



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

The Survivorship Experiences of Men and Boys of Crimes Categorised as Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls

Professor Nicola Graham-Kevan PhD

Mark Brooks OBE

Heidi Tranter

Danielle Wynne

#Malesurvivors2024

@UCLanCJP

Criminal Justice
Partnership





University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

Partners

Dads Unlimited
HARM network
ManKind Initiative
Men and Boys Coalition
Paul Lavelle Foundation
Survivors West Yorkshire
Recognising Behaviour as Abusive
We Are Survivors

Thank you to all the survivors who took part in the online survey and those that took part in the focus groups

10.00am - 10.20am	Introductions: Mark Brooks
10.20am -10.55am	Research Report and Questions: “The Survivorship Experiences of Men and Boys of Crimes Categorised as Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls” Professor Nicola Graham-Kevan (Professor of Criminal Justice Psychology) University of Central Lancashire
10.55am – 11.30am	Discussion with survivors Hosted by Ally Fogg, Chair, Men and Boys Coalition
11.30am -Noon	Professor Nicola Graham-Kevan and Dr Maz Idriss, Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University Q and A session



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

**We all recognise the need to support
women and girls who are victims of
these crimes**

**We also recognise that we do not want
resources focused on supporting women
and girls to be switched to men and
boys. We want more for all!**



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

Policy Background

**2009: Home Office -
“Together We Can End
Violence Against Women
and girls: A Strategy”
(Labour)**

 HM Government

TOGETHER WE CAN
END VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS:
A STRATEGY

2010: Home Office

“Tackling/Ending Violence Against Women and Girls” Coalition:

- Sexual violence, abuse and exploitation
- Domestic abuse
- Stalking
- Forced marriage
- So called ‘Honour’ Based Abuse and more.

Passing mention of men – sex workers and domestic abuse

Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Action Plan

2014-15: CPS - Violence Against Women and Girls data report.

This includes data on 13,000 male victims but does not state this.

Revision made to front cover stating “Inclusive of Data on Male Victims” from then on.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS
CRIME REPORT 2015-16



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

2016: Home Office - “Strategy to end violence against women and girls” (Conservative)

2017: CPS - Public statement on male victims for crimes covered by the CPS Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy

**Public statement on male victims for crimes covered by the CPS
Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy**

This statement outlines the CPS support for male victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual offences, stalking, forced marriage, honour-based violence, child abuse, prostitution, human trafficking focusing on sexual exploitation, pornography and obscenity.¹





University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

2019: Home Office:

“Male victims Position Statement”

“Position statement on male victims of crimes considered in the cross-government strategy on ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)”

~Has small range of commitments – little in terms of strategy/accountability

July 2021: Home Office- “Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy”

The term ‘violence against women and girls’ refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. While we use the term ‘violence against women and girls’, throughout this Strategy, this refers to all victims of any of these offences.

March 2022: Home Office: “Supporting Male Victims” Originally called “Supporting male victims of crimes considered violence against women and girls”

- Improves detail but still no parallel strategy, definition, public accountabilities and a range of commitments still not met – including communication campaigns and adding male victims to Ministers’ responsibilities.
- Barely mentioned, if at all, by the Government



HM Government

Supporting Male Victims

Position Statement on Male Victims of crimes considered in the cross-Government Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan

March 2022



2023: Government (general)

Government Ministers state that no parallel strategy can be created because “there may have been a lot of complaints from women and domestic abuse organisations”

- An unevidenced claim

“We recognise the term VAWG cannot, and should not, negate the experiences of male victims.”

- No male or survivor charity has been asked whether it does or not
- Male victims not formally included in the police framework on VAWG crimes

Summary

15 years of these men and boys being officially classed and defined as victims of violence against women and girls:

- **A boy who is groomed online**
- **A son (under 16) of a woman who is a victim of domestic abuse**
- **A man who was sexually abused as a boy**
- **A father fleeing domestic abuse with his children**
- **A teenage boy having intimate images shared online by his boyfriend**
- **Every man raped by Britain's worst serial rapist (Reynhard Siniga)**
- **A gay man fleeing a forced marriage**

