



**Maynooth  
University**

National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

## **Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology**

### **Declaration on Plagiarism**

I hereby certify that this material, which I now submit for assessment on the programme of study leading to the award of *MA in Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice* is entirely my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save and to the extent that such work has been cited and acknowledged within the text of my work.

Student Name: ..... Kiara Farnan .....

Student Number: ..... 19418266 .....

Date: ..... 24/08/2023 .....

Student Signature: ..... Kiara Farnan .....

Word Count: 21,950



**Maynooth  
University**

National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

**Raising Expectations: Scrutinising Violence Against Women  
Policies using the WHO Respect Women Framework as a  
Measurement Tool**

Kiara Farnan

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of  
MA in Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice

Maynooth University

School of Law and Criminology

## **Abstract**

Violence Against Women is a human rights issue that impacts approximately 30% of women and girls worldwide (WHO, 2021). The increase of Violence Against Women cases and a disregard for relevant data have become a cause for concern for women, minority groups and the criminal justice community. This research examines the response to VAW and use of VAW policy through the questions “What measures have Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women?” and “To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework’s criteria for success?”

Using documentary analysis, a comparative approach and secondary data, the study examines the measures Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women under their respective Violence Against Women policies. This research applies the WHO (2019) Respect Women Framework to Violence Against Women policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia to understand the extent frameworks addressing Violence Against Women are adopted to policies.

The findings suggest that Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken several measures to address and reduce Violence Against Women under their current Violence Against Women policies. However, due to Canada’s policy being implemented five years before Ireland and Australia, more measures were evident in Canada. The research found that according to the twenty-two recommendations to address and reduce Violence Against Women under the Respect Women Framework, Ireland met sixteen requirements, Australia met fifteen and Canada met ten. The study suggests that there are several discrepancies between measures taken to address Violence Against Women, Violence Against Women policies and the risk factors associated with Violence Against Women and makes several recommendations to bridge this gap.

## **Acknowledgements**

First, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my dissertation supervisor, Danielle O'Sullivan, for her continuous support over the course of writing this dissertation. Words cannot express enough my gratitude for her guidance, advice, and feedback, which has been invaluable in navigating a unique journey that has been both challenging and rewarding at times. My skillset and knowledge have developed significantly under her supervision.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr Edana Richardson, and Dr Ollie Bartlett for their assistance with the development of the thesis throughout the year. The completion of this thesis would have been extremely difficult without their hard work and attention to detail in class presentations, materials, and resources.

I am extremely grateful to Dr Ian Marder and my classmates for the monthly dialogues that took place. They provided much needed moral support and gave me the opportunity to discuss and receive help for any issues I had experienced during the process.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, friends, and boyfriend for their words of encouragement and support over the last year. The belief in me and emotional support they have offered has kept me motivated and calm throughout this process.

## Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Chapter One: Introduction .....</b>      | <b>8</b>  |
| Introduction.....                           | 8         |
| Background to the Study.....                | 9         |
| Rationale .....                             | 10        |
| Methodology .....                           | 10        |
| Structure of the Dissertation.....          | 10        |
| <b>Chapter Two: Literature Review .....</b> | <b>12</b> |
| Introduction.....                           | 12        |
| Definitions.....                            | 12        |
| Violence Against Women Theories.....        | 14        |
| Ecological Theory.....                      | 14        |
| Resource Theory.....                        | 14        |
| Feminist Theories .....                     | 14        |
| Subculture of Violence Theory .....         | 14        |
| Identifying Violence Against Women .....    | 15        |
| Prevalence of Violence Against Women .....  | 16        |
| Ireland .....                               | 16        |
| Canada .....                                | 17        |
| Australia.....                              | 19        |
| Gender-based Violence Policies.....         | 20        |
| Ireland .....                               | 20        |
| Canada .....                                | 21        |
| Australia.....                              | 22        |
| Respect Women Framework .....               | 23        |
| Criteria for success .....                  | 24        |
| <b>Chapter Three: Methodology.....</b>      | <b>26</b> |
| Introduction.....                           | 26        |
| Qualitative Research.....                   | 26        |
| Theoretical Perspective.....                | 27        |
| Research Rationale and Aims .....           | 28        |
| Research Design .....                       | 29        |
| Comparative .....                           | 29        |
| Problem Oriented Approach.....              | 30        |
| Research Method.....                        | 30        |
| Documentary Analysis.....                   | 30        |
| Benefits of Desk-based Research .....       | 34        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Sampling .....  | 35        |
| Data Collection.....  | 36        |
| Data Analysis .....   | 36        |
| Strengths and Limitations .....   | 38        |
| Conclusion .....  | 39        |
| <b>Chapter Four: Findings.....</b>  | <b>40</b> |
| Measures to Address and Reduce Violence Against Women .....   | 40        |
| Ireland .....   | 40        |
| Canada .....  | 41        |
| Australia.....  | 43        |
| Comparative Analysis.....   | 44        |
| Application of Respect Women Framework .....  | 45        |
| Ireland .....   | 45        |
| Canada .....  | 49        |
| Australia.....  | 52        |
| Comparative Analysis.....   | 55        |
| Conclusion .....  | 56        |
| <b>Chapter Five: Discussion.....</b>  | <b>58</b> |
| Introduction.....   | 58        |
| Measures to Address and Reduce Violence Against Women .....   | 58        |
| Application of Respect Women Framework to Violence Against Women Theories .....                       | 63        |
| Future Policy Recommendations.....  | 65        |
| Recommendations for Future Research .....   | 65        |
| Conclusion .....  | 66        |
| <b>Chapter Six: Conclusion .....</b>  | <b>68</b> |
| <b>Appendices.....</b>  | <b>71</b> |
| Appendix A: Policies that informed this Dissertation .....  | 71        |
| Appendix B: Application of Respect Women Framework to policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia..... | 72        |
| <b>Bibliography .....</b>   | <b>77</b> |

### List of Tables

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Table 3. 1: World Health Organisation Respect Women Framework Criteria for Success.....</b> | <b>34</b> |
| <b>Table 4.1 Ireland: Respect Women Framework Application .....</b>                            | <b>49</b> |
| <b>Table 4.2 Canada: Application of Respect Women Framework.....</b>                           | <b>52</b> |
| <b>Table 4.3 Australia: Respect Women Framework Application .....</b>                          | <b>55</b> |
| <b>Table 5.1 Comparison of Respect Women Framework in Ireland, Canada, and Australia.....</b>  | <b>62</b> |

### Table of Abbreviations

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ABS     | Australian Bureau of Statistics  |
| AIHW    | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare                                   |
| ANROWS  | Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety                |
| CFOJA   | Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability                 |
| CJS     | Criminal Justice System  |
| CSO     | Central Statistics Office  |
| DFHERIS | Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science |
| DOJ     | Department of Justice  |
| DSS     | Department of Social Services  |
| DV      | Domestic Violence  |
| FPT     | Federal-Provincial-Territorial   |
| FRA     | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights                                 |
| GBV     | Gender-based Violence  |
| IPV     | Intimate partner Violence  |
| IRCC    | Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada                                 |
| LGBTQ+  | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and others                        |
| OHCHR   | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights                             |
| PHAC    | Public Health Agency Canada  |
| RWF     | Respect Women Framework  |
| SV      | Sexual Violence  |
| UN      | United Nations   |
| UNODC   | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime                                     |
| VAW     | Violence Against Women   |
| VEGA    | Violence, Evidence, Guidance, and Action                                     |
| WHO     | World Health Organisation  |

## Chapter One: Introduction

### Introduction

Violence Against Women (VAW) is a human rights issue that is estimated to impact upon approximately 30% of girls and women globally (World Health Organisation, 2021). The majority of VAW takes place in the form of intimate partner violence, which is estimated to account for 27% of VAW cases (World Health Organisation, 2021). The impact of such violence can be negative for the physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health of women and girls (United Nations Women, 2019). Consequentially, this form of VAW can be understood as a public health issue (United Nations Women, 2019).

