

Submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration on Tackling Gender Based Violence

April 2026

Executive Summary

Women's Aid welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Joint Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration's examination of measures to tackle Gender-Based Violence (GBV). This submission highlights the persistent and pervasive nature of domestic and sexual violence in Ireland, the gendered patterns underpinning it, and the urgent need for sustained, whole-of-government action grounded in the Istanbul Convention framework of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Integrated Policies.

Despite positive developments in recent years, including the establishment of Cuan, legislative progress, increased refuge provision, paid Domestic Violence Leave and ongoing family justice reforms, significant gaps remain. National and EU research continues to show high levels of intimate partner violence, coercive control, sexual violence, and technology-facilitated abuse disproportionately affecting women. The impacts on survivors are profound, including physical harm, psychological trauma, economic insecurity, and barriers to accessing justice, safety and long-term recovery.

This submission identifies the steps required to build a more effective response. Key priorities include strengthening prevention and education efforts for young people; addressing the harmful and misogynistic online content that contributes to violence; resourcing specialist gender-based violence services; ensuring accessible justice processes, including guaranteed interpreter services and options for remote hearings; improving refuge, housing and financial supports; and accelerating reforms in family law, expert reporting, the In Camera rule and civil legal aid. Further legislative reforms are needed, including protections for counselling notes, expansion of offences

within the proposed Domestic Violence Register, and accountability measures for online platforms, including in relation to violent pornography and AI-generated sexualised content. Effective implementation of the Third National Strategy on DSGBV, preparation of a robust fourth strategy, improved data collection, and independent monitoring are essential to meeting Ireland's obligations and ensuring meaningful change. Women's Aid remains committed to supporting this work and ensuring that survivors' voices and experiences remain at the centre of all policy and legislative reform.

1. About Women's Aid

Women's Aid welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration on Tackling Gender Based Violence.

Women's Aid is a leading national organisation that has been working in Ireland to stop domestic violence and abuse (DVA), against women and children since 1974. In this time, the organisation has built up a huge body of experience and expertise on the issue, enabling us to best support women and share this knowledge with other agencies responding to women and children experiencing domestic violence. More information on Women's Aid's work is available on www.womensaid.ie.

2. Gender Based Violence (GBV) against women

According to the Istanbul Convention, gender-based violence against women is defined as "violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately"¹.

GBV can be perpetrated in the private space, in public and online. It includes Intimate partner violence (IPV), domestic violence, sexual violence, prostitution, trafficking, stalking, sexual

1 Istanbul Convention, Article 3d

harassment, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion and sterilisation as well as technology facilitated forms of abuse, such as cyber stalking, cyber harassment, cyber incitement to hatred and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images (including AI generated content).

Given Women's Aid remit we will focus this submission on intimate partner/domestic violence, including its online dimension, and on pornography as both a form of sexual violence and as form of content which promotes GBV and gender discrimination.

3. GBV and gender equality

There is an acknowledged link between gender-based violence and gender inequality. For example, the Istanbul Convention Preamble states that violence against women “is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between women and men,” and “one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men”. It notes that “the realisation of de jure and de facto equality between women and men is a key element in the prevention of violence against women²” and recognises that women are disproportionately impacted by GBV and domestic violence. Noting this link, the new EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 has included Freedom from Gender based violence as the first of its 6 Road-map Principles³.

Statistical evidence confirms that women are the main victims of Intimate partner violence, domestic violence and sexual violence:

- A recent EIGE report found that in the EU women are disproportionately affected by intimate partner violence, domestic violence and sexual violence⁴. The data for Ireland

2 Istanbul Convention, Preamble

3 European Commission Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, page 4

4 EIGE, Behind the numbers: analysing police and justice data on intimate partner violence and domestic violence, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2026, Figures 3.2, 4.2 and 6.2

shows that women are 88% of recorded IPV, 78% of domestic violence and 92% of rape victims.⁵

Moreover, the FRA-Eige reports finds that in Ireland, since age 15:

- 22.7% of women have experienced physical violence (including threats) and/or sexual violence and 33.2% psychological violence by an intimate partner⁶.
- 11% have experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner and 21,7% by any perpetrator⁷.
- 21% have experienced stalking in their lifetime, 9.2% in the past 5 years and 3.5% in the last 12 months⁸.

