



**Gwent Police Headquarters
Llantarnam Park Way
Llantarnam
CWMBRÂN
Torfaen
NP44 3FW**

VIA EMAIL

14th October 2022

Dear Jenny Rathbone MS

**RE: Inquiry into Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual
Violence – migrant women**

Thank you for your letter dated 10th October 2022.

Please see below in responses in relation to the clarification points you raised.

I note your concerns regarding the pressure BAWSO are under and would stress that Forces generally only utilise BAWSO to assist with interpretations where they are already involved with the person. For example, where they are assisting them in reporting incidents to police. They may also utilise them to complete a Domestic Abuse Stalking Harassment form or to obtain initial information to help the Police establish what crimes, if any the person wants to report. This also applies to those Modern-Day Slavery cases.

In relation to data sharing, the information shared is generic data as opposed to personal data of individuals. Furthermore, in relation vulnerability to data sharing I have attached a guide from SafeLives which Forces have introduced into MARAC's and utilise where appropriate.

Kind Regards



DCC Amanda Blakeman



Guidance

SafeLives have released new guidance for Maracs on sharing of information in relation to victims who may have insecure immigration status.

This guidance has been written to ensure that all partner agencies can contribute to the role of Maracs (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) in protecting adult and child victims with insecure immigration status.

The guidance advises that only relevant and proportionate information should be shared through the Marac process to safeguard victims at risk. Any information shared with non-attending agencies should only be done with the agreement of the Marac, if appropriate, and only where it will directly help to improve the safety of the adult and/or child victims. Maracs must ensure that information shared within the process has safeguarding of the victim(s) as the absolute focus. Information sharing should serve the purpose of enhanced protection – for example to enable the victim(s) to access safe accommodation, court protection orders, engage in the family, civil or criminal justice systems, to confirm domestic abuse for legal proceedings or access to other specialist services.

- * Information shared during the Marac process should not be used to support immigration enforcement proceedings,
- * Immigration Enforcement should not attend Marac meetings,
- * No agency should pass on information shared at Marac meetings to Immigration Enforcement without explicit agreement of the Marac and then only for the purposes of safeguarding the victim(s).

This guidance was developed by SafeLives with the support of Southall Black Sisters, and with input from Standing Together and the Ealing Marac. When referencing Marac agreement within the document, this refers to the Chair, the Marac co-ordinator and the Marac partners.

Read the new guidance for Maracs on sharing of information in relation to victims who may have insecure immigration status.

https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/SafeLives%20guidance%20for%20Maracs%20on%20sharing%20immigration%20information_0.pdf

Why do we need the guidance?

The recent Super Complaint submitted by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters raised serious concerns about the impact of information sharing between the police and the Home Office in respect of victims of domestic abuse with insecure immigration status. The Police Inspectorate, HMICFRS' response to that complaint further highlighted "inconsistencies in police practice and a lack of clarity in policy" including an "absence of guidance for MARACs on information sharing".



This document seeks to create greater clarity for Maracs in response to these concerns and is issued by SafeLives which is a charity, independent of Government or any other agency, to ensure victims of domestic abuse whose cases are heard at Marac are not put at risk by the Marac process.

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