There is a paucity of research that specifically investigated the impacts of VAW, which has resulted in a significant gap in knowledge and understanding surrounding this hidden issue. Similarly, discourse on VAW has often been sidelined and ignored leading to limited education and empirical evidence being disseminated on the topic for people worldwide. VAW is a gender-based issue that has been known to target doubly marginalised groups in society, such as women and girls living in poverty, LGBTQ+<sup>1</sup> women and minority ethnic groups. Furthermore, adding to the importance of this study.

This research aims to investigate the application of the Respect Women Framework (RWF), a framework developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) targeted at policymakers that offers a guideline on the most effective elements of policy to reduce and eradicate Violence Against Women (WHO, 2019). This study is guided by the following questions,

1. What measures have Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women?
2. To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success?

This research primarily aims to shed a light on the issue of Violence Against Women and outline how policies can shape the response to Violence Against Women. Moreover, this study

---

<sup>1</sup> LGBTQ+ refers to individuals “who are attracted to people of the same gender, people with gender identities that differ from the sex assigned to them at birth, people with nonbinary identities and people whose sex characteristics do not fit typical definitions of female or male” (OHCHR, n.d.).



aims to add nuanced findings in relation the discourse surrounding Violence Against Women and to generate findings that could attempt to influence policy. The research will provide an insight in relation to Irish policy-based responses to the phenomenon of Violence Against Women, utilising available empirical evidence. Furthermore, this study aims to describe the issue of Violence Against Women in Ireland, Canada, and Australia, using the WHO Framework as a guide for successful responses. As such, this research aims to understand how (or if) the Respect Women Framework has been implemented into current policies and whether they are deemed effective. The criteria for success for the Respect Women framework will allow for policies to be analysed and to understand whether they have been effective in the reduction and eradication of Violence Against Women.

### **Background to the Study**

Violence Against Women is prevalent across Irish, Canadian, and Australian society. In Ireland, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) found that 52% of women in Ireland reported having experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime (CSO, 2023). Financial abuse and domestic violence have been the most common revelations of Violence Against Women in Ireland (Banking and Payments Federation of Ireland, 2022; Women's Aid, 2023a). Similarly, between 1996-2022, 259 girls and women in Ireland have died due to being victims of violence (Women's Aid, 2023a).

In Canada, 30% of women and girls have experienced violence at least once since turning fifteen years old (Statistics Canada, 2019). Physical violence and sexual abuse manifest themselves as the most common feature of Violence Against Women in Canada (Cotter, 2021). Between 2017 and 2022, 850 girls and women have died due to femicide (CFOJA, 2022). LGBTQ+ women and indigenous women are often most vulnerable to Violence Against Women in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2019; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019).

In Australia, physical abuse, and intimate partner violence (IPV) are most common, with 31% of women and girls experiencing physical abuse and 27% of women and girls experiencing IPV (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023). Additionally, emotional abuse is commonly featured among intimate partner violence with 23% of women and girls experiencing emotional abuse by an intimate partner (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

**Rationale**

Violence Against Women (VAW) is a human rights issue that highlights gender inequalities and contributes to class systems in society (Stark, 2007). The study of VAW women is important for the development of VAW education and responses. It is important to address sensitive issues such as Violence Against Women that are often sidelined, ignored, or excluded from public discourse (Strauss, 1973). Additionally, studying a hidden phenomenon that targets under-researched populations adds to education and allows for new preventative measures to be developed and implemented. The aim of this study is to contribute new findings in relation to the literature on VAW and its prevention. Furthermore, it is hoped that the findings produced will assist education initiatives and inform policymakers in relation to successfully adopting effective policies using international frameworks designed to target VAW, specifically the WHO Respect Women Framework.

**Methodology**

This research will utilise a problem-oriented and comparative approach. Using a qualitative, desk-based approach, the research will adhere to an interpretivist and empirical methodology. Purposive sampling was used to collect data that appropriately answers the research questions which underpin the study. The dissertation will utilise several key documents for analysis: World Health Organisation's (2019) *Respect Women Framework*, Government of Ireland's (2022) *Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence*, Canadian Government's (2017a) *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence*, and Australia's (2022) *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

**Structure of the Dissertation**

Chapter One introduces the topic of Violence Against Women globally and explains the importance of the topic in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Chapter Two, the literature review, will review the evidence base on Violence Against Women and VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Chapter Three will discuss the methodology that will be utilised to engage with the research questions. Chapter Four offers an analysis of the measures Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken to address and reduce VAW. It will also determine the extent that the policies meet the criteria of the Respect Women Framework. Chapter Five will offer a discussion, analysis and recommendations made using the findings on the framework and

policies. The final chapter will draw conclusions on the analysis VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia.

## Chapter Two: Literature Review

### Introduction

Violence Against Women (VAW) is a human rights violation that has been dealt inadequately by politics, society, and the Criminal Justice System. VAW asserts structural gender inequalities within society and contributes to a society where women are treated like second-class citizens (Stark, 2007). VAW has been argued to be a public health issue and has hindered sustainable development (WHO, 2019). The issue of VAW is often excluded from discourse due to its sensitivity and many beliefs that it is the 'norm' in familial settings (Strauss, 1973). A discourse on Violence Against Women often remains sidelined and ignored, thus it is important to build upon this discourse, through the conduct of rigorous, empirical research for education and preventative purposes. It is anticipated that the findings produced will assist education initiatives and inform policymakers in relation to successfully adopting effective policies using international frameworks designed to target VAW,

This chapter will critically review the literature on Violence Against Women. It will define terms such as Violence Against Women, gender-based violence, inter-partner violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, financial abuse, femicide and psychological violence. Subsequently, this chapter will discuss the risk factors of Violence Against Women and the prevalence of VAW in the context of Ireland, Canada, and Australia, and will explain the rationale for highlighting Violence Against Women in these jurisdictions. Following this, this chapter will discuss the prevention and intervention methods targeting VAW. This will be achieved by outlining policies designed to target VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Moreover, the research will outline alternative measures that have been taken in Ireland, Canada, and Australia to combat VAW. This chapter will go on to discuss the World Health Organisation 'Respect Women Framework' which will be utilised to analyse policies targeting VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. This will be achieved by defining the framework, its' rationale, and the criteria for success. Furthermore, it is anticipated that this research will identify and outline further gaps in literature and areas in need of research.

### Definitions

Discourse on Violence Against Women has led to a variety of definitions arising regarding violence targeted at women. It is important that these key words are defined in the context of the study to avoid harm to others and to ensure any elements of the study is not misinterpreted.

For this study, the terms ‘Violence Against Women’ and ‘gender-based violence’ will be used interchangeably, as their definitions are similar in the context of this study.

Violence Against Women (VAW) is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life” (OHCHR, 1993). VAW has been argued to violate human rights (Stark, 2007). The European Commission (n.d.) defines Gender-based Violence (GBV) as violence that targets an individual based on their gender or the infliction of violence that disproportionately targets a certain gender. GBV ranges from emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and financial abuse (European Commission, n.d.). Intimate partner Violence (IPV) is explained as the behaviour or actions of an intimate partner or ex-partner that leads to harm being caused, including psychological abuse, physical assault, or sexual coercion (WHO, 2021).

The United Nations (n.d.) defines Domestic Violence (DV) as any behaviour that is used and abused to exert control and power over an intimate partner. Like GBV, DV ranges from emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and financial abuse (Women’s Aid, 2023a). DV often targets women and occurs in the home, however, it can occur to anyone regardless of gender (Women’s Aid, 2023a; United Nations, n.d.). Financial abuse is defined as a strand of DV that utilises the control of money to control their partner (Women’s Aid, 2023a). Financial abuse includes not allowing independent income, withholding money, denying money, forging signatures on financial documents, controlling family finances and not allowing the victim to spend money on necessary purchases (Women’s Aid, 2023a). Financial abuse aims to control a victim through isolation, financial dependence and choosing between an abusive relationship or facing poverty (Women’s Aid, 2023a).

Sexual Violence (SV) is described as trying to obtain a sexual act that is targeted at an individual’s sexuality by using coercion regardless of relationship or setting (WHO, 2021). Sexual violence ranges from rape, beating, forcibly stripped and the forced use or partaking of pornography (Women’s Aid, 2023a). The European Institute for Gender Equality (2023) defines psychological abuse as the intentional actions of an individual that harms another individual’s psychological integrity through coercion, defamation, verbal harassment, or physical harassment. Femicide is defined as “as an intentional killing with a gender-related motivation, femicide may be driven by stereotyped gender roles, discrimination towards

women and girls, unequal power relations between women and men, or harmful social norms” (UNODC, 2022).