All are officially classed /defined as victims of violence against a woman

Stalker who sent Harry Styles
8,000 cards is jailed



PA MEDIA

Two letters were hand-delivered to Harry Styles' address, the court heard



Richard Gadd created and stars in *Baby Reindeer* (Image: Netflix)





University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

The Survivorship Experiences of Men and Boys of Crimes Categorised as Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls

Professor Nicola Graham-Kevan PhD

Mark Brooks OBE

Heidi Tranter

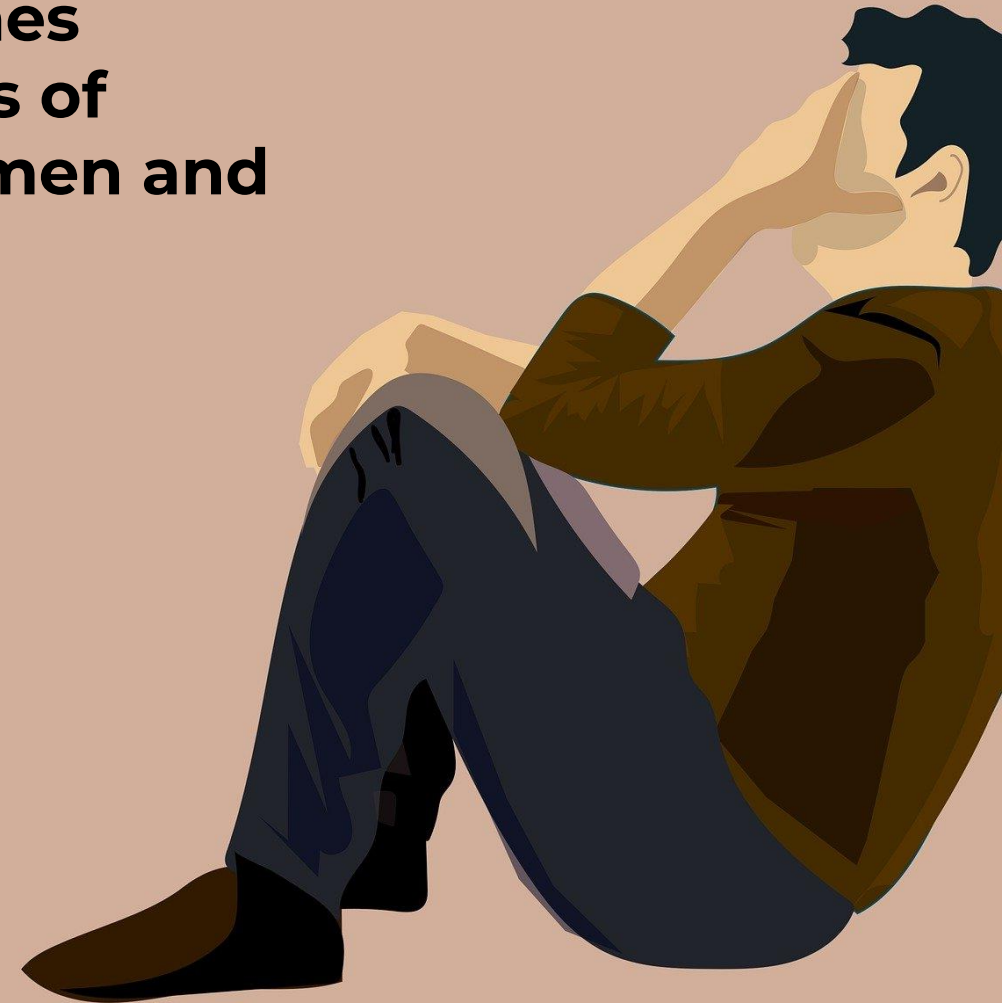
Danielle Wynne

Criminal Justice
Partnership



#Malesurvivors2024

@UCLanCJP



Aims of the Project

1. The likelihood of recognition of personal victimhood;
2. Beliefs about self after victimisation;
3. The likelihood of seeking support;
4. Experiences of seeking support;
5. The likelihood of reporting the offence/s to police.

