



WORKING TO END  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee  
Scottish Parliament

26<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Committee Members

### **Evidence session on 25<sup>th</sup> February**

I am writing to clarify some points which arose in your evidence session on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 in relation to rape crisis service provision.

Rape Crisis Scotland was founded 22 years ago to help women survivors of rape, and it has always been our policy to respond to survivors' needs as compassionately as possible. Safe spaces for women have always been - and remain - fundamental to our approach.

The new draft guidance on which Rape Crisis Scotland is consulting with member centres will put beyond doubt that survivors can access single sex spaces in rape crisis services throughout Scotland. To ensure that survivors stay front and centre of our work, our member centres will also be consulting with survivors using their services, to explore what would work for them, and what language we should use to describe our services. All these opinions will be taken into account in the final version of these guidelines.

At Rape Crisis Scotland, we believe that anyone who has experienced sexual violence is entitled to receive support, in a way which feels appropriate and comfortable for them. Our priority is to meet survivors' needs and ensure that survivors can make informed choices about the services they receive.

Best wishes,

Sandy Brindley  
Chief Executive

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