### **Violence Against Women Theories**

Violence Against Women can be argued through multiple theories including system, ecological, resource, feminist, and sub-culture of violence. System theory argues that Violence Against Women occurs as it viewed a ‘norm’ within familial setting (Strauss, 1973). Moreover, system theory argues that VAW within families occurs due to lack of socialisation and psychotic personalities (Strauss, 1973).

#### *Ecological Theory*

Ecological theory argues that Violence Against Women occurs across multiple levels of one’s social ecology (Heise, 1998). Moreover, Heise (1998) argues that personal history, the microsystem, the ecosystem, and the macrosystem contribute to Violence Against Women. This includes seeing abuse as a child, male dominance in a family, low socioeconomic status, female isolation, rigid gender roles, aggressive masculinity, and male entitlement (Heise, 1998).

#### *Resource Theory*

Resource theory argues that violence is used as a resource to achieve personal goals and interests within a relationship (Goode, 1971). Furthermore, it is stated that gender-based violence is more likely to occur where an individual has low resources in relation to status or income and as a result will use force to achieve their goals (Goode, 1971). Similarly, Goode (1971) adds that women with few resources are more likely to be victims of violence.

#### *Feminist Theories*

Feminist theories argue that Violence Against Women is an expression of male domination which has occurred due to a long history of legal abuse and the ownership of women (Dobash & Dobash, 1981). In addition, feminist theorists argue that due to the persistence of inequality in contemporary society, VAW has become a social norm and a feature of gender roles (Ritter et al., 2014). Moreover, it is argued that VAW is a result of the oppression of women by men and the promotion of hierarchal structures, taking past traditional ideas about relationships and gender roles and bringing them to contemporary society (Dekel et al., 2018).

#### *Subculture of Violence Theory*

The subculture of violence theory can also be applied to Violence Against Women studies. The subculture of violence theory argues that violence most often occurs in working-class

communities where violence is the ‘norm’ or acceptable within the community (Wolfgang & Ferracutti, 1967). The subculture of violence theory can be integrated with system theory, ecological theory, and resource theory (Lawson, 2012). System theory and subculture of violence theory share similarities in that the idea of violence being a ‘norm’ acts as a catalyst for VAW to occur. Additionally, like ecological theory and resource theory, subculture of violence theory argues that VAW occurs where socioeconomic status, finances, and sources are low, giving offenders the opportunity to engage with VAW.

### **Identifying Violence Against Women**

Violence Against Women targets women of all backgrounds, however, the World Health Organisation (2021) has argued that young women, members of minority ethnic groups, those with low socioeconomic status and immigration status are more at risk. The WHO identifies several risk factors on an individual, interpersonal, community and societal level. At an individual level, the experience of, or exposure to violence within families as a child, mental health issues, or viewing VAW as a ‘norm’ are viewed as risk factors (WHO, 2019). On the interpersonal scale, inequality or male dominance in relations, male dependence, multiple sexual relations or male use of drugs and alcohol are deemed as risk factors to VAW (WHO, 2019). Dangerous gender norms or stereotypes, high unemployment and poverty, high prevalence of violence and crime, and availability of weapons, drugs and alcohol contribute to risk factors for VAW in the community (WHO, 2019). Moreover, discrimination regarding marriage, partner ownership, divorce, and child custody can be risk factors in society (WHO, 2019). Furthermore, low levels of education and employment, an absence of law enforcement addressing VAW and gender discrimination within core societal institutions such as healthcare or policing contribute to VAW (WHO, 2019).

When risk factors are identified, protective measures can be introduced to reduce the risk of VAW. At an individual level, this is achieved through not exposing children to familial violence, encouraging further education, introduced mixed socialisation methods between men, women, boys, and girls, reducing disparity in education levels between men and women, and encouraging gender equitable attitudes (WHO, 2019). Interpersonally, protective measures include the promotion of intimate partner relationships where there is gender equality in terms of sharing household responsibilities and decision making (WHO, 2019). Protection methods in the community are achieved by encouraging behaviour that promote gender equity, nonviolence and promotes the empowerment of women (WHO, 2019). Finally, protecting

women in wider society involved implementing laws that promote women's access to employment, education, and gender equality along with laws that address VAW should be introduced and implemented (WHO, 2019).

## **Prevalence of Violence Against Women**

### *Ireland*

In 2014, the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) found that 26% of women in Ireland have been victims of physical or sexual violence since turning fifteen (FRA, 2014). Moreover, the Sexual Violence Survey 2022 conducted by the Central Statistics Office reported that 52% of women in Ireland reported having experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime (CSO, 2023). A further 41% of people in Ireland expressed that they knew of a victim of domestic violence (DV) (FRA, 2014).

### Financial Abuse

Financial abuse has been a common feature of Violence Against Women in Ireland, with 20% of women between the ages of 18-34 reporting to not have control over their own finances (Banking and Payments Federation of Ireland, 2022). 2,290 reports of financial abuse consisted of denying victim access to their money, pressuring victims into loaning money or taking out substantial amounts of money and limiting victims access to employment (Women's Aid, 2023b).

### Domestic Violence

In Ireland in 2022, there were 33,990 reports of DV made to Ireland's national organisation of Violence Against Women (Women's Aid, 2023b). This consisted of 28,578 reports of Violence Against Women and 5,735 reports of violence against children (Women's Aid, 2023b). 20,851 reports made by female victims disclosed emotional abuse, consisting of verbal abuse, isolation, stalking and threats of assault (Women's Aid, 2023b). Additionally, reports of abuse towards women rose 0.4% between 2021 and 2022, whilst reports of abuse towards children decreased by 6% between 2021 and 2022 (Women's Aid, 2023b). 58% of DV reports in 2022 outlined abuse by a current partner, 26% stated they were abused by a former partner, 10% reported that they were abused by a man who was neither an intimate or ex-partner and 6% stated that they were abused by another woman (Women's Aid, 2023b).

### Physical and Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse has increased annually since 2015 (An Garda Síochána, 2021). For example, in 2021, 3,306 reports of sexual offences were made in comparison to 3,020, contributing to a



9.5% increase in one year (CSO, 2021). Rape, coerced sexual activity and advances and abuse through pornography were common features of the 928 reports disclosing sexual abuse (Women's Aid, 2023b).

The 4,508 reports of physical abuse disclosed assault with an object, strangulation, harm with knives and the infliction of physical injuries such as broken bones through weapons, pushing, shoving, and punching (Women's Aid, 2023b). Within the 28,578 reports made about VAW, 653 reports disclosed cyber abuse and stalking through messaging, monitoring of internet use, image-based sexual abuse, sharing or threatening sharing intimate images without consent and secretly recording victims (Women's Aid, 2023b).

#### Child Abuse

5,745 reports consisting of emotional abuse towards children were made in 2022 (Women's Aid, 2023b). 5,006 included verbal abuse and being threatened with violence (Women's Aid, 2023b). 315 reports were made regarding physical abuse consisting of slapping, assault using weapons, being hurt when the abuser attacked their mother and hair pulling (Women's Aid, 2023b). 91 reports heard of sexual abuse including assault and molestation (Women's Aid, 2023b).

#### Femicide

There have been 259 victims of femicide from the period 1996-2022, including 12 victims in 2022 (Women's Aid, 2023b). 63% of victims were killed in their own home (Women's Aid, 2023b). In Ireland, 1 in every 2 victims of solved femicide cases have been killed by a current or former intimate partner (Women's Aid, 2023b). Similarly, of femicide cases solved, 87% of victims knew the perpetrator, whilst 13% did not (Women's Aid, 2023b). Additionally, of the 259 cases, 20 children died in incidents where a woman had been killed violently (Women's Aid, 2023b).

