



Home Office

Jess Phillips MP
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Ms Kerry Smith and Co-Signatories
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Dear Ms Smith and Co-Signatories,

Thank you for your letter of 22 August to the former Home Secretary about child sexual abuse (CSA). I am replying as the Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls.

Tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), including sexual violence, is a top priority for this Government. We have set an ambition to halve VAWG in a decade underpinned by a new cross-government VAWG Strategy which we aim to publish as soon as possible.

I can confirm that the VAWG Strategy will cover sexual violence. It will address all forms of VAWG through commitments to tackle crimes and behaviours which disproportionately, but not exclusively, affect women and girls. This will include sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based abuse which occurs online, as well as offline.

Let me also be clear that children who experience sexual abuse and exploitation are considered in the new VAWG strategy, as we take concrete actions to tackle these crimes. We also recognise that these crimes require a dedicated, standalone response. There is a complementary - distinct, but linked - ambitious programme of work across Government to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse.

I hope the above clarifies the Government's position. I am grateful to you for taking the time to write on these important issues, and for your ongoing engagement and support.

Yours sincerely,

Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls