

Sarah Everard: Statement from CEASE UK

16 March 2021

We were deeply saddened and appalled to hear about the murder of Sarah Everard and our hearts go out to her loved ones.

The outpouring of grief and justified outrage following this tragic incident has highlighted the fear of violence that women across the country feel on a daily basis.

We've seen women of all ages take to social media to share their experiences of harassment, assault and intimidation and it has demonstrated how widespread the issue of violence against women is in the UK.

Latest statistics show that, in England and Wales alone, an estimated 3.4m women have been victims of sexual assault at some point in their lives. This includes one million women who have been raped, or faced attempted rape.¹

We also know that the vast majority of sexual offences do not end in a conviction and this number is getting lower.²

It's completely unacceptable that women are subjected to physical and sexual violence and are forced to live in fear of harm at the hands of men.

Violence against women does not occur in a vacuum; it is driven by attitudes and actions that are deeply embedded in 21st century life. We have a duty to put a stop to these proven and multiple drivers of horrific violence so that everyone can live their lives without fear of attack. We will continue to fight until this is a reality.

¹ ONS 2017 (the latest year for which figures are available).

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/sexualoffencesinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2017>

² <https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/cps-data-summary-quarter-4-2019-2020>