#### Canada

A survey conducted by Canadian Women's Foundation (2021) found that 64% of people in Canada knew of a woman who has been a victim of Violence Against Women. In Canada, 1 in 4 women have experienced intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime (Statistics Canada, 2021). Similarly, women and girls are often most likely to be victims of sexual abuse and harassment online, with 67% of police reports on cybercrime in 2009 targeted at women and girls (Statistics Canada, 2009). A 2017 study conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics found that perpetrators of VAW varied depending on age with young girls often being

victimized by family members whilst young women were victimised through intimate relationships (Conroy, 2017).

### Physical and Sexual Abuse

Canadian statistics in 2019 found that 4.7 million women (30%) in Canada have experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of fifteen (Statistics Canada, 2019). A survey completed by Statistics Canada (2018) disclosed that 44% of women have reported experiencing physical, sexual, or psychological abuse by a partner. Choking, physical assault, and sexual assault are the most common features of abuse in Canada (Cotter, 2021). In relation to police reports regarding VAW, physical assault accounted for 65% of reports, other violent offences accounted for 27% of the reports and 8% accounted for sexual offences (Conroy, 2017). 81% of reports identified men and boys as the perpetrator of the abuse (Conroy, 2017).

### Double-marginalised Populations

The 2018 Intimate Partner Violence survey in Canada found that women are six times more likely to experience sexual assault by their intimate partner in comparison to their male counterpart (Statistics Canada, 2018). 43% of women reported that they had been victims of emotional abuse, financial abuse, and psychological abuse by either a current or former partner (Statistics Canada, 2018). Similarly, 23% of women surveyed reported experiencing physical abuse (Statistics Canada, 2018). Members of the LGBTQ+ community are argued to be more at risk of IPV than heterosexual identifying individuals with 67% of sexual minority women reported having experienced IPV at least once in their lifetime in comparison to 44% of straight identifying women (Statistics Canada, 2018). Moreover, 27% of sexual minority women experienced sexual assault by the age of 15 in comparison to 11% of heterosexual women (Statistics Canada, 2018).

Although Violence Against Women targets women and girls of all ages, race, ethnicity, and religion, VAW in Canada has been reported to target indigenous women twelve times more than any other woman and sixteen times more than a white woman (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019).

### Femicide

The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) (2022) began recording femicide deaths in 2017. Between the period of 2017 and 2022, 850 women and girls were victims of femicide in Canada (CFOJA, 2022). In 2022, this figure was 184 with a woman or girl being killed every two days in Canada (CFOJA, 2022). As witnessed in Ireland, 90% of

cases involving Violence Against Women were committed by someone known to the victim whilst 10% of cases were committed by a stranger (Women's Aid, 2023c).

### *Australia*

According to Australia's Bureau of Statistics, 27% of women were found to have experienced IPV or family violence by the age of fifteen (ABS, 2023). The same survey found that 20% of women were victims of stalking (ABS, 2023).

### *Emotional Abuse*

23% of women have experienced emotional abuse by a partner (ABS, 2023). Emotional abuse is found to be more common among current partners rather than previous partners (ABS, 2016). The Personal Safety Survey 2021-2022 found that 16% of women have experienced financial abuse by a partner (ABS, 2023).

### *Physical and Sexual Abuse*

Approximately 9.5% of the Australian population have experienced sexual violence (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2023). 6.4% of perpetrators were known to the victim whilst 3.1% of assaults were perpetrated by strangers (AIHW, 2023). The prevalence of VAW is found to be highest among 18–24-year-olds, with prevalence decreasing as age increases (AIHW, 2023).

A 2023 ABS survey found that 31% of women had experienced some form of physical violence since the age of fifteen. Moreover, the survey found that 22% of women experienced sexual violence since the age of fifteen (ABS, 2023). 53% of women were reported having experienced sexual harassment at some point in their lives (ABS, 2017). Sexual harassment ranged from indecent communication, social media posts, indecent exposure, unwanted sexual advances, and inappropriate comments (ABS, 2017).

### *Double Marginalised Communities*

Similar to Canada, indigenous women in Australia are more likely to experience Violence Against Women (ABS, 2016). This is evident with approximately 20% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing physical violence between 2014 and 2015 (ABS, 2016). Victimization of indigenous women is higher than non-indigenous women in Australia with a rate of 1.42 per 100,000 for indigenous women and a significantly lower 0.56 per 100,000 for non-indigenous women (Australian Institute of Criminology, 2021). For instances of physical harm to indigenous women between 2018-2019, 74% identified the perpetrator as

an intimate partner or family member (ABS, 2021). Of indigenous assault cases, 64-75% of victims identified as women with approximately 87-91% of offenders being known to the victim (ABS, 2021). Additionally, approximately 68-78% of indigenous women experienced family violence and domestic violence (ABS, 2021). Similarly, 75-88% of indigenous victims of sexual assault (ABS, 2021).

### Femicide

Femicide has been common in Australia with records of 68 women being violently killed by a man in 2022 in Australia (Australian Femicide Watch, 2023). Additionally, 37 children were killed violently by a man (Australian Femicide Watch, 2023). Between 2018 and 2022, 481 women and children have died violently at the hands of a man (Australian Femicide Watch, 2023). The contexts of death varied from domestic violence, intimate partner violence, stranger violence, and associate violence (Australian Femicide Watch, 2023). Additionally, the causes of death varied from drowning, stabbing, bashing, rape and vehicle homicides (Australian Femicide Watch, 2023).

A research report by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) found that under homicide categories, intimate partner homicide is the most common in Australia, accounting for 21% of all homicides in Australia in 2018-2019 (ANROWS, 2022). ANROWS (2022) reported 311 IPV homicides in Australia between 2010 and 2018. 77% of perpetrators were men with 94% of the men using domestic violence behaviour towards their partner before killing them (ANROWS, 2022).

## **Gender-based Violence Policies**

### *Ireland*

Ireland has had three policies that have aimed to reduce and eradicate Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Ireland. The first policy was introduced in 2010 for the 2010-2014 period by the Minister for Justice, Dermot Ahern TD (Department of Justice, 2010). The policy laid the foundation for Ireland's initial steps to addressing and reducing GBV. It takes a whole-of-government approach to ending GBV (DOJ, 2010). The policy was introduced at a time when GBV prevalence became consistent in Ireland and the levels of non-reporting was extremely high (DOJ, 2010). The goals of the first national strategy were to educate and recognize GBV and provide services to address the issue (DOJ, 2010).

Moreover, Ireland's second national strategy was introduced in 2016 for the 2016-2021 period by Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald TD (DOJ, 2016). The second policy built upon the first strategy and had the aim of changing societal norms and views on GBV, improving GBV support and services and holding perpetrators of GBV accountable (DOJ, 2016). It takes a whole-of-government approach to ending GBV (DOJ, 2016).

Furthermore, Ireland's third and current GBV strategy, *Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual, & Gender-based Violence 2022-2026*, was introduced in 2022 by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee (DOJ, 2022). This strategy is unique in comparison to the first and second strategy as it includes a goal to eradicate GBV in Ireland and create a zero-tolerance behaviour towards it by 2026 (DOJ, 2022). It takes a whole-of-government approach to address VAW (DOJ, 2010). The policy sets out the foundations to comply with the Istanbul Convention Action against Violence Against Women and domestic violence (DOJ, 2022). *Zero Tolerance* is built on a framework of prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy co-ordination (DOJ, 2022). *Zero Tolerance* adopts an intersectional approach which attempts to understand the lives of victims and survivors of GBV (DOJ, 2022). There are three main goals of Zero Tolerance, including:

- a) Working towards the eradication of cultural and social norms that contribute to GBV.
- b) Ensuring victims and survivors have instant access to safety and support.
- c) Holding GBV agencies accountable for their protection and to ensure policy co-ordination regarding GBV (Department of Justice, 2022).

### *Canada*

Similar to the case of Ireland, Canada has also published more than one gender-based violence policy to prevent and address GBV. *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*, was published in 2017 by the Government of Canada to respond to GBV (Government of Canada, 2017a). *It's Time* is built on three pillars including,

- a) GBV Prevention.
- b) Victim, Survivor, and Family Support.
- c) Promotion of a Responsive CJS (Government of Canada, 2017a).

*It's Time*, address the gaps in supports for marginalised populations such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, migrants, women in remote communities and the LGBTQ+ community (Government of Canada, 2017a). Similar to Ireland's *Zero Tolerance*, *It's Time*

adopts a whole-of-government approach to eradicating GBV (Government of Canada, 2017a). This includes input and policy co-ordination among equality policies, public health and safety policies, defence policies, the Canadian Department of Justice and immigration agencies (Government of Canada, 2017a).

