



ANOTHER PANDEMIC — MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACTIONS AND RESOURCES

The global realities of male violence against women are shocking and unrelenting. On 21 March, in response to the murder of Sarah Everard, the murdered sisters Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry, the dismissal of legal challenges to how rape policy is prosecuted in the UK, the unheard voices of girls, disabled, trans and indigenous women, domestic abuse statistics, and protests across India and Australia, WOW held an urgent evening of discussion.

The event is now available to watch on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Below are the actions from all the speakers.

Please:

- Follow these organisations on social media
- Sign up to their newsletters to follow their work
- Donate to the charitable organisations where you can

The WOW Foundation

The WOW Foundation is a charity that believes a gender equal world is desirable, possible and urgently required. Through festivals, events and more, our global movement celebrates women and girls, taking a frank look at the obstacles they face and discussing solutions for change.

We would like to ask you to support us in one of three ways (or all three if you like!)

- **Support us by donating.** We are a small female-led charity and on our [Support Us](#) page you can find out how to donate from as little as £1. By becoming a one off or monthly supporter, you will help enable us to run more events like this one, continue to convene people from around the world for vital conversations and help our work to eradicate gender inequality
 - **Support us with your voice.** Tweet, Facebook and Instagram about this event with the link to watch on YouTube. We want to make sure as many male allies watch this as possible, so send on to three men you know to watch
 - [Sign up to our newsletter](#) and be part of WOW's Global Movement for change.
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Alison Phillips, Chair, [Women in Journalism](#) and Editor, The Mirror, UK

- Journalists who want to do their journalism properly have to commit to going beyond just the responsible reporting of individual cases, to ensuring that this pandemic is reported in the same way as COVID
 - In the UK now we have more women as editors and journalists, we have to reach out to colleagues around the world, share learnings about responsible journalism, and need to look at introducing robust self-regulation on the reporting around violence against women.
 - If you're a journalist, join [Women in Journalism](#)
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Andrea Simon, Director, [End Violence Against Women Coalition](#), UK

- The UK Home Office consultation on its next [violence women and girls strategy](#) closes to the public at **11.45PM GMT on 26 March**. The Government has said they want to separate out domestic abuse from the wider violence against women and girls framework. You can respond to the public survey and let them know we need a joined up and not siloed policy approach - that deals with everything from sexual harassment, online abuse, sexual violence, and domestic abuse - which we know are connected to women's wider inequality, because that reflects the reality of women and girls lives. See briefing [here](#).
- The Domestic Abuse Bill is currently going through Parliament, but the Government has chosen to put the immigration status of migrant women before their protection and support when they are victims of domestic abuse. Three essential amendments have been added to the law by the House of Lords to make sure it protects migrant women too. If you are UK based, you can simply email your MP and tell them when this Bill comes back to the House of Commons they must Vote to keep [these protections](#) for migrant women in the Bill.
- [The UK Home Office has an open consultation](#) on its next violence women and girls strategy. The Government have said they want to separate out domestic abuse from the wider violence against women and girls framework. You can respond to that evidence call and let them know we need a coordinated approach that deals from everything from sexual harassment on and off line, sexual violence, which we know are all interrelated and that reflects the lived reality of women and girls.



- [The domestic abuse bill](#) that's currently going through Parliament at the moment, the Government has chosen to put the immigration status of migrant women before their protection and support of women who are victims of domestic abuse but three essential amendments have been added to the law to make sure it protects migrant women. If you are UK based you can email them and tell them when the bill comes back to the House of Commons they must Vote to keep protections for migrant women in the bill.
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Ben Hurst, Head of Facilitation at [Beyond Equality](#), UK

- If you're a man, sign up for reimagining a healthier relationship to masculinity.
- They are offering a full day training deep dive into masculinity and the part that men can play in a system that perpetuates oppression and results in violence against women and girls.
- Sign up as a community ally, or donate.