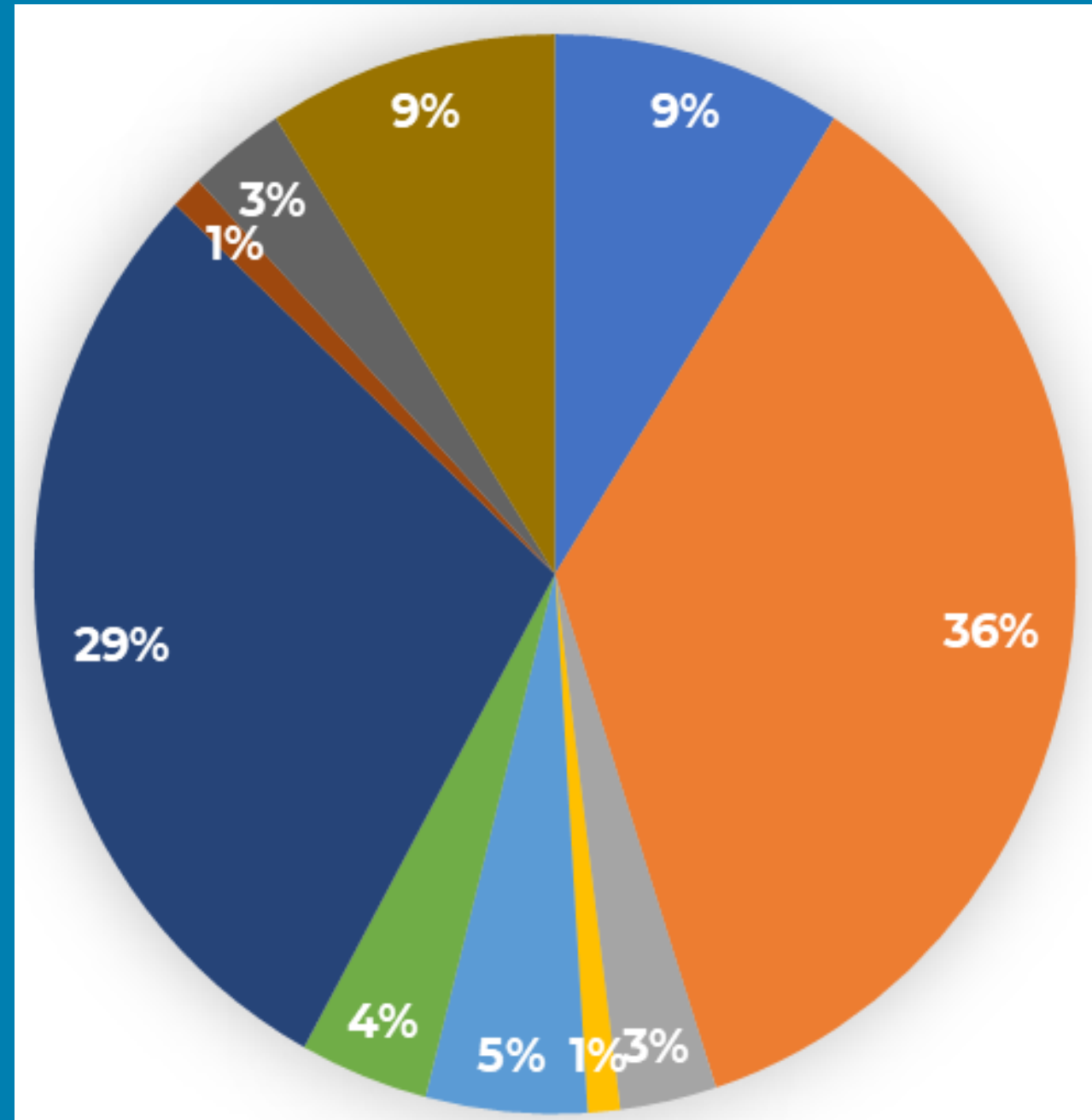
The Sample

- In total **369 responses** were received 15 June 2023 - 17 August 2023 (342 male survivors, 3 female survivors, 16 family members, partner, or friend of male survivor, and
- 8 ‘others’ which included individuals who work with both male & female survivors & an independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA)), these latter respondents were termed third-party perspectives in this report



Types of abuse

- 3 different types of abuse
- 4 or more types of abuse
- Coercive control
- Coercive control & 1 other type of abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Domestic abuse & 1 other form of abuse
- Domestic abuse & coercive control
- Honour abuse & 2 other forms of abuse
- Sexual abuse &/or sexual violence
- Sexual abuse or sexual violence & 2 other forms of abuse



When did they recognise the behaviour as Abuse?