Canada is due to publish an updated GBV policy titled *National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence*. It was first introduced in 2022 by the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers in Canada (FPT Department, 2022). However, it has yet to be implemented. The primary goals attributed to the National Action Plan are as follows:

1. Transformation of GBV attitudes
2. Addressing the social and financial factors contributing to GBV
3. Ensuring immediate, reliable, and accessible protection and services for those facing gender-based violence.
4. Improving outcomes for those impacted by GBV (FPT Department, 2022).

Additionally, there are five pillars to the National Action Plan:

- a) To support victims, survivors, and their families.
- b) Prevention approaches.
- c) Responsive Criminal Justice System.
- d) Implementation of indigenous led approaches.
- e) Social infrastructure that allows for an enabling environment (FPT Department, 2022).

### *Australia*

In relation to policy implementation, Ireland, Canada, and Australia share similarities as Australia has also implemented more than one Violence Against Women policy. Australia's first policy on VAW, *the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010–2022*, was introduced in 2011 by the Minister for Status of Women, Kate Ellis MP and Attorney-General, Robert McClelland MP (Department of Social Services, 2011). The National Plan contained 4 three-year action plans including, *First Action Plan: Building a Strong Foundation 2010-2013*, *Second Action Plan: Moving Ahead 2013-2016*, *Third Action Plan 2016-2019*, and *Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022* (DSS, 2011). The plan had five national priorities:

- 1) Building the evidence base.
- 2) Improving prevention for perpetrators.
- 3) Understanding experiences of violence.

- 4) Supporting and integrating services.
- 5) Using community action to prevent violence (DSS, 2014).

Australia's third *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032*, was published in 2022 (DSS, 2022). It is a national policy framework to guide an action plan that aims to end Violence Against Women and violence against children over the 2022-2023 period (DSS, 2022). Comparable to Irish and Canadian VAW policies, it takes an all-of-government approach highlighting the importance of governments, businesses, workplaces, schools, and all of society to work together to eradicate VAW (DSS, 2022).

The National Plan sets out four pillars to eradicate VAW:

- a) Prevention – change norms, attitudes, and behaviours.
- b) Early intervention – identify and support those at risk of VAW.
- c) Response – Provide services and support, increase crisis support and police intervention.
- d) Recovery – Reduce re-traumatisation.
- e) Healing – Services to support healing process. (Department of Social Services, 2022).

### **Respect Women Framework**

The 'Respect Women' Framework (RWF) was developed in 2019 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) joined with several United Nation agencies, World Bank Group, and various country Government's (WHO, 2019). The aim of the 'Respect Women' Framework is to inform policymakers on designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating strategies that combat Violence Against Women (WHO, 2019). RWF aims to eradicate VAW through prevention measures (WHO, 2019).

The RWF document argues that prevention methods are the key to eradicating VAW (WHO, 2019). RWF lists several key qualities of successful prevention methods. This includes the adoption of laws and policies that advance gender equality, political leadership and commitment, funding women's organisations, funding prevention, and addressing the various forms of prejudice women face daily (WHO, 2019). RWF outlines global facts, risk factors, protective measures, the implementation of strategies to prevent VAW, assess the implementations, the development of theories for change, the application of prevention methods, how to strengthen the environment for prevention, adapt and change measures, evaluate and measure progress of strategies and how to commit to action (WHO, 2019).

*Criteria for success*

The Respect Women Framework outlines seven intervention strategies that derive from the word ‘respect’. These include “**R**elationships skills strengthened, **E**mpowerment of women, **S**ervices ensured, **P**overty reduced, **E**nvironments made safe, **C**hild and adolescent abuse prevented, **T**ransformed attitudes, beliefs and norms” (WHO, 2019:10). These strategies act as the key elements for success and this study will use these strategies to analyse its implementation in policy. The following criterion for success has been adopted by the WHO as the application of these strategies were most effective when evaluated in several countries worldwide (WHO, 2019).

The RWF outlines criteria for success for each implementation strategy. In order to apply the criteria for success, the following must be considered. In terms of the strategy ‘Relationship skills strengthened’, an indication of workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women, couple counselling and/or therapy sessions will suggest that the policy in questions meets the criteria of RWF (WHO, 2019). Where there is any indication that programmes concentrating on the empowerment of girls and women, an introduction of safe spaces for women where women can be mentored and educated, and the implementation of policies that ensure women have financial control, this will showcase that the strategy ‘Empowerment of women’ is evident in the policy under analysis (WHO, 2019). ‘Services ensured’ will be evident in policies where helplines, safe accommodation, crisis centres, alcohol/drug misuse interventions, anger management and behavioural therapy for men are mentioned (WHO, 2019).

The ‘Poverty reduced’ strategy will be apparent in policies where economic transfers including conditional/ unconditional cash transfers vouchers, and in-kind transfers for women are mentioned (WHO, 2019). Additionally, it will be apparent in policies that outline opportunities for employment and social protection for women (WHO, 2019). If successfully adopted in policies, the ‘Environments made safe’ strategy will be evident through gender responses to urbanisation, bystander interventions and school interventions (WHO, 2019).

The strategy ‘Child and adolescent abuse prevented’ will be evident in policies where there are elements of interventions addressing intimate partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment, school curriculum programmes on rape and IPV, home visitation and health worker outreach and, psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV. Finally, the ‘Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms’ strategy will be apparent where workshops for men and women to promote attitude change and community activism is encouraged.



**Conclusion**

To conclude, this chapter has critically reviewed the literature on Violence Against Women through defining Violence Against Women, gender-based violence, inter-partner violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, financial abuse, and psychological violence. This chapter has clearly outlined the theories that underpin VAW and the lens through which the phenomenon can be viewed.

This chapter highlighted the risk factors of gender-based violence and its prevalence in Ireland, Canada, and Australia, whilst also offering a rationale for the importance of researching Violence Against Women. This chapter has discussed measures that have been taken to intervene in relation to gender-based violence in Ireland, Canada, and Australia, through the discussion of policies and alternative measures, offering a wider context of the policies that will be analysed in the following chapters. Finally, this chapter discussed the theoretical framework, 'Respect Framework' that will be employed to answer the research questions. The following chapter will discuss the methodology that will be employed to conduct this research study.

## Chapter Three: Methodology

### Introduction

This chapter aims to provide an outline of the design and methods utilised as part of this research study. It will provide an understanding in relation to the qualitative approach adopted in the research, and how it influenced the research design. The research design will be clearly outlined, as well as the theoretical framework that underpins the study. Any ethical issues that arose as part of the research will be addressed. Finally, this chapter will outline how the data was analysed and managed.

### Qualitative Research

Qualitative research is a strategy that highlights and fixates on words rather than figures (Bryman, 2012). Qualitative research is often constructive, interpretive, and inductive in nature (Bryman, 2012). However, all three are not always featured in qualitative research (Bryman, 2012). The goal of employing qualitative research is to find a deeper meaning in a phenomenon and also determine the significance of certain human experiences (Rubin & Babbie, 2009). This research will use qualitative data that has been gathered through documents. Policies, frameworks, and peer-reviewed journal articles will be used for qualitative data collection in order to gain a greater understanding of Violence Against Women.

This chapter will discuss the use of qualitative research and how it is the most suitable methodology for this dissertation. Following this, it will discuss interpretivism and empiricism as the theoretical approach of this study. Subsequently, it will outline the purpose of the research, comparative approach, and problem-oriented research design. Documentary evidence, framework application and the use of desk-based research will be considered. This chapter will outline the use of purposive sampling as the method used to consider the inclusion of documents in the study. Following this, it will discuss how data will be collected and analysed.

Using a qualitative research design, this research is underpinned by the following research questions:

- What measures have Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women?
- To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success?

Through the exploration of these questions, the research aims to fill a gap in literature regarding whether the use of frameworks targeting Violence Against Women (VAW) are useful in creating effective policies.