Please also check out Ben's talk here: [Boys won't be boys. Boys will be what we teach them to be. | Ben Hurst | TEDxLondonWomen](#)

Bonny Turner, Australian [Rape Justice Activist](#) in the UK & Norway, & [Lawyers for Rape Justice](#)
Co-Founder

- Although it's undeniable that women and girls are disproportionately affected, 1 in 8 victims of rape are men and boys. Anybody of any gender, sex or sexual orientation can be a victim, and we oppose the same enemy, male violence. By building an inclusive movement, we can **reframe the issue** - violent males - and maybe then, men and boys will do more to own the problem as theirs to solve.
- **Stop harming victims of colour** by diminishing our identities and experiences, and amplifying those of white victims. No matter your role in the movement, if you find yourself in a space where there's a lack of diversity, say something, do something, even if it means giving up your place or boycotting the platform.
- It's whimsical but from early childhood, we can learn about **consent with cats!** Cats can't be forced or coerced into doing anything against their will. Cats can teach us about earning trust,



and to be observant and respectful of body language so that we don't overstep boundaries. Imagine if everyone were taught to earn the trust and affection of cats, and how much easier it would be to transfer those learned behaviours into consensual interactions with people.

- [Sign The Petition](#): join the **#Lawyers4RapeJustice** call for victims of rape reporting to the police to be provided with free and independent lawyers so our rights are upheld and we have a fairer shot at justice.

Claire Barnett, Exec Director, [UNWomen UK](#)

- Take our community survey as part of the Safe Spaces Now project: unwomenuk.org/safe-spaces-now
- View the Safe Spaces Now exhibition here: unwomenuk.org/asafespace
- There are three areas of change in a cycle that we need:
 - Source the data
 - Solve the problem, with the portfolio of solutions
 - Scaling these solutions. If we find ways of using technology to respond and prevent violence make those available and open source them to other people in the world
- If every person attending tonight asks **one other person** to do one thing as a leader, as a colleague as a parent and as an ally we have the movement.
- We have a unique moment for action at the end of lockdown. Hopefully never again we will return to public spaces all at one time least in the UK. And we need to grasp that moment.

Chernor Bah, Co-Founder, [Purposeful](#), Freetown, Sierra Leone

How do we fight back?

- **Redistributing power assets.** We move money, we make sure the girls and young women and groups around the world who are already resisting, as part of their daily experience and daily existence, have access to resources.
- **Building collective power.** Making sure it's not just about the power of these kind of global convenes, but the girls and women in communities in the most poor and rural areas across the



world are organising a coming together, having access to mentors, having access to resources and finding their own power in these communities.

- **Organising power holders.** Being intentional about bringing other organisations like us, organising the community and changing the way philanthropy works.
 - **Transforming power.** Fighting back against misogynistic policies, programmes, institutions in communities, in leveraging this organisation taking place in most communities around the world.
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Eleanor Lisney, Founding member and Director, [Sisters of Frida](#), UK

- More support for disabled women by our sisters. Our non-disabled sisters and allies in this challenge against male violence.
 - Ensure disability is in your intersectional thinking and action
 - Follow and support [Stay Safe East London](#)
 - Follow and support [Sisters of Frida](#)
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Esra Aysun, curator WOW Istanbul <https://www.wowistanbul.org/en>

- Learn about the Istanbul Convention and what Turkey leaving it will mean.
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Gary Barker, Founder and CEO, [Promundo](#), USA/Portugal

- We need to demand within national plans that are funded in terms of ending violence against women and responding to survivors.
 - We need to include deliberate evidence-based approaches taken to scale for engaging men as part of those.
 - We need to start engaging men much earlier so that our boys come into a world that says, we know violence against women is not okay, I'm part of the change.
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Harriet Wistrich, Founder and Director, [Centre for Women's Justice](#), UK

- Look into the work of the [Centre for Women's Justice](#), which works to bring legal challenges.



Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Human Rights Lawyer and Crossbench Peer, House of Lords, UK

- We have to keep talking about equality and about having women in every place, having women in these institutions, because look around you, look at where power is in society, and it's still, it is still the men who get to make the key decisions in all those institutions whether it's in religious institutions, whether it's in the law, whether it's in financial institutions.

Janine Hardy, Founder, [March4Justice](#), Australia

- If we harness the community voices around sexual assault we can start to empower people in the community to call out sexual abuse and sexual violence when they see it

jane fae, Chair of [Trans Media Watch](#) @transmediawatch

- Let us build networks. We need solidarity between networks between trans and cis women and other minorities. We all need to be involved to be more than armchair warriors.

Jasvinder Sanghera, founder of [Karma Nirvana](#), activist and survivor of sexual harassment

- Around our tables, in our workplaces, let's call out inappropriate sexual comments and gestures.

Prof Joanna Bourke, Professor of History at Birkbeck and Principle Investigator on [SHAME \(Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters\) Project](#), UK

- Believe that a rape free world is possible.
 - Building coalitions and Encourage greater involvement of boys and men.
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Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia and Chair of the [Global Institute for Women's Leadership at King's College London](#), Australia/UK

- Follow the Global Institutes work, and build solidarity on global lines.
 - Support research into gender inequality, and implement evidence based policy change and interventions.
 - Political parties, parliaments and activists should work together to conduct gender sensitive parliament audits and promote the
 - Development and adoption of codes of parliamentary conduct.
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Julia Gonçalves Leal, Leader at (one of Rio's biggest favelas), Brazil

- Follow the work of [Women's House, Redes de Maré](#)
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Sughra Ahmed, Muslim scholar and activist, UK

- Watch these two documentaries by Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy
 - [Girl in the River](#)
 - [Saving Face](#)
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Mandu Reid, Leader, [Women's Equality Party](#), UK

- Join [Women's Equality Party](#)
 - Wherever you are, when elections come around, gather women together, strategise, organise and mobilise, make your demands and expectations clear to any politician, asking for your vote. And only ever give your votes to a candidate who has a satisfactory answer to the question, what will you do to end male violence against women and girls
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Mariana Katarova, Founder, [RAW in WAR - Reach all Women in War](#), Bulgaria/UK

- In times of radicalisation in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, where tyrants and dictators around the world are on the rise, I challenge you that we need to create a system of "radical



solidarity" with the women activists, journalists and women human rights defenders working in war and conflict zones.

- Defend the defenders: women journalists, activists and whistleblowers in war and conflict zones, who speak truth to power and often pay for this with their lives. Support the work of RAW in WAR (Reach All Women in War).
- We need solidarity with women in power because many of us are now heads of banks, corporations, governments. We need to reach out with the very few women on top of governments and powerful institutions to finance and support us in this quest.
- Work closely with the men, who often risk their lives to save the lives of women, both in peace time and in times of war and conflict, like my two heroes of all times: Dr Denis Mukwege from DRC and German Galdecki from the Russian Federation.
- As the first African American woman, who ran for President of the USA, Shirley Chisholm, said: "When they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." So grab your folding chairs, rise up, be angry, support the women - the brave and the hurting, join together. Until the violence stops.

Nazir Afzal OBE, Former Chief Prosecutor, and author, [The Prosecutor: One Man's Pursuit for Justice for the Voiceless](#), UK

- We need to put all the work that we have done in our radicalisation and terrorism into gender based violence.

Radhya Almutawakel, human rights defender, Co-founder and Chairperson of [Mwatana Organisation For Human Rights](#), Yemen

- Follow [Mwatana Organisation For Human Rights](#) and donate what you can.



Rubbená Aurangzeb-Tariq, artist, [Chair of DEWA \(Deaf Ethnic Women's Association\)](#) and [Co-Chair of Deaf Aspirations](#)

- The action needed is for your acknowledgement that deaf women are equal to you. To allow access to education with qualified sign language professionals, and for access to be provided in sign language, so that we feel the same as every woman today.

Winnie M Li, Author of [Dark Chapter](#), Co-Founder of [Clear Lines](#), London, UK

- **Invite as diverse a range of women** as possible — **including Asian women** and women of all races — to the table. At events and conversations like this one at WOW global. Invite us to share their experiences and knowledge, to influence policy and decision-making, to speak out and encourage other women like us to speak out.
- **Read, watch, and pay attention to the books, films, plays, music, TV shows**, and other cultural forms created by women who have a lived experience of sexual assault, harassment, and misogyny. That's how we better understand the reality of male violence upon women. Because our voices are the ones with the insight and the knowledge.
- If we're not going to eliminate the pornography industry all together, then at least **regulate it** — so it's not racist or denigrating towards women, so it doesn't fuel misogynist, violent impulses in men and boys.
- **Penalise and convict perpetrators of violence.** And don't minimise the hatred and stereotypes at its roots, don't claim that a crime isn't racially motivated, when it is.

Wiyaala, singer/songwriter, performer, activist, ambassador for [BeBetter Mentorship](#) and for [UNICEF Ghana](#)



- Follow the work of [UNICEF Ghana](#)
 - Support the work of [BeBetter Mentorship](#), an NGO in Northern Ghana which seeks to help teenage girls achieve their full potential.
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