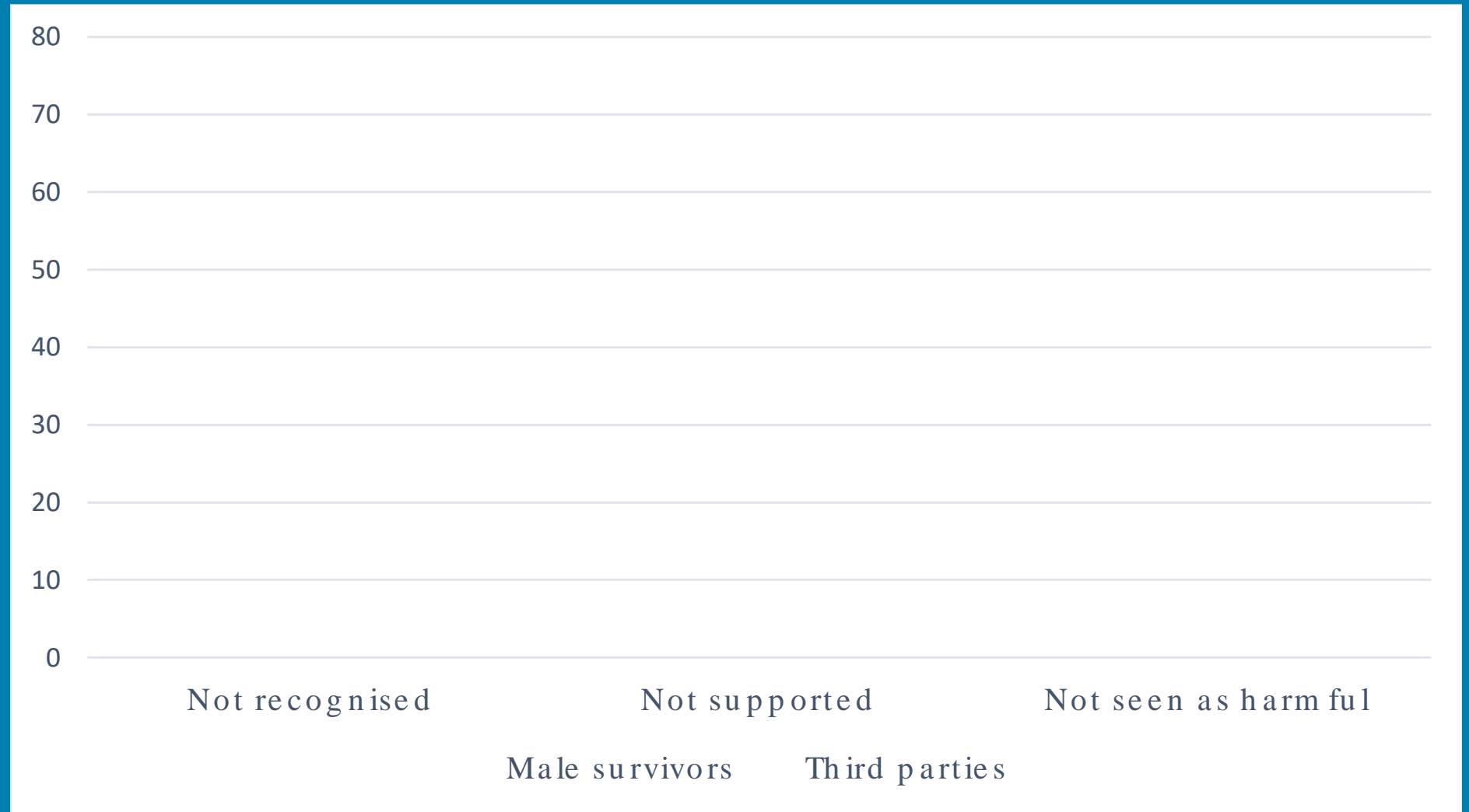
- **24%** male survivors took between **1-4 years**
- **20%** of male survivors reported that it took between **5-8 years**
- Qualitative responses suggested that one of the main barriers to identifying experiences as abusive, was a **lack of awareness that men could experience these types of violence & abuse**

“Brought up to not consider women in the realms of violence. They were to be protected. I was taught to recognise, & how to deal with aggressive & violent men, I was never shown what to do with aggressive women. That & I didn't believe it until friends staged an intervention.”