Women's Aid notes with concern that the rate of physical and sexual violence **by intimate partner** seems to have **increased** from the previous survey: for physical violence from 17.7% of women in the 2012 FRA survey to 20.1% in the recent FRA-Eige one, and for forced intercourse from 2.9% to 6.3%.⁹

Cyber violence against women has become a critical area of concern. While it can affect anybody, women and girls are disproportionately affected, in particular young women, women subjected to intersecting forms of discrimination and women in the public sphere (journalists, politicians, activists). AI is creating new forms of Violence against women and amplifying existing ones. A recent European Women's Lobby report notes that misogyny is the most common form of online hate, with cyber-violence against women most often based on sexualised violence.¹⁰

5 Ibidem Figures page 32, 79 and 64

6 FRA and EIGE, EU Gender-based Violence Survey – Evidence for Policy and Practice, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2026, Table 1 and Table 8

7 Ibidem, Table 2.

8 Ibidem, Table 29

9 Ibidem Table 7. Note this table uses only selected indicators that are comparable between the 2 surveys

10 European Women's Lobby (2024), Report on cyber-violence against women, <https://womenlobby.org/new-publication-report-on-cyber-violence-against-women/>

4. Impacts of DSGBV

The impact of DSGBV is huge and diverse, affecting physical and psychological health as well as family and social life, finances, employment, and housing, short and long term, with IPV having especially severe outcomes.

The FRA-Eige recent survey found that in the EU women experience higher rate of physical injuries (9.8 %) due to intimate partner violence than due to non-partner violence (4.4 %) and the same can be said for psychological violence. Both the need for medical care and suffering **permanent** physical harm are more prevalent in intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence impacts women's ability to work, with 17.6 % needing time off due to intimate partner violence and 30.8 % unable to perform household duties. Women often resort to using medication (25.8 %) and alcohol or drugs (17.1 %) to cope with the effects of intimate partner violence. In Ireland 11% of victims of IPV sustained physical injury, 13.2% experienced psychological consequences and 8.3% felt their lives was in danger¹¹.

The EIGE report finds that out of all women who had physical injuries due to intimate partner violence, 9.2 % experienced brain injury and only 57 % of those who suffered brain injury sought medical help.¹²

The impacts of cyber violence are widespread and persistent, and can affect women's health, social lives and economic security as well as women's participation in public life. Cyber violence against women often overlaps with or is a precursor to abuse in the offline world.

11 FRA and Eige, op. cit, Table 15

12 Eige, page 38

5. Response to DSGBV in Ireland:

In recent years there have been many positive developments in Ireland's response to DSGBV, including the Third National Strategy on DSGBV and the establishment of Cuan, important legislative progress, the introduction of paid Domestic Violence leave, an increase in number of refuges and resources for specialist services, a focus on prevention in schools and higher educational institutions and welcome work on reforming the Family Justice system.

Valuable key research has also been carried out by the state (for example on in camera rule, expert reports in Family law) and NGOs including Women's Aid own research on Family Law, Disability and harms of pornography.

However much remains to be done, as outlined below using the Istanbul Convention frame of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Integrated policies and data collection.

5.1 Prevention

While much has been done in terms of prevention, recent research shows that gender discrimination and misogynistic attitudes and rape myths are still common. For example, the 2024 Eurobarometer survey found that in Ireland 20% of respondents totally agree/tend to agree that women often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape.¹³

Women's Aid is especially concerned about the proliferation of hate speech/misogynistic content online, and the huge and harmful impact of the manosphere and violent pornography (see Point 6) on gender equality and gender-based violence. Research has found a correlation between this type of harmful and common content and unhealthy attitudes to relationships¹⁴, and has also confirmed the negative role of algorithms in recommending toxic content to

13 <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3252>

14 See for example: Women's Aid. (2023). Influencers and Attitudes: How will the next generation understand domestic abuse? Bristol: Women's Aid, <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CYP-Influencers-and-Attitudes-Report.pdf>

boys¹⁵. This toxic content is not only harmful for any woman who may be specifically targeted, but it also contributes to the backlash against gender equality and an increase in offline GBV. It is therefore necessary both to continue prevention and educational efforts especially aimed at children and young people and also to combat and counter the proliferation of discriminating and misogynistic online content.

