

## Violence against women and girls at 'epidemic' levels

29th July 2024



Police in the UK have released a report highlighting a serious surge in violence against women and girls. The report states that levels of misogyny and criminal acts against women are at record levels. More than one million such crimes have been reported in one

year. This may be just the tip of the iceberg. There will be a substantial number of instances of violence that go unreported. London's Metropolitan Police wrote about the gravity of this problem. It said: "Violence against women and girls is endemic, systemic, and a threat to society on the same scale as terrorism." It added that crimes against women constituted 20 per cent of all recorded crime. It said: "We must act to change the unacceptable reality for women and girls."

The report was issued by the UK's National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing. Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth called the statistics "staggering". She said: "Violence against women and girls is a national emergency. We need to move forward as a society to make change, and no longer accept violence against women and girls as inevitable." The police said: "One in every 12 women will be a victim of violence. One in every six murders is a result of domestic abuse. One in 20 people - more than two million of them - will be perpetrators of violence against women and girls in their lives." It said gender-based violent crimes included harassment, murder, online sexual abuse, rape, and stalking.

Sources: [met.police.uk](http://met.police.uk) / [aljazeera.com](http://aljazeera.com) / [sky.com](http://sky.com)

### Writing

The sentence for violence against women and girls should be life in prison. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

police / violence / women / girls / crimes / tip of the iceberg / violence / terrorism / policing / statistics / national emergency / victim / domestic abuse / murder / stalking

### True / False

- 1) A feminist group issued a report highlighting violence against women. T / F
- 2) A report said levels of misogyny in the UK are on the decrease. T / F
- 3) The article said a huge number of crimes against women go unreported. T / F
- 4) A fifth of all crimes in the UK are committed against women. T / F
- 5) A police deputy chief was staggered by the crime statistics. T / F
- 6) The deputy chief called crimes against women a national emergency. T / F
- 7) Around 12 per cent of women in the UK will experience violence. T / F
- 8) More than two million people in the UK will be violent towards women. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>surge</b>       | a. unavoidable |
| 2. <b>violence</b>    | b. sizeable    |
| 3. <b>substantial</b> | c. amounted to |
| 4. <b>gravity</b>     | d. molestation |
| 5. <b>constituted</b> | e. brutality   |
| 6. <b>staggering</b>  | f. pestering   |
| 7. <b>inevitable</b>  | g. astonishing |
| 8. <b>abuse</b>       | h. increase    |
| 9. <b>murder</b>      | i. seriousness |
| 10. <b>harassment</b> | j. homicide    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What role does social media play in increased misogyny?
- c) What do you think of the sexualization of girls in advertising?
- d) Should there be life in prison for violence against women?
- e) How responsible are advertising companies for misogyny?
- f) Should men call out male friends for misogynistic comments?
- g) Should all governments have a female anti-misogyny minister?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the police chief?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. levels of                        | a. of violence              |
| 2. instances of violence that go    | b. violence against women   |
| 3. Violence against women and girls | c. reality for women        |
| 4. a threat to society on the same  | d. unreported               |
| 5. change the unacceptable          | e. result of domestic abuse |
| 6. One in every six murders is a    | f. is endemic               |
| 7. no longer accept                 | g. misogyny                 |
| 8. One in every 12                  | h. violent crimes           |
| 9. perpetrators                     | i. scale as terrorism       |
| 10. gender-based                    | j. women will be a victim   |

## Discussion – Student B

- How are women treated in your country?
- Why is there so much violence against women and girls?
- Do you think the violence will increase or decrease?
- Why is there so much misogyny in the world?
- Is violence against women and children the same as terrorism?
- Should all school children be taught about respect?
- Should all schoolboys be taught what the word 'no' means?
- How worried are you about your female family members?

## Spelling

- a serious suger in violence against women
- levels of nogmysyi
- just the tip of the igecerb
- olice wrote about the rtviyag of this problem
- Violence against women and girls is ediecnm
- crimes against women ntuoidttesc 20%
- Blyth called the statistics agenrgstig
- a national neegrecym
- against women and girls as eibnatvel
- a result of domestic easbu
- ereatrsptpro of violence
- violent crimes included mestraahsn

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. b	4. i	5. c
6. g	7. a	8. d	9. j	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Equal Pay

You think equal pay is the most pressing thing society must achieve. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): shared cooking and cleaning duties, equal education opportunities or harsher crimes for violence against women.

### Role B – Shared Cooking/Cleaning Duties

You think shared cooking and cleaning duties is the most pressing thing society must achieve. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): equal pay, equal education opportunities or harsher crimes for violence against women.

### Role C – Equal Education Opportunities

You think equal education opportunities is the most pressing thing society must achieve. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): shared cooking and cleaning duties, equal pay or harsher crimes for violence against women.

### Role D – Harsher Crimes for Violence

You think harsher crimes for violence against women is the most pressing thing society must achieve. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): shared cooking and cleaning duties, equal education opportunities or equal pay.

## Speaking – Gender equality

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important issues in need of addressing at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Equality at home | • Zero harassment              |
| • Equal pay        | • Shared cooking               |
| • Equal education  | • Shared child-caring          |
| • Better health    | • Harsher penalties for crimes |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.