### **Theoretical Perspective**

This research is interpretivist in nature. Interpretivism is defined as interpreting the social world by drawing on culture and history (Gray, 2009). O'Reilly (2009) adds that interpretivism loosely relies on the meanings that people add to their actions. An interpretivist nature is relevant to this research as the study will utilise documentary evidence and policies for data collection. To add to the interpretivist nature of the study, the research will adopt a comparative approach. Conducting research using an interpretivist approach is considered as the most appropriate approach as the aim of the research is to understand why policies can have an influence on society. Additionally, using an interpretivist approach will aid the understanding of why Violence Against Women occurs in society and how the issue can be combatted. Similarly, an interpretivist approach can allow for generalisations to be made regarding VAW policies. This can inform policymakers on how to create, improve and deliver policies that effectively address and reduce VAW.

For this study, an empirical approach is the most appropriate approach as qualitative data will be gathered. Empiricism is as an approach to research that uses lived experience and knowledge gained through lived experience (Bryman, 2012). Additionally, empiricism argues that knowledge must be tested before it is deemed knowledge (Bryman, 2012). An empirical approach is most appropriate as the collection of empirical data will allow for lived experiences to be observed. This will be achieved through the use of a literature review to gain a deeper understand of VAW and to aid the understanding of how VAW policies can influence the lived experiences of women.

An empirical approach is most appropriate for this research as the study will be written in a manner that anticipates informing policymakers. The collection of empirical data is beneficial for this study as the data is more authentic and credible than data used in different approaches as it is backed by factual evidence such as peer-reviewed materials (Bryman, 2012). Additionally, empirical data improves the validity of research, allowing for more authentic and credible results (Bryman, 2012).

A study is deemed credible when individuals can acknowledge the experience after reading a study, even without their own personal experience (Sandelowski, 1986). In order to ensure the dependability and validity of this study, various processes will take place. Firstly, the method of triangulation will be utilised. This will involve using peer-reviewed sources, methods and past studies exploring VAW to increase credibility of this study (WHO, 1998). Similarly, data will be engaged with for long periods of time to ensure that the data is dependable.

### **Research Rationale and Aims**

The issue of Violence Against Women is the focus of this research study for several reasons. First, there has been few discourses surrounding Violence Against Women, including its causes, risk factors, and how to reduce and eradicate it. Secondly, due to VAW being a hidden area within society, it is not researched enough, and adequate measures have not been taken to sufficiently address the issue. Thirdly, VAW is a gender-based issue which targets groups that are often marginalised in society. Finally, regardless of how rich and nuanced VAW data is, it has commonly been side-lined and ignored.

There are several aims for this research. This research aims to shed a light on the issue of VAW and highlight how policies can shape societal response to VAW. Secondly, this study aims to add to VAW discourse and to generate findings that will hopefully be useful to policymakers. This research aims to add to VAW data and policies in Ireland. The Respect Women Framework<sup>2</sup> will be applied to VAW policy as it is an innovative way to collect data and generate findings that may not have been considered previously. This study aims to describe the issue of VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia through understanding the measures that have been taken to address and reduce VAW. Similarly, this study aims to acknowledge whether the RWF is a useful policy tool for VAW policy success in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. For the purpose of this study, descriptive research will be utilised to explain the measures that have been adopted in Ireland, Canada, and Australia to address and reduce VAW.

---

<sup>2</sup> The RESPECT Framework was developed by the World Health Organisation and United Nations that has used research findings that suggests the measures needed to prevent VAW. It is targeted at policymakers to include in individual policies (WHO, 2020). <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-RHR-18.19>

## **Research Design**

### *Comparative*

This research will take a comparative research design. A comparative research design, in context of this research, involves comparing three countries in an attempt to highlight or generate new insights on Violence Against Women by comparing findings of the research (Bryman, 2012). A comparative research design involves comparing the three countries (Ireland, Canada, Australia) using identical methods (Bryman, 2012). Comparative research design asserts that social phenomena can be understood better when they are compared meaningfully (Bryman, 2012). This research will take a comparative design as it intends to draw comparisons across VAW measures and VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. The implementation of VAW policies will be compared across the three jurisdictions along with the jurisdictions ability to meet the criteria for success of the Respect Women Framework. The study will be solely based on qualitative research and data. No quantitative data will be gathered or generated for this study.

Ireland, Canada, and Australia were chosen for a comparative study for several reasons. Firstly, Ireland was chosen as the domicile country for comparison as the research is based in Ireland. Similarly, VAW discourse and research has been insufficient in Ireland and Ireland has not been used as a country for comparison in VAW enough. As a result, this research aims to inform Irish policy and Irish discourse on VAW. Secondly, English is the dominant language in Ireland, Canada, and Australia, making data easily accessible as journal articles, documents and policies relating to the jurisdictions have been written in English. Thirdly, Ireland, Canada and Australia have history with the British Commonwealth, with Canada, Australia, and Northern Ireland remaining members of the British Commonwealth. As a result, rules, laws, customs and policies in Ireland, Canada and Australia have been influenced by Britain (McPherson, 2007; Rahman et al., 2017).

Furthermore, leading to the chosen jurisdictions sharing societal and political similarities. Moreover, Ireland, Canada, and Australia are members of the G20, which is an international forum relating to the economy and sustainable development. As gender equality is one of the seventeen sustainable development goals, which relates to VAW, Ireland, Canada, and Australia act as quality jurisdictions to compare. Finally, Ireland, Canada, and Australia will be compared as all jurisdictions have policies relating to VAW. As a result, choosing Ireland, Canada, and Australia for comparison aids in answering the research questions the study sets out.

A comparative approach is most appropriate for this research as it aims to provide a foundation of knowledge in relation to the response to VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Additionally, it aims to compare VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. As VAW is an under-researched phenomenon it was necessary to initially use comparative research to gain a deeper understanding of VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Moreover, due to the time constraints of this dissertation, it was more time-efficient to complete a desk-based comparative study than conducting field work.

### *Problem Oriented Approach*

In order to formulate research questions, a problem-oriented approach will be used. A problem-oriented approach involves researching past materials on VAW, finding gaps in knowledge through using secondary resources and building research questions based on those gaps (Bell & Waters, 2014). This will be done through gathering sources on VAW, researching the area, identifying gaps in literature, and identifying research questions. When the research questions have been identified, sources will be gathered purposively will aid in answering the research questions (Bell & Waters, 2014). As the research progresses, it may present further areas of research (Tosh, 2010). However, as this is a preliminary study, further areas of research go beyond the scope of this study.

The problem-oriented approach is useful in research as it allows for gaps in knowledge to be identified (Bell & Waters, 2014). It also allows for research to guide new research questions (Bell & Waters, 2014). This can allow for more meaningful and useful questions to be formulated as questions are not repeated. However, using a problem-oriented approach requires questions to be framed carefully in order to provide the best outcome, solutions, and recommendations (Kueffer et al., 2012). This could be a disadvantage of the problem-oriented approach if research questions are not thorough.

## **Research Method**

### *Documentary Analysis*

This study adopts the use of documentary analysis whilst simultaneously applying the Respect Women Framework to policies targeting Violence Against Women in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Documentary analysis is defined as the use of several forms of documents that are used as the source of data for research (O'Leary, 2017). Documentary analysis involves the analysis of documentary evidence. Documentary evidence can be found both online and offline

(Bell & Waters, 2014). Documentary evidence can be found in books, official documents and statistics, public inquiries, reports, policies, statutes etc. (Bryman, 2012; Bell & Waters, 2014). In order to conduct documentary analysis successfully, multiple steps will be taken to choose adequate documents for analysis. This will include sourcing documents using a problem-oriented approach for document sourcing and content analysis (Bell & Waters, 2014). Using a problem-oriented approach, VAW will be investigated using secondary resources found online and in libraries. Following this, gaps in literature will be identified and this will inform research questions. Subsequently, policies and frameworks that will aid in understanding VAW will be identified and utilised.

Documentary analysis allows for global VAW policies to be identified and for the search to be refined to jurisdictions that will aid the answering of research question. It also allows for a framework to be identified and applied to the respective policies. For this study, VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia will guide the research questions and answers. Meanwhile, the RWF will allow for a framework to be applied to the policies that will give a theoretical foundation and rationale to understanding how VAW can be combatted through policy.