“I had told social services at the time & nothing happened to the man, so I assumed that it was normal or at least not a big deal. It wasn't until years later when I told a friend about what had happened that I realised it was rape, & I was a victim of sexual abuse.”

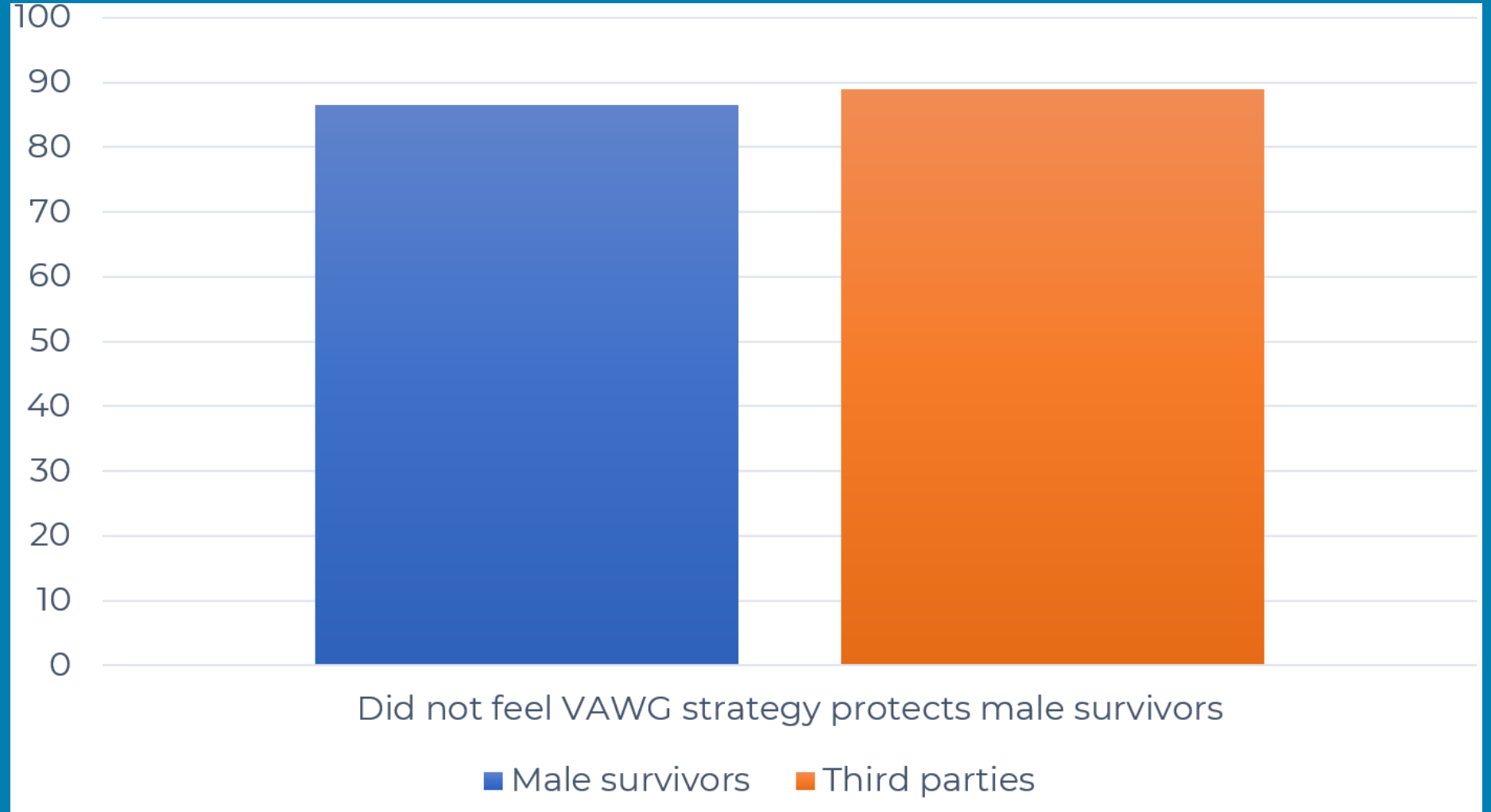
“Eldest in the family & family honour forced me to keep things to myself & not to seek any help. It's been a toxic relationship from very beginning. But, due to family honour & community I tried to ride it out & make it work.”

