

#### **4 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: CEDAW said the UK Government needs:**

*'... a national strategy to eliminate violence against women and girls.'*

##### **What has the Scottish Government done to develop and implement this?**

Ministers have recently identified **violence against women** as a priority area for the advancement of equality of opportunity (in accordance with one of the Gender Equality Duty 'specific duties' in Scotland). Ministers have a duty to report on listed public bodies' progress in the priority areas by July 2010 and at least every three years thereafter. The Scottish Government reported to the UN that these are the important actions it is taking on VAW (Marsha's comments in red):

- Allocated over £44m until March 2011 towards enabling women and children to access frontline support
- Work has also been undertaken to improve how perpetrators are dealt with
- Public awareness raising campaigns on domestic abuse and rape are underway
- Routine enquiry in the health sector and a network of training consortia.
- Strengthened the legal response to violence against women by: introducing the Sexual Offences Bill, which modernises the definition of rape and clarifies the law on consent; developing a domestic abuse toolkit for local criminal justice partners across Scotland; introducing new legislation (Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill) giving police specific powers to close premises associated with human trafficking/child sexual exploitation; and consulting on civil legislation to address the issue of forced marriage.

##### **Questions**

- 1. Do the above actions constitute a national strategy to eliminate violence against women and girls'?**
- 2. What could Scottish Government do/have done between 2008 and 2012?**
- 3. What could UK Government do/have done between 2008 and 2012?**
- 4. Any other comments?**