

How Can we Prevent Gender-based Violence? A 10-year Vision

Image: Silhouette of People in a Crowd, Henry Hornstein (Getty Images)

19 Mar – 20 Mar 2024
The Studio, Leeds



In affiliation with:



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Conference Summary

In recent years, there has been an increase in criminal justice and policy activity related to gender-based violence. However, most of these interventions have focused on reactive criminalisation processes. With this conference, we aim to create a manifesto for change by asking each contributor to tell us their vision of where they want us to be in 10 years' time in preventing gender-based violence, informed by new research.

The conference will span two days, comprising three themed sessions:

1. Systems change through policy and practice
2. Challenging beliefs and engaging men
3. What is the role of criminal justice in prevention?

There will also be an early career researcher session and theatre performance, led by Certain Curtain Theatre Company. The conference is jointly organised by the Connect Centre for Research on Violence and Harm & The Centre for Criminal Justice Partnerships at UCLan and the Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse at Durham University. The N8 Policing Research Partnership and the ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre have also kindly provided sponsorship for the event.

Conference Convenors

- **Dr Charlotte Barlow**, University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)
- **Professor Christine Barter**, University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)
- **Jayn Pearson**, University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)
- **Professor Catherine Donovan**, Durham University
- **Professor Nicola Westmarland**, Durham University
- **Professor Carlene Firmin**, Durham University

Conference Programme

Day One: 19 Mar 2024, 10:00-16:00 (GMT)

Welcome: Dr Charlotte Barlow & Professor Christine Barter, 10:00

KEYNOTE OPENING ADDRESS

10:15 – 11:00

Chair:

Professor Nicole Westmarland, *Durham University*

- **Nicole Jacobs**, Domestic Abuse Commissioner (Talk followed by a discussion)
- **Laura Thurman**: Survivor Story

SESSION ONE

Systems change through policy and practice

11:00 am -13:00

This session will explore the importance of systems change and holistic, whole systems approaches to preventing gender-based violence. Speakers will explore issues such as the need to move beyond criminal justice and criminalisation approaches to engage in genuine systems change, systems change in contextual safeguarding and the importance of including minoritized and marginalised groups in the development of policy and practice.

Chair:

Professor Catherine Donovan,
Durham University

Speakers:

Professor Carlene Firmin, *Durham University*

Professor Leigh Goodmark,
University of Maryland

Dr Jennifer Lloyd,
Durham University

Professor Nicky Stanley, *UCLan*

Professor Khatidja Chantler,
Manchester Metropolitan University

Lunch: 13:00 – 14:00

SESSION TWO

What is the role of criminal justice in prevention?

This session is sponsored by the N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP), a collaboration between 8 research-intensive universities and 12 police forces in the North of England who work together to champion, enable, and support policing research and its impact. For more information on N8 PRP, please visit <https://www.n8prp.org.uk/> or follow us on X @n8prp .

14:00 - 16:00

This session will critically examine the role of criminal justice approaches in whole-systems responses. Women who experience additional structural constraints such as ethnicity, sexuality, disability and Indigeneity, often experience harmful responses by agencies, including criminal justice systems, and this will be reflected on during this session. Speakers will critically analyse the merits of the recourse to law as a preventative response in addressing gender-based violence.

Chair:

Dr Charlotte Barlow, *University of Central Lancashire*

Opening Speaker:

Samantha Millar, *Chief Superintendent North Yorkshire Police, National Violence Against Women and Girls Programme Lead*

Speakers:

Professor Sandra Walklate,
Liverpool University

Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon,
Monash University

Professor Heather Douglas (remote delivery),
University of Newcastle, AUS

Professor Geetanjali Gangoli,
Durham University

Coffee Break: 16:00 – 16:15

SESSION THREE

Film screening and discussion by Certain Curtain

16:15 - 17:30

Introduction:

Professor Nicky Stanley, *University of Central Lancashire*

CONFERENCE DINNER

18:30 onwards, Queens Hotel

Day Two: 20 Mar 2024, 9:30-3:30 pm (GMT)

Regroup from previous day: Dr Charlotte Barlow & Professor Christine Barter, 9:45 – 10:00

SESSION ONE

Challenging Beliefs & Engaging Men

10:00 – 12:00

This session will explore the need to challenge gendered, hetero-normative and misogynistic beliefs to effectively prevent gender-based violence and the need for men to be a central part of this process. Speakers will explore how to engage men and boys in speaking out about gender-based violence and the need challenge the hetero-normativity associated with gender-based violence by including experiences of the LGBT+ community

Chair:

Professor Christine Barter,
University of Central Lancashire

Speakers:

Professor Catherine Donovan,
Durham University

Professor David Gadd,
University of Manchester

Jo Todd,
CEO of Respect

Professor Nicole Westmorland,
Durham University

Lunch: 12:00 – 13:00

SESSION TWO

The Role of Media in Preventing Gender-based Violence

13:00 – 14:00

This workshop session will be led by Yvonne Roberts, outlining the role of the media and how academics and practitioners can work with the media in working towards preventing gender-based violence.

