

February 2017

THE 'WHAT'S GENDER GOT TO DO WITH IT?' EDITION

On the eve of the London Women's March, in January 2017, the Fawcett Society released their new report 'Sounds Familiar' highlighting the disturbingly high levels of hostility towards women and girls. In addition we also report our significant rise in referrals and service provision underlining the demand and need to support survivors in P&K. This edition of our Impact Newsletter will highlight the crucial need for a continued gender based analysis approach to tackling gender inequality and violence against women and children in Perth and Kinross.

"These findings help to explain why misogyny is so widespread, why violence against women and girls remains commonplace, and why the gender pay gap remains so hard to close."

Fawcett Society

Gender Based Analysis

What is it all about?

RASAC P&K is a member centre of Rape Crisis Scotland and we have 10 years of experience in supporting survivors of sexual violence and their supporters. We are the only agency with specialist knowledge and skills in addressing sexual violence from a gender based analysis within Perth & Kinross.

Our gender based approach reflects the Scottish Government's recognition that an act of violence against women, is not an incident in isolation, but part of a wider societal gender inequality.

Please note that this analysis does not deny that women use violence, including violence against a partner or children. It does not deny that men use violence against other men, including male partners. However it does acknowledge that men's and women's experience of violence is different as is their use of violence. A gendered approach recognises that male perpetrators use violence in a way which is more systematic and that women are more affected by violence because of their gender.

The **Scottish Government** describes violence against women as:

- *Caused by the fact that men and women are not equal, and in turn...*
- *Causing inequality between women and men*

This is often referred to as the "gendered analysis".

"The Scottish Government has adopted this analysis because research shows that women and men use and experience violence differently.

- *Men are statistically more likely to use violence (especially severe violence) against other men and against women.*
- *Women and children are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence committed mainly by men.*

If something overwhelmingly affects one section of the population, we need to ask why and we need to do something about it."

Gender Based Violence National Evidence

Media Attention

Historic Sexual Abuse in Football

On the 16 November 2016, a former Sheffield United player waived his right to anonymity and told the Guardian he was sexually abused as a youth player. Since he has spoken out more players spoke publicly about their experiences of abuse followed by a wave of reports to police. As of January 2017, Operation Hydrant, 1016 referrals have resulted in;

248 football clubs identified

526 potential victims

184 suspects

Potential victim's ages range from **4 - 20**

In late November 2016 Police Scotland set up their own inquiry into historic sexual abuse in football. Within 3 week they had received;

109 referrals

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, set up in October 2015, is looking at the abuse of children in care in Scotland. In January 2017 they released figures include;

60 residential care establishments identified

More than 100 locations identified

Including Perth and Kinross locations

We see the results of living in a gendered unequal society... What people tell us...

The woman in support who blames herself for being raped as she was wearing a short skirt

The young people involved in our prevention programme in schools tired of girls being labelled 'sluts' and boys 'legends' for the same actions

The health worker telling our staff she can't support a pupil with a rape as she doesn't believe her story

The young man on the helpline telling us he can't tell his friends he was abused as that would make him less of a 'man'.

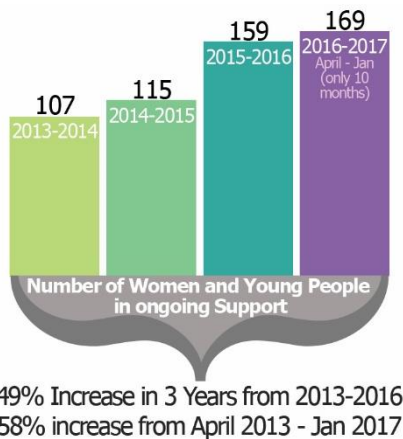
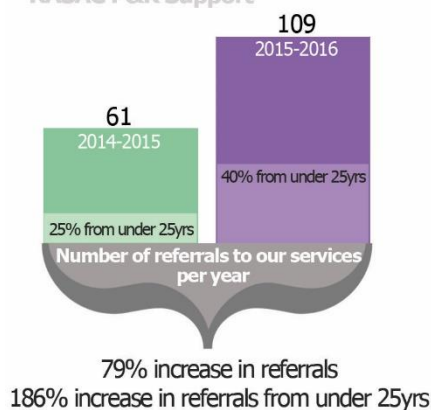
GENDER BASED INEQUALITY CAN BE FOUND IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE INCLUDING POLITICS

