. Children realised they were deceived when promises made did not materialise, they were subjected to multiple and severe forms of abuse and became aware they were used, sold and resold for traffickers' gain. This paper considers how in seemingly powerless situations, some degree of children's agency was exercised. Various coping mechanisms and tactics were developed as children tried to gain some knowledge and power to survive. This research provides valuable insight into the lived experiences of trafficking abuse, enabling practitioners to understand the dynamics, processes and acts children and young people are exposed to. The findings emphasise the importance of recognising the critical role that connected peers play in the trafficking process in helping others to cope, survive and ultimately escape.

**Link to Source**

<https://academic.oup.com/bjsw/advance-article/doi/10.1093/bjsw/bcab249/6462541>

**"I'm literally here to hear your story... let them know that": Exploring Narrative Therapy Approaches with Victims of Child Trafficking, Exploitation & Slavery**

Journal of Modern Slavery, CHILD LABOUR Special Edition, Volume 6, Issue 4. 2021

**Author(s):** Farooq, R. et al.

**Date:** December 2021

**Abstract:**

Child trafficking is when "children and young people are tricked, forced or persuaded to leave their homes and are moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold" (NSPCC, 2021). Child exploitation is "when an abuser takes advantage of a young person for their own personal gain... including sexual exploitation or forcing the child to commit crime" (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2021). Modern day slavery is "defined as the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation" (Public Health England, 2017).

There are a high number of cases of child trafficking, exploitation, and slavery in the UK and at present, 'best practice fit' routine therapeutic interventions are used with children and young people who have been subjected to, or are at risk of been subjected to, trafficking, exploitation and slavery. Although these can be effective at reducing harm in the short-term, few interventions have been developed which begin to promote long-term and sustainable positive change in the lives of children and young people (Countryman-Roswurm & DiLollo, 2017). Here in this practice paper, we outline the use of narrative therapy techniques with children and young people who have been subjected to trafficking, exploitation and slavery, in

particular the Tree of Life Approach (Ncube, 2006). The Tree of Life (Ncube, 2006) is presented as an approach for supporting children and young people to reconstruct personal narratives focussed on resilience and hope.

**Link to Source**

[child-labor-special-edition \(slavefreetoday.org\)](https://www.slavefreetoday.org/child-labor-special-edition)

**VAWG**

**British Transport Police boosts patrols on night-time services in new safety of women at night strategy**

**Abstract:**

Passengers will see an increased police presence on trains and at stations at night as part of a dedicated operation aimed at keeping women safe on the railway network.

The force’s strategy is targeted at providing reassurance to women travelling at night, with highly visible and unpredictable patrols undertaking engagement and enforcement activity to combat crime or behaviour that makes women feel unsafe.

The surge of activity began earlier this month and will run across the festive period and into the new year across England, Scotland, and Wales.

It comes as BTP continue to tackle sexual offences and sexual harassment on the railway, encouraging passengers who experience or witness this behaviour, such as touching, leering, indecent exposure, and upskirting to report it by talking to our officers or texting 61016.

BTP Assistant Chief Constable Allan Gregory said: “Everyone has the right to feel safe when travelling on the network and we are especially dedicated to making sure this is the case for women at night.

“The aim of the increased police presence on trains and at stations is to deter sexual offenders and provide reassurance to anyone travelling on night-time services.

**Link to Source:**

[British Transport Police boosts patrols on night-time services in new safety of women at night strategy | British Transport Police \(btp.police.uk\)](https://www.btp.police.uk/news/2022/03/01/btp-boosts-patrols-on-night-time-services-in-new-safety-of-women-at-night-strategy)

**Other**

**The significance of victim ideality in interactions between crime victims and police officers**

**Author:** Inzunza, M.

**Date:** March 2022 (early view)

**Abstract:**

A crime victim's first contact with the police may strongly influence subsequent investigations and prosecutions, as well as the crime's impact on the victim. The outcomes of such contacts may depend strongly on the degree to which the victim exhibits the characteristics of an ideal victim.



This study sought to find valid ways of evaluating the constructs of victim ideality and police empathy, and to clarify the relationship between the two considering background factors, and outcomes. With a cross-sectional design data were collected from approximately 300 crime victims from cities in Colombia using a questionnaire. The data were analysed using SEM, MIMIC, and logistic regression models. Being an ideal victim was found to influence the empathy displayed by police (as perceived by the victims), which in turn influenced factors important to citizens exposed to crime. Several areas in need of development based on the principles of procedural justice are identified.

**Link to Source:**

[The significance of victim ideality in interactions between crime victims and police officers - ScienceDirect](#)