

What can be done better in the future?		
By you		
What specific actions is your organisation proposing to undertake in the context of a new national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, in the period 2015-2019, under any of the following categories.		
4.1	State services for victims	Continue to look for representation on statutory committees e.g. HAT's, Court Service users Forum etc., Within our current resources we will continue to negotiate the different individual work practises in each service to assist victims access their right and entitlements.
4.2	Voluntary sector services for victims	Within our current resources we will continue to negotiate the different individual work practises in each service to assist victim's access their right and entitlements.
4.3	Accountability of perpetrators	Within Safety Constraints for both DV Specialists and Victims, we will work with the Statutory Agencies in helping to bring the Perpetrator to account. However, client and DV specialist safety is paramount and with some cases where the Statutory Agencies are less than sympathetic of believing all we can do is to continue to assist the victim to accurately name the violence being perpetrated against her, assist her to identify her needs, prepare a safety plan and action this plan. We will continue to support the victim to communicate her experiences of violence to agencies with the power to hold the perpetrator accountable
4.4	Awareness and attitudes	Within our current resources we will take any opportunities to communicate the actual realities for women using our service and we will continue to use our Web site, local paper and radio and facilitate an event for the 16 Days of action
4.5		
4.6	Policy making or service planning	We will continue to make submissions to statutory agencies, participate in Safe Ireland's process of developing national standards. We will attend the CSVC forum meetings and we will continue to evaluate our service and make service plans based on victim's needs and our resources. However, funding constraints limit the level of participation and time that can be taken away from front line service delivery.
4.7	Research or data collection	We will continue to use our Data collection methods - we use Salesforce
4.8	Structures or processes to support the strategy (consultation, meetings, six monthly review reports etc.)	Unfortunately we have no available resources to attend consultation meetings, six monthly review reports etc. However our retired founder of LWL is a board member of Safe Ireland and we will engage in any process directed by Safe Ireland
5.	What specific actions is your organisation proposing to undertake for victims generally which will also apply to victims of domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, in the period 2015-2019, under any of the above categories?	We will continue to maximise the resources we have to provide a professional front line services to female victims of Domestic Violence. We will continue to host the Rape Crisis Outreach Service 1 day per week to provide access to this service for both women and men in the Longford area. However any further funding cuts will mean a direct reduction in front line services.
By others		
What other specific actions should be undertaken in the context of a new national strategy on domestic, sexual and		

gender-based violence, 2015-2019, under any of the following categories?	
Who should undertake these actions?	
Please also state, with your reasons, if you believe that there should be no further action by anyone under any heading.	
6.1 State services for victims	<p>Follow through on current documented policy and procedures. Standardise practises within agencies so services users can expect equal access to right and entitlements and/or accurate information and/or referrals. Front line practitioners have clear guidelines on how to assessing the victims story, are clear on what evidence is required by the victim to prove their circumstances and can communicate this to the victim.</p> <p>We will continue to work with Statutory Agencies so that they do not request information from a victim which may endanger her further e.g. asking her to get a letter from the perpetrator stating that he is not paying her maintenance</p> <p>Gardaí: Clarity for each member of the Gardaí on what their policy and practices are - each member knows what is expected of them. Responses to callouts monitored within stations. Treatment by members of assaults in DV as a crime as per policy & procedures. Gardaí to gather evidence at scene and bring each crime to the court hearing. Be prepared to provide evidence (written report) in an application for Barring Orders. Pulse system - used to document issue of Domestic Violence and responses provided. Report pulled from pulse system can then be use as evidence in court hearing. (Assist applicant to demonstrate history of Domestic Violence). Provide the victim with the relevant Pulse Number</p> <p>Court: Specialist judges in area of Family Law Specific training for Judges around child welfare and child protection. Especially around evidence from perpetrators to ensure perpetrators cannot continue to misuse system to further abuse their victim. Clear guidelines between Child Protection Social Workers and Judges - especially round section 20 reports. Reports to have clear methodology of gathering evidence and Judges to read them and use them to assist his judgements. Clear guidelines for Judges on what evidence is required to make judgements on DV cases where there is no physical violence/abuse for Protection and Safety Orders. Provide direction to services providing reports to Judge on what is required e.g. G.P. Psychiatrists or Treatment Centres (perhaps have a standard form to guide report) Regular training for Judges in District Courts Procedures for local service to inform Judge of services they offer to assist judge refer. Equally procedure to inform Judge of lack of resources so he will understand limitations on some</p>