SESSION THREE

10-year Manifesto Planning Group Workshop

14:00 – 15:15

10 year manifesto planning – Group workshop

CONFERENCE CLOSE & NEXT STEPS

15:15 – 15:30

Speaker Bios

How Can we Prevent Gender-based Violence? A 10-year Vision

Tue 19 – Wed 20 March 2024

Dr Charlotte Barlow

Dr Charlotte Barlow is a Reader in Criminal Justice and Policing at the University of Central Lancashire, where she is a member of the Connect Centre for Research on Violence & Harm and Policing Strand Lead for the Centre for Criminal Justice Partnerships. She is elected Vice President of the British Society of Criminology. Charlotte researches gender-based violence, in particular domestic abuse. Her work focusses on policing, criminal justice and legal responses. Recent externally funded projects have explored domestic violence disclosure schemes/ Clare's Law, coercive control, court systems and domestic abuse, including integrated domestic abuse courts and Family Drug and Alcohol courts, interventions for children who experience domestic abuse, rurality and domestic abuse and multi-agency working. Charlotte has published widely in this field, including two monographs, an edited collection and journal articles in high impact factor journals, including the British Journal of Criminology and Feminist Legal Studies. Achieving real-world impact is central to Charlotte's approach to research, and her domestic abuse research has influenced national and international policy and informed the development of police and partner agency training.

Dr Catherine Donovan

Catherine has researched the family and intimate lives of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans and non-binary people for nearly 30 years which has ranged from family and parenting experiences to, more recently, domestic and sexual abuse and hate crime. Relatedly, she has researched sexual abuse in universities. Catherine is on the Board of WWIN, a domestic abuse service in Sunderland and the Drive Project's national working group developing interventions for LGBTQ+ perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Professor Christine Barter

Christine Barter is Professor of Interpersonal Violence Prevention and Co-Director of the Connect Centre for International Research on Interpersonal Violence and Harm at the University of Central Lancashire. Christine's work addresses both prevention and intervention in relation to Gender-Based violence, with a particular focus on young people's intimate relationships and children affected by domestic abuse. She sat as a Specialist Advisor to the Governments' Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Inquiry (2016-2017), the Inquiry into Attitudes towards Women and Girls in Educational Settings (2022-2023) and currently sits as a specialist advisory on the Government's VAWG Inquiry 2022-2024.

Professor Khatidja Chantler

Khatidja Chantler (PhD) is Professor of Gender, Equalities and Communities at Manchester Metropolitan University where she leads the Gender-based Violence and Abuse research team. Her most recent work is on domestic homicide, specifically the analysis of domestic homicide reviews to interrogate domestic abuse policy and practice. She is internationally known for her work on forced marriage and domestic abuse in minoritized communities including how such communities are constructed and analyses of policy and service responses to them. Khatidja takes an intersectional approach to her work, highlighting how structural inequalities impact on experiences of domestic abuse and help-seeking. She has published widely in national and international journals and is author of several book chapters and co-editor of three books.

Professor Heather Douglas

Heather Douglas AM is a Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne. She researches and teaches criminal law with a focus on legal responses to domestic and family violence. She coordinates Australia's [National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book](#), a resource for courts responding to domestic and family violence. She is the author of *Women, Intimate Partner Violence and the Law* (OUP, 2021) and a co-editor of *The Criminalization of Violence Against Women: Comparative Perspectives* (OUP, 2023).

Dr Carlene Firmin MBE

Dr Carlene Firmin is Professor of Social Work at Durham University. Carlene has researched young people's experiences of community and group-based violence since 2008 and has advocated for comprehensive approaches that keep them safe in public places, schools, and peer groups. Carlene coined the term Contextual Safeguarding in 2014 to describe a vision for improving safeguarding responses to young people at risk of harm beyond their family homes. In 2016 she published the Contextual Safeguarding framework: a framework that has since been used to reform safeguarding responses and policy frameworks concerned with extra-familial harm in the UK and internationally. Carlene is co-convenor of a special interest group on Social Work and Adolescents for the European Social Work Research Association; she is a Global Ashoka Fellow, and also a member of the Churchill Fellowship Advisory Council. She has written in the national newspaper, the *Guardian*, since 2010, and is widely published in the area of child welfare including through two sole-authored books. In 2011 Carlene became the youngest black woman to receive an MBE for her seminal work on gang-affected young women in the UK.

Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon

Kate Fitz-Gibbon is a Professor of Social Sciences and member of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre in the Faculty of Arts, Monash University (Victoria, Australia). She also holds affiliated research appointments with the School of Law and Social Justice at University of Liverpool (UK) and the Research Center on Violence at West Virginia University (US). Kate is an internationally recognised scholar in the field of family violence, femicide, criminal justice responses to violence against women, and the impact of law reform in Australia and internationally. The findings of her research have been published in leading academic journals and books. Kate has advised on homicide law reform, family violence and youth justice reviews in several Australian and international jurisdictions. Her research has been cited by the High Court of Australia. In 2021 she was appointed Chair of Respect Victoria by the Victorian Government.

Professor David Gadd

David Gadd is Professor of Criminology at the University of Manchester. David has over 25 years' of experience of conducting and analysing in-depth interview research with offenders, and has written extensively on the subjects of domestic abuse, masculinities and crime, racial harassment, human trafficking, modern slavery and the aftermath of violence. Much of David's research is characterized by a distinctly psychosocial approach to criminological problems. David is currently undertaking research within the Vulnerability and Policing Futures ESRC Centre and on the NIHR ADVANCE D project. In 2022 he was an ESRC Impact Finalist.

Professor Leigh Goodmark

Leigh Goodmark (she/hers) is the Marjorie Cook Professor of Law and director of the Clinical Law Program at the University of Maryland Frances King Carey School of Law, where she teaches the Gender, Prison, and Trauma Clinic. She is the author of *Imperfect Victims: Criminalized Survivors and the Promise of Abolition Feminism* (University of California Press 2023); *Decriminalizing Domestic Violence: A Balanced Policy Approach to Intimate Partner Violence* (University of California Press 2018) and *A Troubled Marriage: Domestic Violence and the Legal System* (New York University 2012), which was named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2012. She is the co-editor of *The Criminalization of Violence Against Women: Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford 2023) and *Comparative Perspectives on Gender Violence: Lessons from Efforts Worldwide* (Oxford 2015). Professor Goodmark's work on intimate partner violence has appeared in numerous journals, law reviews, and publications, including *Violence Against Women*, the *New York Times*, the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, the *Harvard Journal on Gender and the Law*, and the *Yale Journal on Law and Feminism*. From 2003 to 2014, Professor Goodmark was on the faculty at the University of Baltimore School of Law, where she served as Director of Clinical Education and Co-director of the Center on Applied Feminism. From 2000 to 2003, Professor Goodmark was the Director of the Children and Domestic Violence Project at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. Before joining the Center on Children and the Law, Professor Goodmark represented clients in the District of Columbia in custody, visitation, child support, restraining order, and other civil matters. Professor Goodmark is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School.

Nicole Jacobs

Since her appointment to the role of Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales in September 2019, Nicole has begun energetically putting her 20 plus years of experience in domestic abuse policy and intervention to work, driving improvements to transform the response to domestic abuse in England and Wales. She is committed to championing victims and survivors of all ages, status, and backgrounds, and to shining a light on practises that fail them.

Nicole began her career at the Alabama State Coalition Against Domestic Violence in the United States. In 1999, she came to London as an early worker at ADVANCE, one of the first advocacy (now DVA service) services in the UK. In 2000, she began working at Standing Together Against Domestic Violence, expanding the coordinated community response efforts into health settings. Before becoming CEO of Standing Together in 2013, she held a number of senior leadership positions at highly respected organizations, including Special Projects Director at SafeLives, and Senior Operations Manager at Refuge.

ACC Sam Millar

ACC Sam Millar is the Strategic Programme Director for the National Police Chiefs Councils VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Taskforce.

Before joining policing, Sam spent time after university in the army as a commissioned officer. After a tour of duty in Northern Ireland, Sam was awarded the Queens Gallantry Medal, something she would describe as the proudest moment of her service for her family.

Sam started her policing career in West Yorkshire Police in 1993 and transferred to North Yorkshire Police in 2019. She is an experienced public order and firearms commander and has recently been nominated for awards around her activity in coaching and mentoring.

Sam joined the police as a graduate entrant. After a short spell as staff officer, Sam's interest in partnerships saw her head up a large community safety partnership in Leeds in 2014, known as Safer Leeds. In this role, Sam had strategic responsibility for a range of safeguarding work streams. She has influenced the national agenda around policing street sex working, has held roles as deputy chair of adults and children safeguarding boards and was recognised locally and nationally for her innovative and influential work with her Safer Leeds Team in developing the multi-agency safeguarding hub in Leeds.

