

Royal College of General Practitioners Wales

July 28 2023

Dear Rebecca Miller,

### **Inquiry into the public health approach to preventing gender-based violence**

Thank you for submitting written evidence to our inquiry into the public health approach to preventing gender-based violence. Further details on our work to-date are available on our [website](#).

The evidence we have taken thus far suggests that while there is a broad understanding of a public health approach, its implementation is in its infancy, including awareness and training. As you will be aware, "Ask and Act" is a Welsh Government policy delivered through guidance under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, which covers all different forms of violence including domestic abuse and female genital mutilation. We would be grateful if you could respond to the following points:

- How confident and well supported do the health professionals you represent feel in being able to identify violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence?
- Have health professionals received the "Ask and Act" training? If so, how useful is it at helping your members feel confident to ask about these issues and about providing an appropriate response and referral?
- Please could you also set out your views on the quality of other training your members receive. What more needs to be done to ensure the professional response to support all victims of gender-based violence is consistent throughout Wales.



As we are approaching the end of our evidence gathering, we would be grateful to receive your response by 25 August 2023 if possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Jenny Rathbone MS**  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.