5.2 Protection

Women and children experiencing domestic abuse may need range of supports including specialist and generalist services, safe and secure accommodation, financial security, legal advice, counselling.

Specialist GBV services need secure, multi annual, adequate funding. It is also vital that these services are given the resources to respond to the complex need of women and children experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage/discrimination.¹⁶ We note Opinion 2 in the FRA and EIGE Report, emphasizing the need for specific measures targeting women affected by intersectional discrimination, who experience a heightened risk of violence.¹⁷

It is also essential that staff in generalist services (such as health, disability, substance abuse, housing services) are trained to identify the dynamics and impact of DVA (including economic violence) and coercive control and how to respond and refer appropriately.

It is essential that interpreter and translation services are guaranteed and accessible at all stages of the justice process (criminal, civil, and family law) to ensure equal access to

15 Dr Catherine Baker, Prof Debbie Ging and Dr Maja Brandt Andreassen Recommending Toxicity: The role of algorithmic recommender functions on YouTube Shorts and TikTok in promoting male supremacist influencers, DCU Anti-Bullying Centre Dublin City University April 2024, <https://fujomedia.eu/site/assets/files/2047/dcu-toxicity-full-report.pdf>

16 See for example Women's Aid research on Disabled Women experiences of IPV in Ireland, here <https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2024/10/Disabled-Womens-Experiences-of-Intimate-Partner-Abuse-in-Ireland-Research-Project-Report.pdf>

17 FRA and Eige, op.cit page 12

protection and participation for all survivors, including those for whom English is not a first language or who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

While much appreciated work is being done to increase refuge and safe units accommodation, it is still not sufficient¹⁸. Moreover, moving on to long-term accommodation is extremely difficult in the current housing crisis. It is essential that DVA survivors are included in any Homelessness and Housing plans, and that strategies are developed to prioritise them in social housing and support them in obtaining or maintaining private housing. Ideally, survivors should be supported to remain safely in the home¹⁹.

Economic abuse, while still quite invisible, is key to keeping women in abusive relationships. More needs to be done to address short and long-term impact of economic abuse²⁰, including employment protection and financial assistance measures. In Ireland the Domestic Violence Leave provision should be reviewed with a view to extending it to 10 days. The Domestic Violence (Free Travel Scheme) Bill 2025²¹, giving a free travel card to survivors for a period of up to 6 months, should also be considered. The state should also support the long-term recovery of GB survivors, including children, by providing free counselling.

5.3 Prosecution

In recent years there has been significant legislative progress to tackle GBV (such as the Domestic Violence Act 2018, creation of offences to criminalise coercive control, image based sexual abuse, non-fatal strangulation or suffocation and stalking). Nonetheless further legislative improvements should be enacted including:

18 <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/cavan/news/justice-minister-vows-action-as-figures-show-not-a-single-domestic-violence-bed-currently-available-in-cavan-and-monaghan/a1846780457.html>

19 See Women's Aid submission to the National Housing Plan 2025-2030 for more details. <https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2026/02/Womens-Aid-Submission-to-the-Child-and-Family-Homelessness-Action-Plan-Public-Consultation-February-2026.pdf>

20 FRA and EIGE, op. cit, Opinion 3 page 13

21 <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2025/59/>

A. Amending the Domestic Violence Act 2018

The Domestic Violence Act 2018 should be amended to make a breach under S33 a dual summary and indictable offence, which would allow courts to refuse bail and allow more severe sentences, where appropriate, A Bill to this effect is currently before Seanad Éireann

B. Amending the Guardianship of Infant Act

Women's Aid welcomes the Guardianship of Infants (Amendment) Bill 2025 which seeks to ensure a parent convicted of killing the other parent may have their guardianship rights removed. However, the issue of safeguarding the child without waiting for the end of criminal proceeding (which can take years) should be addressed through mechanisms to ensure suspension of guardianship at an earlier stage when required, as suggested in our previous submission.²²

C. Domestic Violence Register

Women's Aid cautiously welcomed the proposal for a Domestic Violence Register of Judgments included in the General Scheme of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences, Domestic Violence and International Instruments) Bill 2025.

