

Survivors' Reference Group – Rape Crisis Scotland – Information Leaflet

Rape Crisis Scotland works to improve responses to and raise awareness of sexual violence in our schools, universities, justice systems and in our society.

All of our work is informed by the experiences of survivors and we want to make sure that the voices of survivors are heard by those making decisions about policy and practice.

We know from our work that many survivors who have engaged (at whatever level) with the criminal justice system following rape, sexual assault or abuse feel let down or that they haven't been able to get justice. For those who have secured justice it has often felt like a very high price to pay. We are campaigning to improve legal responses to sexual offences, and we are determined that changes are informed by the voices and experiences of those who have been affected by the justice process.

That is why Rape Crisis Scotland is establishing a Survivors' Reference Group: a diverse group of survivors from across Scotland willing to share their experiences and expertise to make policy and practice better. Your case doesn't need to have gotten to court - we know that most rape cases never make it as far as court. We want our work, and the work of agencies engaged in the justice system, to be informed by as wide a range of people as possible, from those whose case never got beyond the initial report to the police, to those whose case reached court.

The group is new, but there are lots of different ways to be involved – you might just want to be a part of our email list, you might want to come to meet-ups, you might want to be part of a campaign that we are running or speak to media and/or politicians. It's your choice whether you want to be named or stay anonymous.

Whatever you decide, we'd love to have you involved in the way that suits you. We'll support you as best we can and anyone involved will be able to change their mind about their level of involvement, or even being involved at all, at any time.

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