In December 2018 Sam completed a master programme with the University of Cambridge in criminology, using it as an opportunity to research and evidence the operational impact of a multi-agency approach to tackling on-street sex working.

Yvonne Roberts

Yvonne Roberts has worked in current affairs television, radio and print journalism for over fifty years. In 2021/23 she worked with Karen Ingala Smith and Clarrie O' Callaghan from the Femicide Census and Karen founder of Counting Dead Women on a campaigning series to tackle violence against women for The Observer where she was a former Chief Leader Writer.

Professor Nicky Stanley

Nicky Stanley is Professor of Social Work and Co-Director of the Connect Centre for International Research on Interpersonal Violence and Harm at the University of Central Lancashire, UK. Her research examines gender-based and interpersonal violence against women and children. Nicky has led international and national research studies on children's and families' experience of domestic abuse and she has evaluated interventions and programmes addressing violence and abuse. She publishes widely and has produced books on domestic violence and child protection, health and social care inquiries and mothers' mental health needs. She has contributed to national guidelines and policy on domestic abuse.

Laura Thurman

Laura is currently a PhD student at the Northumbria University, having won a scholarship through the Regional Development Fund, researching how what is written about care-experienced children affects their educational journeys. While completing an MA in Social Work Studies at Durham University, Laura completed a novel piece of research investigating why survivors of sexual violence forego their anonymity and speak out in the media. As a rape survivor, Laura participated in the Channel 5 documentary – Raped: My Story, which was subsequently nominated for a BAFTA award. Laura continues to be a passionate speaker about sexual violence, the impact this has on survivors, especially in relation to victim-blaming. Previously, Laura completed the 3-month, volunteer training programme with the Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling centre which enabled her to provide listening support on the phone to survivors seeking emotional support.

Jo Todd CBE, RESPECT

Jo is the founding CEO of Respect, where for over 20 years she has been at the forefront of developments in the domestic abuse perpetrator sector. She has been a key player influencing government and statutory sector agencies to improve responses to perpetrators, ensuring that they are held to account, offered the chance to change and stopped from causing harm.

Jo has worked in the domestic abuse sector for 30 years, starting with a variety of frontline roles with survivors, as a Refuge worker, running women's groups and supporting survivors whose partners were attending a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP). This grounding has been crucial to Jo's ongoing work at Respect, putting the safety, wellbeing and freedom of survivors at the heart of all responses to perpetrators.

As well as working with survivors, Jo has also been a groupwork facilitator on a DAPP, has worked as a supervisor and also delivered training across the UK and abroad, including in Germany, the Republic of Ireland, Mexico and Jordan.

Jo has an MA in the Sociology of Gender from Essex University (1992) and a diploma in counselling from City Lit (1999). She is co-author of the practitioner manual 'Working Towards Safety' (Iwi & Todd, DVIP, 2000) and has been an Associate Editor of the Journal of Gender Based Violence since its launch in May 2017.

Jo believes practice, policy, research and activism are all vital components to end domestic abuse and tries to keep a foot in all 4. She is also solo mum to 3 teenage boys and a rather naughty border collie and is, unsurprisingly, perpetually busy.

Professor Sandra Walklate

Professor Sandra Walklate (B.A.; M.Litt., FAcSS) is currently Eleanor Rathbone Chair of Sociology (University of Liverpool; ongoing) and from 2016-2023 was Conjoint Chair of Criminology at Monash University. She has ongoing adjunct professorial role at QUT in Brisbane, is a Research Associate at the University of West Virginia Center for Violence Research and a Visiting Professor (Violence and Society Research Centre), City University. In September 2022 she was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Observatory Permanent Violence and Crime (OPVC), University Fernando Pessoa (UFP), Porto, Portugal and in February 2023 appointed as a Visiting Research Fellow, School of Law, University of Reading. Internationally recognised for her work in victimology, criminal victimisation, and violence against women her recent work include: *Violence Against Women During Coronavirus: When staying home isn't safe* (with Naomi Pfitzner, Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Silke Meyer and Marie Segrave, Palgrave, 2023); *What is to be done about violence against women?* (with Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Routledge, 2023).

Professor Nicole Westmarland

Nicole Westmarland is Professor of Criminology and Director of the Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA). She is the author of five books including: 'Violence against Women: Criminological Perspectives on Men's Violences' (Routledge, 2015), 'Researching Gender, Violence and Abuse: Theory, Methods, Action' (Routledge, 2018, with Dr Bows) and 'Men's Activism to End Violence Against Women' (Policy Press, 2021, with others). Her most recent article is 'I'm a red-blooded male': Understanding men's experiences of domestic abuse through a feminist lens' (in Criminology and Criminal Justice, with Dr Burrell).