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National Association of Local Councils

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Satvir Kaur MP
Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

Dear Minister,

Re: Working together to tackle violence against women and girls – the role of parish and town councils

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to reaffirm our commitment to tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) and to explore how parish and town councils can play a greater role in delivering the government's ambition to halve violence against women and girls in a decade.

In our correspondence last year, we highlighted the important work parish and town councils are already undertaking. We welcomed your positive response, particularly your offer to arrange a meeting with Home Office officials to discuss how we could take this work forward. We want to revisit this offer and explore how we can turn our shared ambitions into practical action.

NALC is proud to be the first national local government body to become a White Ribbon UK-accredited organisation. Through our three-year action plan, we provide national leadership, guidance, training and resources to inspire England's 10,000 parish and town councils to take action against violence towards women and girls.

As the closest tier of government to communities, parish and town councils are uniquely placed to support the government's Freedom from violence and abuse strategy, particularly its focus on prevention and early intervention. They can raise awareness, challenge harmful attitudes and behaviours, promote positive male allyship and work with schools, police and community organisations to build safer communities. Parish and town councils across the country are already demonstrating how local leadership and community partnerships can make a difference.

We believe parish and town councils should be recognised as important partners in delivering the government's prevention ambitions. However, many parish and town councils face barriers, including limited resources, capacity and access to specialist guidance and training. With the right support, they could make an even greater contribution.

We therefore want to work with the government on three key priorities:

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- Partnership - Recognising parish and town councils as key partners in preventing VAWG and involving NALC in discussions about delivering the government's strategy.
- Collaboration- Strengthening connections between parish and town councils, local authorities, Police and Crime Commissioners, police forces, and specialist support organisations.
- Support - Exploring opportunities for funding, training, guidance and resources to help more parish and town councils develop and sustain meaningful local action.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials, building on your previous offer, to discuss how we can work together to strengthen the role of parish and town councils in preventing violence against women and girls.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to this important issue. NALC stands ready to work with the government to help build safer communities where all women and girls can live free from violence and fear.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Iain Hamilton
Chair of the National Association of Local Councils