As it currently stands the scheme is too limited in terms of the offences considered, which need to be expanded as a minimum to include the offences of Harassment and Stalking (S10, Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997) offences under S2 (Distributing, publishing or threatening to distribute or publish intimate image without consent with intent to cause harm or being reckless as to whether harm is caused) and S4 (Distributing, publishing or sending threatening or grossly offensive communication) of the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 and ideally to relevant summary convictions, in particular

22 <https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2025/06/Womens-Aid-Submission-to-the-Justice-Home-Affairs-and-Migration-Committee-on-the-Draft-General-Scheme-of-the-Guardianship-of-Infants-Amendment-Bill-2025-June-2025.pdf>

breaches of DV orders²³. Importantly also, victim anonymity also needs to be considered and mechanisms to ensure no risks to victims by virtue of requiring them to give consent to have a perpetrators name added to the register.

D. Counselling notes in sexual offence trials

Legislation preventing the use of counselling notes in sexual offence trials is needed, with survivors clearly stating that the use of these notes (or even the possibility of such use) prevents them from reporting sexual violence or, if they do report, from seeking counselling.

Sexual violence is severely under-reported and presents high attrition rates, particularly where the perpetrator is a partner²⁴, therefore barriers to reporting should be removed. Women's Aid believes the approach in Part 6 of the Criminal Law and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026, to simply delete section 19A of the Criminal Evidence Act 1992 will not solve this issue and that other approaches need to be explored, such as making counselling notes privileged.

Family Law

Family law continues to be one of the most difficult issues for women separating from an abuser, with Women's Aid research finding that the court processes regarding Custody and Access are often re-traumatizing for survivors and the outcomes unsafe for women and their children²⁵.

23 For more details on this and other recommendations on the proposed Register see Women's Aid submission here: <https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2025/11/Submission-to-the-Joint-Committee-on-Justice-Home-Affairs-and-Migration-on-the-General-Scheme-of-the-Criminal-Law-Sexual-Offences-Domestic-Violence-and-International-Instruments-Bill-2025.pdf>

24 In the EU, only 3.5% of women raped by a current partner reported it to the Police, compared to 12.2% where the perpetrator was a non-partner. FRA and EIGE, EU Gender-based Violence Survey, op. cit. Figure 11.

25 See Holt, S., Gregory, S., Elliffe, R., Parkes, A. & James-Hanman, D. (2025). Exploring How Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse Experience Navigating the Irish Family Law System in Guardianship, Custody and Access. Research Report. Dublin: School of Social Work & Social Policy, TCD, School of Law, UCC and Women's Aid. <https://www.womensaid.ie/get-informed/publications/>

The current reforms under the Family Courts Act 2024 and the Family Justice Strategy are positive but we remain concerned that DVA is not sufficiently considered nor addressed.

Awareness of DVA needs to be at the **core** of the reform, with clear principles prioritising the safety of children and the non-abusive parent reflected in resourcing, training and guidelines. The welcome reports and recommendations on reform of the role of expert reporters in Family Law, the In Camera Rule and of Civil Legal Aid, need to centre the experiences and needs of victims of DVA, but actual implementation needs to be urgently and significantly accelerated with adequate resources applied to ensure successful outcomes. While Women's Aid has made detailed recommendations on broader reforms to Civil Legal Aid in our dedicated submission, we reiterate here the importance of progressing these reforms to ensure survivors can meaningfully engage with the justice system. A reference to our full Legal Aid submission can be provided on request.

Women's Aid also recommends the introduction of a statutory presumption that, where requested by a victim-survivor, hearings relating to Domestic Violence Orders may be conducted remotely. This would enhance safety, accessibility and participation for survivors engaging with the family courts.

It is also necessary to address the current siloing of criminal justice, private family law and public law child care processes in relation to domestic and sexual violence²⁶. Women and children impacted by domestic and/or sexual abuse may be involved in concurrent processes in the criminal court, the family court and public child care law; these often do not collaborate or communicate with each other, to the detriments of victims/survivors.

