

## Welcome to the [End Violence Against Women \(EVAW\)](#) bulletin for October

### This month:

- **Growing pressure on government to take action on violence against women following party conferences**
- **EVAW supports compulsory sex education in primary and secondary schools**
- **What's happened to the postcode lottery of violence against women services?**

### **Growing pressure on government to take action on violence against women following party conferences**

Pressure is growing on the UK government to take more comprehensive action to tackle rape, domestic violence, forced marriage and other violence against women after a successful party conference season last month for EVAW:

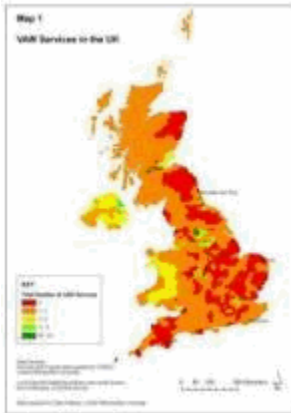
- **At Conservative Party Conference**, EVAW Chair, Liz Kelly, spoke on an Amnesty/Policy Exchange panel along with Theresa May MP, Shadow Minister for Women, who outlined her party's support for a more coordinated approach, including stable funding for Rape Crisis Centres and work to prevent violence.
- **At Labour Party Conference**. EVAW Manager, Holly Dustin, spoke alongside Solicitor General Vera Baird QC MP, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Kate Allen, and former Home Office Minister Fiona Mactaggart MP at a joint event with Amnesty and Compass which was packed to the rafters. There was widespread support among both audience and panellists (including the Solicitor General) for a UK strategy to end violence against women at this lively meeting.

Following publication of our [blueprint of a strategy](#) in the summer, we are continuing to urge national, regional and local governments to take this approach. To take action on violence and call for a strategy which would include campaigns to tackle attitudes and funding of specialist services for victims, click [here](#).

### **EVAW supports compulsory sex education in primary and secondary schools**

EVAW warmly welcomes the government's announcement that it intends to make age appropriate sex education in primary and secondary schools compulsory. A Zero Tolerance survey found that *half of young men think it's ok to hit a woman or force her to have sex in certain circumstances*, so we think it's essential that sex education addresses issues around

consent to sex, healthy relationships and provides support and information for victims of abuse.



### **What's happened to the postcode lottery of violence against women services?**

Last November, Trevor Phillips launched [Map of Gaps](#), a joint report by ERAW and the Equality and Human Rights Commission which showed the postcode lottery of violence against women services. A staggering 1 in 3 local authorities do not have Rape Crisis Centres, specialist domestic violence services or other specialist support for women who experience violence. The government's emergency funding this year for Rape Crisis Centres is now slowly reaching centres on the brink of closure - but there's no funding plan to deal with the crisis in the future. And whilst Southall Black Sisters won their High Court battle against Ealing Council's funding cut, fewer than 1 in 10 local authorities have specialist support services for ethnic minority women.

ERAW and the Commission have joined forces once again to publish a series of new maps to show what's happened to the postcode lottery. And the Commission has warned of legal action against local authorities if they don't make sure women have access to the support they need.

**For more information about ERAW go to [www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk) and see our blog at [endviolenceagainstwomen.blogspot.com](http://endviolenceagainstwomen.blogspot.com).**