

Arundel and South Downs Labour Party

Polich Discussion: Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy to build a safer society for women and girls

Labour's strategy, *Freedom from Violence for Women and Girls* published in December 2025, is rooted in the values that brought many of us into this movement—fairness, dignity and the belief that society works best when everyone is safe and able to thrive.

We know the scale of the challenge. Women and girls are being failed by overstretched services, long waits for justice and a culture that too often normalises abuse. Within Labour we are determined to change that with a plan that is practical, ambitious and grounded in real experience to halve violence to women and girls in a decade.

Three strands:

First, **prevention**. Tackling misogyny at its roots—through better education, stronger action on online harm and early intervention that stops abuse before it starts.

Second, **protection**. Properly funded refuges, specialist support workers embedded in emergency services and a police response that treats violence against women and girls as the serious crime it is.

And third, **accountability**. Labour will strengthen investigations, reduce delays in the courts and ensure the most dangerous offenders are monitored and stopped.

This is a whole-system approach—one that brings together policing, health, education, housing and the voluntary sector. It's about long-term change, not short-term headlines.

As Labour members, we have a pivotal role to play. We can champion this strategy in our communities, support local services and make sure women and girls' safety stays at the top of the political agenda.

As a CLP and in branches we can support and join in the work the South Coast Labour Sisters are undertaking:

- Working with Sussex Police, local business and communities to increase participation in and awareness of Safe Space Sussex.
- Working with and fundraising for local groups that provide support for women and girls – e.g. South Coast Labour Sisters works closely with My Sister's House.
- Contributing through our workplaces.
- Finding out about the views of women and girls in our local areas and then taking action to support change– e.g. South Coast Labour Sisters started a year or so ago and decided to have women and girls' safety as a focus after an International Women's Day events in Littlehampton and Bognor where women and girls said they felt unsafe. The group now has over 40 members from Chichester, West Worthing, Bognor, Littlehampton and me from Arundel & South Downs. We would welcome more women from our CLP.
- Taking part in local events/ holding events -e.g. International Women's Day.
- Doing online Bystander Training through Suzy Lampugh Trust (½ hour online) [Anti-Harassment training](#)
- Supporting the work of White Ribbon, a charity which works with men and boys to end violence against women and girls (e.g. recently handing out white roses at stations

and supporting a candlelight vigil in Chichester) [White Ribbon UK](#)

Deborah See

Policy Officer

30th of January 2026