5.4 Integrated policy and data collection

26 Nuala Egan & Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, March 2023, A Report on the Intersection of the Criminal Justice, Private Family Law and Public Law Child Care Processes in Relation to Domestic and Sexual Violence. https://www.nwci.ie/images/uploads/NWC_DoJ_DSV_Justice_Report.pdf

As 2026 is the final year of the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender based Violence, it is necessary for Cuan to complete the final evaluation of this strategy and to develop the next one in the coming months, building on the successes of the current strategy and ensuring continuity of work not completed or commenced. Survivors and specialist services engagement will be key to development and implementation of a successful and meaningful 4th DSGBV strategy. The focus on children as victims in their own right and on intersectionality should be maintained and the work in progress continued. It is also essential to ensure GBV is a central issue in other strategies and reforms, including Criminal and Family Justice, Civil Legal Aid and Homelessness/housing.

Data collection needs to be vastly improved. Women's Aid appreciates that a DVA prevalence survey is being planned with the CSO, however administrative data is still extremely poor. There is limited data from the Civil or Criminal Justice system, which does not meet the EIGE recommendations, especially in terms of the availability of data disaggregated by victim–perpetrator relationship, sex of perpetrator and victim, types of offences and outcomes.²⁷ Data from other state bodies, such as hospitals or local authorities, remains completely unavailable, so we cannot estimate how many women and children are homeless or needed hospital care because of DVA.

Finally, to ensure the correct implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and that Ireland also meets its obligations under the EU Directive on Combatting Violence Against Women and the success of the next Strategy an expert independent monitoring mechanism needs to be established to report regularly on progress achieved, gaps and barriers.

6. Addressing the harms of pornography

27 See Chapter 9 of EIGE, Behind the numbers: analysing police and justice data on intimate partner violence and domestic violence, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2026

Recent national and international research confirms that pornography is a significant and growing driver of gender inequality and gender-based violence. Evidence from *Facing Reality: Addressing the Role of Pornography in the Pandemic of Violence against Women and Girls*²⁸ shows that what is now considered mainstream pornography routinely depicts acts that constitute sexual violence, including strangulation, verbal degradation and coercive sexual practices. These acts are presented as normal, desirable and expected, and this content is widely accessible, including to children and young people. Frontline domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services report increasing incidences in which pornography has informed abusive behaviours, sexual coercion and harmful sexual expectations within intimate relationships. Men's organizations express concern more broadly about the impact on men and boys targeted predominately by the porn industry as consumers, in terms of impacts on developing healthy intimacy and relationships, self-esteem and mental wellbeing.

Children's early and unmediated exposure to pornography is of particular concern. Experts highlight the pervasive and early age at which boys are accessing pornography, with many doing so daily by late adolescence. This exposure distorts understandings of consent, intimacy and gender roles and contributes to unhealthy attitudes and behaviours that disproportionately harm girls. Privacy preserving age verification measures, together with robust accountability mechanisms for platforms, particularly those whose recommender systems amplify misogynistic and violent content, are critical to reducing these harms. This should include recognising online platforms as publishers for the purposes of liability, ensuring real accountability where harmful, misogynistic or illegal content is disseminated or amplified.

There is strong evidence of significant exploitation within the pornography industry, including coercion, trafficking and the monetisation of content that depicts acts which would be illegal were they enacted offline. Legislative reform is needed to prohibit depictions of rape, non-fatal strangulation and incest representations, and to ensure parity between what is criminalised

²⁸ <https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2024/10/Facing-Reality-Full-Report-October-2024.pdf>

offline and what is permitted to be videoed and disseminated online. International precedents, including recent reforms in the UK, demonstrate the feasibility and necessity of regulating harmful and violent pornography as a matter of public health, gender equality and human rights.

Urgent concerns also exist regarding the proliferation of AI generated sexualised deepfakes. These non-consensual images and videos overwhelmingly target women and girls and mirror patterns of image-based abuse, coercion and harassment. The rapid expansion of 'nudification' tools and deepfake pornography apps highlights the need for explicit prohibitions on the creation, dissemination and commercialisation of AI generated sexualised content.

7. Recommendations:

Women's Aid makes the following recommendations to tackle GBV, and in particular DVA:

Prevention

- 1) Continue and adequately resource prevention work in schools, third level institution and youth centres, focusing on healthy relationships and gender equality.
- 2) Address the harmful impact of violent, discriminatory and misogynistic online content, at national and EU level, by: making platforms accountable, and recognise them as publishers, increasing regulator powers, criminalize the AI creation of intimate images without consent and nudification apps, legislate for take down orders of such images from platforms and social media, ban the use of recommender systems for minors and make it optional for adults, consider copyrighting of one's body, facial features and voice.

