

UK STATEMENT – VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – WORKING SESSION 8

Violence against women is devastating for victims and their families. It ruins lives and is unacceptable. Too many women and girls have suffered domestic or sexual violence and abuse, and we are committed to tackling these serious crimes. Our cross-government action plan, “A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls” sets out the detail of our activities to respond to these crimes based on prevention, provision of services, partnership working and justice outcomes and risk reduction.

The UK government has also been active on the international scene and we are determined to ensure that our domestic approach complements and supports our international approach. We must lead by example.

In June the UK government organized and hosted the largest ever event aimed at ending sexual violence in conflict. The Ending Sexual Violence Summit agreed practical steps to tackle impunity for the use of rape as a weapon of war, and to begin to change global attitudes to these crimes

In July, the UK hosted the first ever Girl Summit aimed at mobilising domestic and international efforts to end female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage within a generation.

Both of these events demonstrate our determination to provide strong domestic and international leadership to end violence against women and girls. We look forward to continuing our international engagement, including with the OSCE, to rid our societies of all forms of violence and intolerance.