



Consultation response form

Your response

The Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse supports the draft guidance and welcomes Ofcom's commitment to tackling violence against women and girls and helping ensure a safer life online for all women and girls. Two of our representatives attended and contributed to the engagement event at the Mac on Thursday 8th May. We provided feedback at the event, mostly around victims of domestic abuse and how technology and social media platforms can be manipulated to control, coerce, and further perpetrate abuse. We felt positive and assured that Ofcom had carried out extensive research in the area, including into the technical side of abuse online, and welcome that the landscape will be closely regulated and monitored on an ongoing basis. We want to thank the team at Ofcom for their robust response and oversight on the issue which we have no doubt have an impact on the support and safety that women and girls can avail of.

The Belfast Area Domestic & Sexual Violence would be happy to support Ofcom in any way it can in the roll out of the guidance, including any dissemination of information across our wide range of statutory, community and voluntary sector members. We look forward to learning more about the impact moving forward with this much needed, timely and extremely important area of work.

Question	Your response
Question 1: Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to 'content and activity' which 'disproportionately affects women and girls'?	Confidential? – N <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More preventative work, especially with young people into the harms and impact of sharing damaging content and activity.• Transparency from Tech Companies on compliance and steps taken to mitigate risk.
Question 2: Do you have any comments on the nine proposed actions? Please provide evidence to support your answer.	Confidential? – N <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Partnership feels like the nine actions outlined demonstrates a meaningful commitment to prevent online harm against women and girls, ensure companies and providers are accountable and support women and girls who may be affected.• Regular reviews

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<p>Question 3: Do you have any comments about the effectiveness, applicability or risks of the good practice steps or associated case studies we have highlighted in Chapter 3, 4 and 5? Are there any additional examples of good practices we should consider? Please provide evidence to support your comment.</p>	<p>Confidential? – N</p>
<p>Question 4: Do you have any feedback on our approach to encouraging providers to follow this guidance, including our proposal to publishing an assessment of how providers are addressing women and girls’ safety? Do you have any examples or suggestions of other ways we could encourage providers to take up the ‘good practice’ recommendations?</p>	<p>Confidential? – N</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency is critical and a media spotlight shown on providers who fail to adequately meet the standards as laid out. • Undertake reviews and publish cases of poor practice and subsequent consequences. • Providers should exhibit a further commitment to implement domestic abuse/ EAWG workplace policies.
<p>Question 5: Do you have any comments on our impact assessment, rights assessment, or equality impact assessment? Please provide any information or evidence in support of your views.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>No additional comments to add.</p>
<p>Question 6: Do you agree that our draft Guidance is likely to have positive effects on opportunities to use Welsh and treating Welsh no less favourably than English? If you disagree, please explain why, including how you consider the draft Guidance could be revised to have positive effects or more positive effects, or no adverse effects or fewer adverse effects on opportunities to use Welsh and treating Welsh no less favourably than English.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Please complete this form in full and return to OS-Section54@ofcom.org.uk.