On the 30th January 2017, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, MP for Ochil and South Perthshire was 'woofed' at by another MP as she spoke in the House of Commons. Ironically that very morning she was a key speaker at the launch of the 'Status of Young Women in Scotland 2016' report in Perth, where she spoke of the challenges for women in Politics and how it is crucial for women to have a voice in the public sphere.

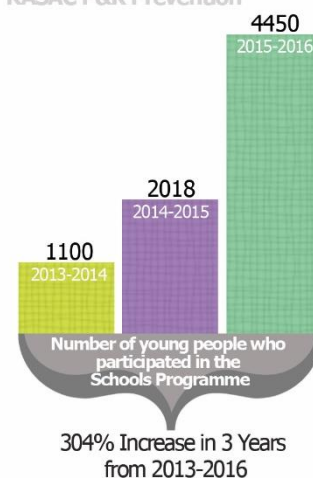
RASAC P&K – SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR SERVICES

Over the last 2-3 years we have seen significant rises in referrals and demand for both Therapeutic Support and Prevention Services. We acknowledge that the increase in referrals can be contributed to Operation Yewtree (Jimmy Savile), an increase in media coverage of abuse within religious groups and sports clubs and the increasing number of survivors finding the strength to speak out about their own experience and personal journeys to seek justice and healing.

RASAC P&K Support



RASAC P&K Prevention



Within our **Support Team**, we have been able to keep up with the significant increase in demand as we have been able to secure funding for a number of additional projects and services over the last 3 years including; an Advocacy Worker supporting women and young people who are engaging or considering engaging with the criminal justice system; Young Persons and Families Worker supporting young people and their families /supporters. In addition, we have also enabled our Support Team to gain new therapeutic skills enhancing the support on offer at the centre, drawing on a range of approaches, including CRM (Comprehensive Resource Model) and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprogramming). All of these developments has enabled us to extend our service provision and increase the number of women and young people we support. However we still operate with a **waiting list at all times, with some survivors waiting for therapeutic support for a number of months 4-6.**

Within our **Prevention Team**, we have been able to extend our service provision in Schools, delivering our TESSA Programme by securing 3 fulltime prevention workers in the last 2 years. Our significant rise in provision, 304% in 3 years, engaging with almost 4500 young people, enables us to support young people to identify gender inequality and gender based violence, seek support when they need it and challenge it when appropriate. The increase in engagement with young people has also contributed to the increase in referrals for between 12- 24 years olds. We believe that we can significantly reduce gender inequality and gender based violence if we actively support young people to be the change in the world that we (and they) want to see.

HUTTON RESEARCH THE NEED IN PERTH & KINROSS

A PKC funded research paper from 2014 (Hutton Research and Consultancy), focused on the needs of young people affected by rape and sexual assault in rural Perthshire. This report further evidences the need for direct, specialist services, highlighting that the 169 women we have worked with in the last 10 months are the tip of the iceberg

3,600 individuals
since the age of 16 could experience a
serious sexual assault

9,600 individuals
since the age of 16 could experience a
less serious sexual assault

WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE EQUALITY, RIGHT?

Some young people we work with say 'Women have equal rights, what's the big fuss about?' And they are right in some respect, women have equal rights, in fact, we are proud that Scotland has some of the best equality laws and legislation in the world. However it also needs to be acknowledged that society needs to catch up with these rights enshrined in law.