Invisible, ignored and trivialised



Perceptions around male experiences of Abuse.

VAWGs



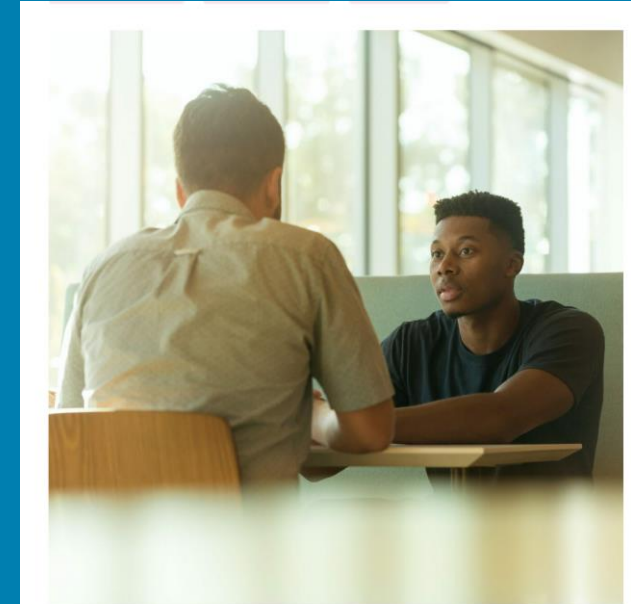
Perceptions around VAWG strategy protection for male survivors.

Negative Impacts of Male Survivors of VAWGs

Difficulty accessing support	73% male survivors
Poor service availability	74% male survivors
Not recognised by society	73% male survivors
Not believed by public services	73% male survivors
Minimising their experiences	80% male survivors
Feeling invisible	90% male survivors
Not mattering to society	90% male survivors
Not taken seriously	75% male survivors
Government does not care	88% male survivors
Making it harder to seek help	89% male survivors
Experiencing distress	89% male survivors

Dame Vera Baird (2022)

“The Home Office’s refreshed ‘Supporting Male Victims’ document – notably not a ‘strategy’ – will do shamefully little to advance the interests of these victims and, through its confused and contradictory language, is at risk of actively promoting the very harmful stereotyping the document cautions against. It’s hard to escape the impression that male survivors are an afterthought”.



The Victims' Commissioner criticises the Home Office document on male victims as "devoid of ambition" and "disappointing in the extreme".

Surprised, incredulous, indignant

“I'm not a woman or a girl. I don't understand why I could be placed under that strategy... only makes me feel less supported”

“are you 100% sure this is correct?”

“as far as I am aware I am not classed as a victim of violence against woman and girls & until taking part in this survey had not considered that I would be”

“I'm a male survivor of domestic abuse and would appreciate being identified as such, it's my basic human right”

“It's extremely offensive and insulting. It diminishes & denies what I have had to endure, escape from & still live with on a daily basis. How are things ever going to change when we are classified in this way?”