Newburn's (2017) framework will be utilised to choose adequate documents for analysis. This involves ensuring the document is authentic and credible (Newburn, 2017). This will also involve the consideration of the significance of each document and ensuring that the topic within the document is portrayed accurately (Newburn, 2017). The method of triangulation ensures that the key documents utilised for this study are authentic, credible, significant, and accurate. Furthermore, the key documents originate from peer-reviewed journal articles, national Governments, national statistics, and credible world organisations. Furthermore, adding strength to its validity.

Whilst using documentary evidence for the literature review, sampling, witting and unwitting evidence, bias, and critiques will be considered. In order to choose documents, a purposive sampling method will be used. A purposive sampling method will be utilised as the documents will be chosen intentionally with the intention that it will answer the research questions outlined.

When analysing the documents, it is important to consider the witting and unwitting evidence. Witting evidence is described as the information the author of the document wants the reader to learn (Marwick, 2001). The witting evidence can be found in the executive summaries of policy documents that detail the key messages of the policy. It is also important to consider

unwitting evidence. Unwitting evidence is defined as information that is underlying assumptions that are interpreted by the reader and not intentionally exposed by the document (Bell & Waters, 2014). Unwitting evidence can be found in policy documents where policy information implies underlying assumptions that requires further research to find if it had been explicitly explained in previous policies of a similar nature.

When analysing documentary evidence, there are two types of criticisms to consider, external criticism and internal criticism. External criticism is concerned with the truthfulness of the document and whether the document has not been forged (Bell & Waters, 2014). In a policy context, the researcher found the documents to be genuine and authentic as many official bodies contributed to policy formation. Additionally, the policies have been supported by empirical data such as past studies, statistical evidence, peer-reviewed academic sources, surveys, questionnaires, interviews, and censuses. Another tool for critique when analysing the documents is internal criticism. This involves asking when, where, who, why, what, in the context of the document. Using this method to critique documents for analysis is useful as it allows you to gather the true reasoning for the research study. Additionally, it highlights to a researcher that documents should not be taken at face value and should be carefully considered before being subject to analysis or used for further research (Bells & Waters, 2014).

It is important to consider bias when choosing and analysing documents for the research. It is important to ensure that a biased view is not interpreted as factual but rather opinions evidenced on the collection of data that would suit that opinion (Bells & Waters, 2014). It is crucial to remember when analysing policy documents that biases can be found in a government document. Irrespective of the fact that it is a government policy which is considered to be authentic and official, bias throughout the document is still very much possible. Oftentimes, governments tend to underemphasise the severity of an issue or suggest that an issue is being dealt with adequately in order for them to be represented positively.

### **Approaching the Research Questions**

This study will be underpinned by the following questions:

- a) What measures have Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women?



- b) To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success?

A comparative approach, documentary analysis and application of the Respect Women Framework will be utilised to understand the measures taken by Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women. Subsequently, a problem-oriented approach, documentary analysis and comparison will be utilised to understand the extent to which the policies and measures taken by Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success.

A key tool to answer the research questions is the WHO Respect Women's Framework. There are seven criteria for RWF. These include strengthening relationship skills, empowering women, ensuring adequate services are employed, reducing poverty, ensuring environments are safe, preventing child and adolescent abuse and transforming attitudes, beliefs, and norms (WHO, 2020).

Documentary analysis will be used to generate findings on the measures being taken to address and reduce VAW. In addition, documentary analysis and framework application will be used to understand the degree to which VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet a VAW framework targeting VAW. To evaluate the extent that policies meet the criteria of the RWF, the following will be sought in each policy.

**Table 3. 1: World Health Organisation Respect Women Framework Criteria for Success**

| <b>Respect Women Framework</b>              | <b>Criteria</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women     |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services   |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control  |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines  |
|   | Safe accommodation   |
|   | Crisis Centres   |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention  |
|   | Anger Management   |
|   | Behavioural Therapy  |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers   |
|   | Employment opportunities   |
|   | Social Protection  |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation   |
|   | Bystander Interventions  |
|   | School Interventions   |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing IPV and child maltreatment                                      |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV   |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach   |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV                          |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change  |
|   | Community Activism   |

Through measuring the implementation of Violence Against Women policy in Ireland, Canada, and Australia, the findings will be able to determine the Respect Women Framework criteria for success that the respective policy meets. If there is an element of every category already implemented in policy or stated to be implemented, it will indicate that the RWF has proved useful in developing VAW policies.

### **Benefits of Desk-based Research**

This research is based solely on secondary sources and does not engage with fieldwork or ethnography. Heaton (2008) argues that there is no clear definition for desk-based research as it differs for both qualitative and quantitative data. Heaton (2008) adds that secondary analysis involves recycling pre-existing data that has been collected from previous research. Bryman

(2012) adds to this stating that secondary analysis is carried out by researchers who did not collect the original data. Secondary analysis is often gathered by research of social scientists, authors and other academics and often presents itself through a literature review (Becker, 2007; Curtis & Curtis, 2011). The use of secondary research has become more popular in contemporary society due to its accessibility (Bryman, 2012).

Desk-based research is advantageous as it is time and cost efficient (Bryman, 2012). This is essential for this study as the project will be completed in a short time frame. Additionally, no funds will be spent to complete the study as the project utilises resources that have been published for free. Moreover, desk-based research is advantageous as it allows for access to peer-reviewed, rich, good-quality data without carrying out field research (Bryman, 2012). Furthermore, ensuring that the data gathered for the study is authentic, credible, and dependable.

## **Sampling**

### *Purposive Sampling*

This research study uses a purposive sampling method to collect data. Purposive sampling is a form of selective sampling that is intentional in the sampling it selects (Bryman, 2012). Purposive sampling does not require research participants to be chosen randomly (Bryman, 2012). Purposive sampling is beneficial as it allows for the researcher to identify areas to study and can select the documents or participants that are relevant to that area (Bryman, 2012). Additionally, the researcher can ensure that there is enough data to adequately complete the research (Bryman, 2012). However, purposive sampling does not allow for findings of a research study to be applied to the general population (Bryman, 2012).

In order for purposive sampling to be successful, research questions must be clear and concise and answerable with the data chosen (Bryman, 2012). Patton (1990) and Palys (2008) state that there are several ways to approach purposive sampling. For this study, typical case sampling and critical case sampling will be used. Typical case sampling involves sampling a topic that represents an area of interest (Patton, 1990; Palys, 2008). Violence Against Women is extremely topical in contemporary society and has calls for further investigation. Additionally, critical case sampling involves sampling the logic of the topic of interest (Patton, 1990; Palys, 2008). This type of sampling applies to this research as Respect Women Framework will be used to explain VAW in policy documents.

## Data Collection

The key documents that were gathered for analysis is the World Health Organisation's Respect Women Framework (2019), Government of Ireland's (2022) *Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence*, Canadian Government's (2017a) *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence*, and Australia's (2022) *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

The Respect Women Framework can be found on the World Health Organisation website under the publications tab. It was developed by the Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Team in the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2019). It was published in 2019 and bases its foundation on the United Nations framework to protect women against violence (WHO, 2019). The framework is targeted towards policymakers and has highlighted gaps in literature. This is evidenced in the research questions for this study, "What measures have Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women?" and "To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success?"

The relevant policies can be found online on the respective governments official website. Ireland's policy, *Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence*, can be found on Government of Ireland's Department of Justice website (online) where it outlines the policy, implementation plan, press release and executive summary. Moreover, Canada's policy, *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence*, can be found on the Canadian Government's website (online) where the policy is outlined. Finally, Australia's policy, *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*, can be found on the Australian Government website (online) under the Department of Social Services tab. The website outlines the purpose of the policy, the contributors to data collection of the policy and the national plan for the policy.

## Data Analysis

This research adopts a descriptive research approach. Descriptive research is designed to describe a phenomenon (Rubin & Babbie, 2009). Descriptive research is adopted for qualitative methods as it relies on deriving observations from experiences (Bryman, 2012). Descriptive research is useful for giving life experience substance and context (Bryman, 2012). However, the over description of a phenomenon can pose a risk to the strength and validity of a study (Bryman, 2012).