	<p>responses from his directions. (there are no formal supervised access resources available) Court accompaniment workers, professionally trained and operating to recognised court standards to be granted access into Family Law courts.</p> <p>Legal Aid; Reduce the cost of accessing crisis services such as DV Orders Remove this policy - where one party access services in an area the other party cannot access Legal Aid resources in the same office. To address the issue of conflict of interest the Legal Aid office could issue a Private Practitioner Cert. This will address the challenge for some woman having to get to a different county when their partner got Legal Aid first in their area.</p> <p>Child Protection Child protection practitioners to clarify the dynamics of DV and be able to prevent being used by the abuser to re-victimise the survivor. Currently Child Protection social workers appear to be trying to "bring along" the abuser in the hope he will change resulting in ongoing emotional abuse for children and ex-partners Clear guideline on what evidence victims of DV need to present to assist practitioners provide support that will help the victim protect the children Support practitioners to be able to define DV clearly in section 20 reports to assist Judge sanction abuser appropriately. Supervised access service made available with professional staff to assist in the protection of children and their primary care-er Where abuse occurs staff to be able to provide accurate report to Judges.</p> <p>Services similar to SATU for victims under 16</p> <p>Access to state financial resources Good practice model in Longford where there is dedicated officer with high level of training and skill on assessing issue of homelessness and Domestic Violence. Repeat in other areas.</p> <p>Housing. Clear guideline on the differences between DV and other homelessness issues. Standard processes for Local Authorities to assess DV situations. Crisis Accommodation in professional Refuges to be continued. Referrals to DV agencies where DV victims have to use other homeless services to ensure victims get access to appropriate support.</p>
6.2 Voluntary sector services for victims	<p>Professional training and accreditation structures. Clear standards in work practises, clear interagency practices. Clear method to display value of work being done and identify gaps in service required by service users. Clarity on what service can do and cannot do to meet the different needs of current or potential service users. E.g. if not have resources to work with mental ill health or addictions then this is</p>

	clear for service user.
6.3 Accountability of perpetrators	<p>Currently there is little evidence of sanctions being applied to perpetrators. All Gardaí to apply progress arrest policy where they have clear evidence of assault and breach of an Order.</p> <p>Courts to prevent perpetrators using courts to further abuse victims - clear evidence presentation method in courts to prevent perpetrator saying anything without backing it up with evidence</p> <p>Courts to monitor its application of the law through gendered statistics.</p>
6.4 Awareness and attitudes	Assist people to clarify differences between the issues associated with domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and the issue of gender equality. There is great confusion about men and women getting equal access to services which is not the same as working with gender based violence.
6.5 Prevention	Use current policy documented in the Legal sector to indicate the issue is taken seriously and that sanctions will be in force. Drink driving practices change with legal sanctions which in turn change public attitudes
6.6 Policy making or service planning	Apply current policy in key state agencies. Provide clear processes to evaluate the effectiveness of policy for end user.
6.7 Research or data collection	<p>Provide structure to identify court users gender of applicant and respondent to assist accurate statistics on outcomes for women and men in courts (how many men applied for Barring orders and were granted versus women applicants)</p> <p>Generate high level reports on services to victims from the pulse system - how many DV cases, how many responses to call outs How many follow ups etc)</p>
6.8 Structures or processes to support the strategy (consultation, meetings, six monthly review reports etc.)	Provide funding to assist services doing the work to attend this process or attend Safe Ireland aspect of this process
7.1 What specific actions should be undertaken for victims generally which will also apply to victims of domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, in the period 2015-19, under any of the above categories?	See recommendations for attached LWL submission and also Safe Ireland's Submission
7.2 Who should undertake the actions mentioned above?	Top down, bottom up as required. Each lead agency should have a clear implementation plan with measurable time lined outcomes with a designated named person responsible for implementation