Gaslit by your Government

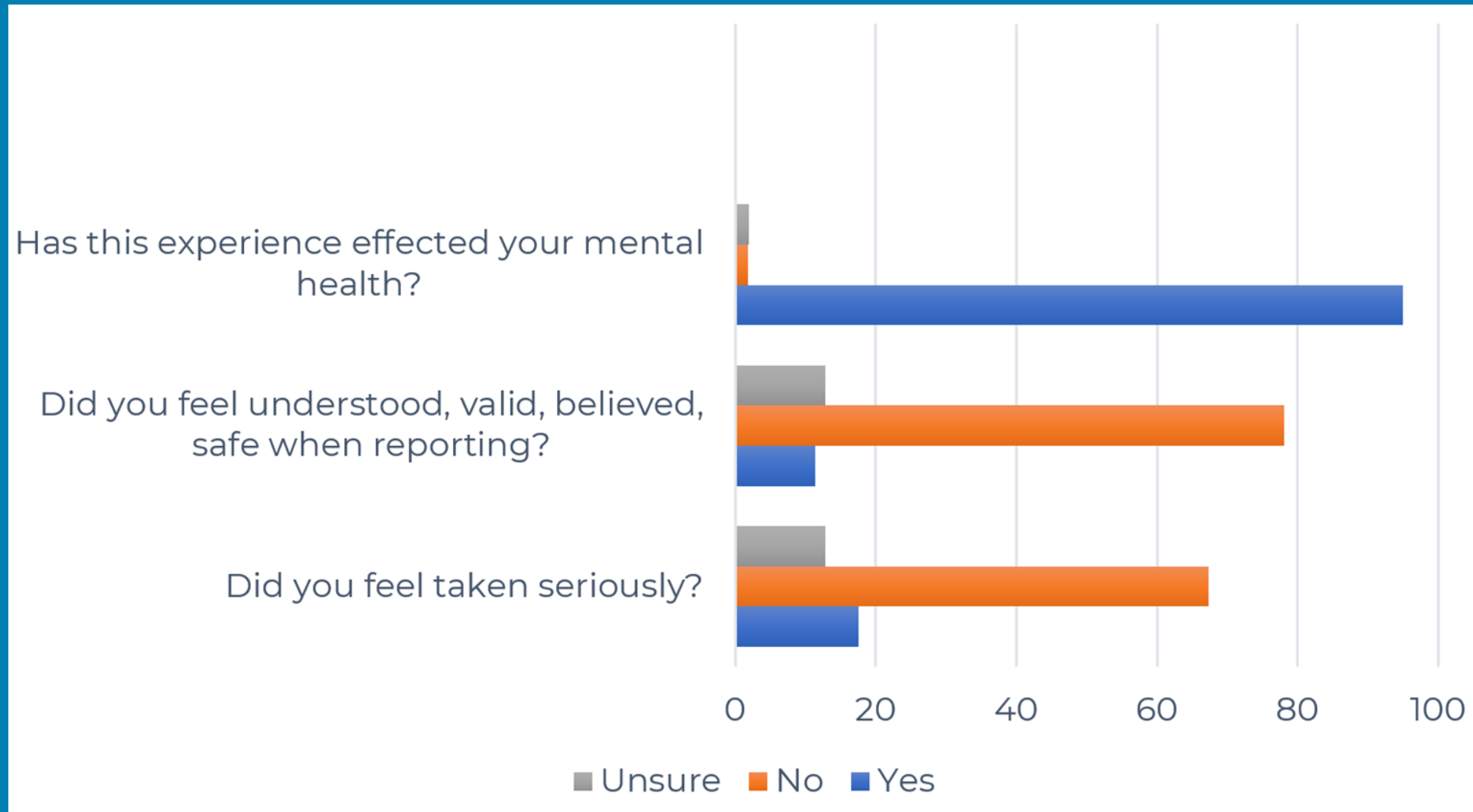
“It’s a continuation of decades of state supported abuse towards fathers, children and members of the LGBTQ+ Community”

It is “homophobic ‘who's the man & who's the woman’ trope. He's been victim of sexual violence, so obviously that makes him the woman in the relationship”

"I feel completely devastated by it. I am a bisexual MAN. It feels as though I am being erased & ALL the pain & suffering is being hidden. Also, it is so damaging to describe men as women especially when we have been abused. I feel, & felt, so much shame. This makes it worse"