Protection

- 3) Provide adequate and secure multi-annual funding for GBV specialist services, including funding to support accessibility by marginalised groups and to provide for children as victims in their own right

- 4) Continue and accelerate the provision of multi-faceted specialist support services to meet victim-survivors diverse needs (e.g. Outreach, accompaniment, refuge, therapeutic services, children's services).
- 5) Ensure that Homelessness and Housing Strategies explicitly address DV as a key factor in homelessness for women and children and prioritise access to affordable and secure housing for women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse and support survivors of DVA including to remain in their home.
- 6) Ensure that staff in relevant generalist services, (including housing, health, mental health, addiction, education, disability, welfare and immigration services) are properly trained in recognising and responding to DVA and GBV, including coercive control
- 7) Review the Domestic Violence Leave provision and consider extending it to 10 days. Consider The Domestic Violence (Free Travel Scheme) Bill 20251 bill
- 8) Provide free counselling for all victims of GBV, including children
- 9) Family Justice: Implement the Family Law Strategy (including development of the new strategy with continuity of unfinished work); implement the recommendations for full reform of expert report, the In Camera rule, Civil Legal Aid, and the Family Courts Act with a clear and consistent recognition of the endemic prevalence of DV in all aspects of the family law system.

Prosecution

- 10) Introduce a statutory presumption that, where requested by a victim-survivor, hearings relating to Domestic Violence Orders may be conducted remotely.
- 11) Progress the following legislation, with suggested amendments as outlined at point 5.3 A-D.
 - Pass legislation to make the breach of a protective order under the DV Act a hybrid offence which may be prosecuted as a summary offence or on indictment.
 - The Guardianship of Infants (Amendment) Bill 2025.

- The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences, Domestic Violence and International Instruments) Bill 2025.
 - Engage in further consultations with survivors and specialist services to ensure mechanisms to - at a minimum – legally privilege use of counselling notes in sexual violence trials.
- 12) Ensure that DVA is at the centre of any strategy and reform of Family law. This includes compulsory specialist domestic abuse training for all professionals, including judges, comprehensive screening and risk assessment protocols, reform of the ‘expert reports’ system, improved access to legal representation and the development of a clear mechanisms to improve coordination, communication, and cooperation across all civil family law proceedings and with the criminal courts, and establishment of supervised child contact centres.²⁹
- 13) Establish mechanisms to prevent siloing of criminal justice, private family law and public law child care processes.
- 14) Guarantee interpreter and translation, including sign language interpreters services across the justice process.
- 15) Ensure initial and ongoing quality training on domestic abuse including coercive control for legal professionals in family law and criminal justice systems.

Integrated policy and data collection

- 16) Develop the 4th National Strategy on DSGBV together with the sector and with survivors, ensuring an intersectional approach
- 17) Establish a Special Rapporteur/Commissioner on DSGBV with appropriate resources and independent powers to monitor the implementation of the next Strategy.

²⁹ For detailed recommendations see Women's Aid research here: <https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2025/06/Navigating-the-Irish-Family-Law-System-in-Guardianship-Custody-and-Access.-Final-Report.pdf>

- 18) Ensure accurate administrative data on DSGBV, including coherent data from the justice system, are gathered and published by Cuan, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency, in line with EIGE recommendations
- 19) Commission a national Domestic Abuse Prevalence Survey in collaboration with domestic violence specialist organisations.

Addressing the harms of pornography

- 20) Introduce privacy preserving age verification requirements for all pornographic websites and services.
- 21) Ensure accountability of online platforms for the amplification of harmful pornographic content.
- 22) Prohibit depictions of acts that are illegal offline, including rape, non-fatal strangulation and incest representations.
- 23) Ban the creation, distribution and commercialisation of sexualised deepfakes and nudification tools.
- 24) Strengthen supports for individuals exploited in the pornography industry.
- 25) Resource public education and prevention initiatives that adopt a porn critical lens to promote equality, and healthy relationships.
- 26) Enhance the regulatory powers of Coimisiún na Meán and the Online Safety Commissioner.