(JUST A FEW RECENT STATS)

42% of men and **25% of women**
think women and men are equal now (Sounds Familiar)

14% men aged 18-24 and **18% of men 25-34** say
'I don't want the women in my life to have equality of opportunity with men' (Sounds Familiar)

Schools routinely collect data on racist incidents but
sexist incidents are not recorded (Gender Matters Manifesto 2016)

59% of girls and young women aged 13-21 have faced some form of sexual harassment at school or college in the past year (Sounds Familiar)

Mental Health

Young women are now identified as a **high risk group** in terms of their likelihood of experiencing mental illness (Sounds Familiar)

69% of girls do not feel 'good enough' and happiness declines as they get older (Girls Attitudes Survey 2016)

38% of young women said they are worried about mental health (Annual Survey 2016)

Employment

It will take **62 years** to close the gender pay gap (Sounds Familiar)

98% of classroom assistants are women and only **3% of chartered civil engineers** are women (Gender Matters Manifesto 2016)

Women make up **78% of the part time workforce** (Gender Matters Manifesto 2016)

Engender, Gender Matters Manifesto 2016
Young Women's Trust, Annual Survey 2016
Fawcett Society - 'Sounds Familiar' 2017
Girlguiding – Girls Attitudes Survey 2016

What Young People tell us about gender norms / expectations...

"My teacher was like, I had to change my clothes as I was 'distracting' to boys at school, and I was like, why don't the school teach boys not to see me and girls only as sex objects"
Quote from a young person

"I hate that as a male, some people want me to prove that I am a 'man' by being disrespectful to girls. That's not what being a man is about"
Quote from a young person

"For years I've wanted to work in childcare, when I tell people, they look at me weird, like there is something wrong with a male wanting to work with kids"
Quote from a young person

WHAT GENDER EQUALITY MEANS FOR MEN

Wouldn't it be great if young boys and men no longer heard...

"Don't cry like a girl"
"You kick/run/jump/climb like a girl"
"Pull yourself together and 'Man up'"
"Stop being a big Jessie"
"That's a woman's job"
"Well done for babysitting your kids"
"What are you wearing, you look totally gay"

Boys tell us every day, that they want to live in a world without gender stereotypes and gender expectations, where they;

- can show emotions other than anger and not use violence to solve problems
- can show sadness and cry and others will support them without being uncomfortable
- can show kindness and compassion towards others without being called a 'wuss'
- can show vulnerability and be a 'victim' without being seen as weak
- can just be friends with a girl
- can be called a 'girl' and not be devastated, because there is nothing wrong with being a girl
- can dress how they like without being called 'gay' or a 'tranny', because there is nothing wrong with being homosexual or transgender

Investing in safe and resilient communities: what we need

Being the only dedicated service supporting survivors of sexual violence in Perth and Kinross it is crucial that we continue our work.

- We need organisations to inform their staff and survivors they work with about our services and participate in our training
- We need likeminded women to support us through volunteering and governance
- We need enthusiastic young people to be champions against sexual violence and inequality
- We need the continuation of strong local partnerships
- We need the continued support (financial or otherwise) to ensure we are able to sustain and develop RASAC services

RESULTS OF GENDER INEQUALITY FOR MEN INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

UN report - The World's Women 2015

"Adolescent boys and young men often take up habits and risky behaviours that are associated with images of masculinity. (Worldwide) During adolescence and young adulthood, road injuries, interpersonal violence and self-harm (suicide) are the leading causes of death among young men"

Gender norms also contribute to other risky behaviours which effects health and wellbeing:

36% of men smoke with only 8% of women

10% of men engage in heavy episodic drinking with only 2% of women

DID YOU KNOW...

In the UK women have the right to **52 week of Maternity Leave**. Men have the right to **1 or 2 weeks of Paternity Leave**. This is a direct result of gender norms and gender expectations.

GENDERED ANALYSIS...

Gender Stereotypes + Gender Expectation = Gender Inequality and Gender based Violence

It's not a women's issue,
it's an issue for men and women,
boys and girls

HOW WE SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH SURVIVORS

Although we are the only dedicated support organisation focusing of supporting survivors of sexual violence we understand that survivors disclose their experiences in a number of settings and with a wide range of professionals. To support professionals engaging with survivors we provide a range of services tailored to their needs.

Training; a range of tailored training covering a range of sexual violence, trauma and disclosure. **Helpline;** our confidential and anonymous helpline is open to any professional supporting survivors. **RASAC Multi Agency Visits;** monthly information sessions and a chance to visit the premises.



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