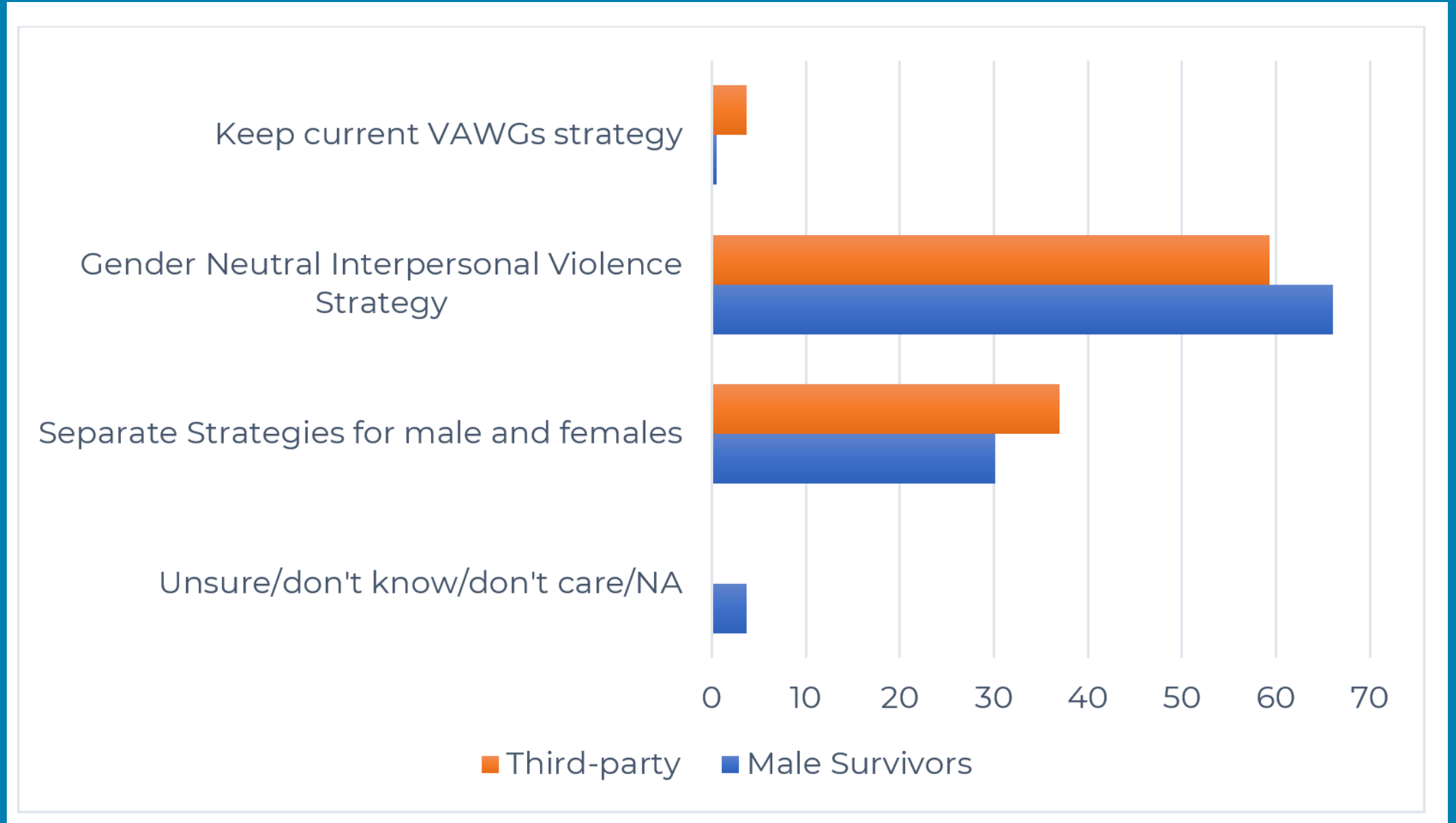
“It repeats the trauma & the authorities become part of the abuse.”

What's the Impact?



The impact of male survivors being classed as victims of VAWG.

Preferred Solution



Moving forward

- “I don't understand why we need abuse to be gendered. Regardless of your gender, abuse is disgusting & needs to be eradicated.
- “Whilst a single strategy would appear to be a logical solution, there are too many differences between male centric & female centric abuse patterns to have a "one size fits all" strategy. We, as a society need to understand that we have our differences and that they need to be treated accordingly.”
- “Build towards a gender inclusive approach... this starts by having a dedicated men’s version & under an umbrella we include both VAWG & a male centred version.”

Ally Fogg and the survivor panel discussion

Q and A session

**Professor Nicola
Graham-Kevan and
Dr Maz Idriss**

**The report is available to
download from
<https://clock.uclan.ac.uk/51321/>**

**If you would like to speak to someone
further about the report please email
ngraham-kevan@uclan.ac.uk**