As the research adopts a qualitative research design, an inductive approach is the most appropriate way to describe VAW in an unbiased manner (O'Leary, 2011). Through the inductive approach, the method of analysis is decided after data collection (Gray, 2014). This is done to determine if the research suggests that there are relationships between the variables being researched (Gray, 2014). This method is utilised as the research questions were formed first and the data collection occurred subsequently to correspond with the questions.

### **Ethical Issues**

There are multiple ethical issues that must be considered when completing research of this nature. Firstly, Violence Against Women is an extremely sensitive topic, and victim-survivors are often vulnerable (Clark, 2017). As a result of this and time constraints, no primary data will be collected. Due to secondary and qualitative data being collected, there are alternative ethical issues to consider. It is important that VAW is written in the correct context so that language does not appear to be harmful. It is also important that when using secondary data, an element of researcher bias is not introduced. It is important that this research remained as neutral as possible and that biases considered by other researchers and authors do not judge what is presented in the research. Similarly, due to the use of secondary data, all work consulted in forming this research study should be cited carefully and correctly to ensure the academic integrity of the study and to respect the work of other academics. It is important that the research is not deceptive in any manner and that the research did not portray a single analysis that would best suit the question, but rather ensure that all the evidence is considered to formulate an authentic answer.

Another ethical concern to consider is personal bias and positionality. It is possible to unknowingly or knowingly be biased on the topic of VAW if you have had experience with VAW, a woman or a member of a minority ethnic group. However, as the approach to the study is interpretive, it is argued to be inherently biased (WHO, 1998). However, clearly outlining any potential conflicts can alleviate the risk of potential bias. One possible risk that must be acknowledged and minimised is the risk of emotive responses to data collection and analysis. It is important to remain neutral and to relay factual findings. For this study, a journal will be kept of personal thoughts and feelings regarding the data collection and findings throughout the research process to ensure that personal opinions are not displayed or considered in this study. Moreover, this is minimised through the use of desk-based research. It minimises the risk of re-victimising victims of gender-based violence as no interviews took place.

However, the principle of beneficence ensures the study is important (Ellsberg & Heise, 2005). The findings of this research can pose a benefit to society as VAW is a reality of life for many girls and women globally (Ellsberg & Heise, 2005). VAW is an issue in society that has not been investigated or talked about enough within society. It is important that the issue is investigated thoroughly to ensure responses to VAW is educated and adequate. This is extremely relevant for this study as the findings anticipate incentives in education regarding VAW.

### **Strengths and Limitations**

There are many strengths to using secondary research. Secondary research is appealing for researchers as it is accessible (Noaks & Wincup, 2004). This is evident through the vast resources on Violence Against Women and government policies. Secondary data is also easily accessible and readily available in libraries, in archives, online, on public platforms and private platforms (Curtis & Curtis, 2011). Government policies are easily accessible through the corresponding Government website. The feasibility of using secondary research is also considered. Due to time constraints and the scope of this research, the use of secondary research is most beneficial for this research as the topic. This is due to an insufficient amount of time to ensure safeguarding of victim-survivors if interviews were to take place. However, it is worth noting how valuable fieldwork in relation to VAW is to give victim-survivors of violence an opportunity to voice their experience and to learn from their experience.

The use of secondary analysis allows for data that is not examined by the primary researchers to be considered whilst also allowing new understandings of the primary research to be highlighted (Bryman, 2012). Yorke (2011) states that data that is considered purposeful for one type of research may not be applicable to another type of research. As data will not be gathered on the field, more time will be spent to consider the authenticity and context of the data for the purpose of the study. The use of purposive sampling is beneficial to the study as it allowed for the researcher to choose the documentary evidence that would be most appropriate for the research questions. This will also allow for other areas of previous research to be examined in-depth.

Although, it is understood that secondary research comes with some limitations. A disadvantage that is considered when conducting secondary analysis is misinterpretation of the original dataset, the dissent of participants of the primary research to be analysed further and the possibility of the identity of those in the original dataset to be revealed (Bryman, 2012).

However, as many of the documents that will be analysed throughout the study originate from Government documents and peer-reviewed journal articles, the risk of violating confidentiality is reduced. Similarly, as the research is qualitative and aims to describe a phenomenon through lived experience, this is more difficult as field work is not conducted. The research will not gather any primary data, findings of the research could not be generalised to the population as the study repurposes documents and data that already exist.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the aim of the research is to understand the measures that have been implemented to address and reduce Violence Against Women in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. This research also aims to determine the extent that VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the Respect Women Framework criteria for success. The research takes an interpretivist and empirical theoretical approach. This study employs the gathering of qualitative data to answer the research questions. This research takes a problem-oriented and comparative approach. Documentary analysis will be used as the method to analyse data. The research is solely desk based and will adopt purposive sampling to gather data. The key documents that will guide the research are the WHO Respect Women Framework, Ireland's (2022) *Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence*, Canadian Government's (2017) *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence*, and Australia's (2022) *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*. This chapter outlined the use of descriptive analysis, the ethical issues that were considered when conducting the research and the strengths and limitations that were found when using the methods above to conduct the research study. The following chapter will discuss the findings that will be made through analysis.

## Chapter Four: Findings

### Introduction

This chapter will present the findings produced as part of this research. The research was guided by the following questions,

1. What measures have Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women?
2. To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success?

The findings were produced following documentary analysis of the measures that have been taken by Ireland, Canada, and Australia to address and reduce Violence Against Women. This involved the use of policies, reports on policy implementation, and official documents to understand the measures that have been taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women. These findings will then be compared between Ireland, Canada, and Australia. To understand the extent to which the measures taken by Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success, the findings will be made through applying the Respect Women Framework to VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Subsequently, the findings will be compared between Ireland, Canada, and Australia.

### Measures to Address and Reduce Violence Against Women

#### *Ireland*

Since Ireland's policy *Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence* was published in 2022, the policy has been implemented in several ways. Budget 2023 pledged €9 million worth of funding for gender-based violence services, increasing total funding by 22% (Humphreys, 2022). Tusla, Irish state's Child and Family Agency has been allocated €37 million worth of funding for Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and other gender-based violence related services (Humphreys, 2022). €6.09 million has been allocated to deliver GBV awareness-raising programmes and perpetrator programmes (Humphreys, 2022).

The policy has been implemented in the housing areas through increasing the capacity of homes available for victims fleeing intimate partner violence and domestic violence. Safe homes for victims fleeing IPV or DV has increased to 15 as of August 2023 (Harris, 2023). Plans have



also been put in place to increase this figure to 24 in 2024, adding homes in Navan, Dundalk, and Wexford (Harris, 2023).

In relation to social protection, paid DV leave was introduced in August 2023 allowing victims of DV to take five days paid leave from their employment (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 2023).

Coimisiún na Meán<sup>3</sup> as established in 2022 under the *Zero Tolerance* policy, creating a media space aimed at targeting domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DOJ, 2022). Similarly, the ‘Serious Consequences’ campaign was launched under the *Zero Tolerance* policy on May 2023 on TV, radio, cinema, and social media which informs potential perpetrators and victims on the legislation surrounding sharing intimate images of another individual (DOJ, 2023a).

In July 2022, The Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill passed legislation ensuring victims of stalking and harassment would be kept anonymous in court proceedings, increasing the sentencing of assault causing harm from five to ten years, and the introduction of non-fatal strangulation as an offence (DOJ, 2023b).

The ‘Good Practice Guide’ was published in April 2023 by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to assist higher education institutions to end harassment and sexual violence in higher education settings (DFHERIS, 2023a). The Department also launched the Active\* Consent programme in 2023 at the University of Galway (DFHERIS, 2023b). The programme is a research and education programme targeted at sex education and consent (DFHERIS, 2023b).

### *Canada*

*It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence* has seen many of its proposals implemented since publishing in 2017. In relation to school interventions, a national framework to address and prevent gender-based violence in third level education was developed under the policy (Government of Canada, 2022). The Canadian Government has funded the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Settlement programme which funds violence prevention workshops and training (Government of Canada, 2019).

---

<sup>3</sup> Coimisiún na Meán is the Irish translation of ‘Media Commission’. It is a regulatory body for online media and broadcasting (DOJ, 2022).

As part of Canada's National Housing Strategy, 4,000 shelter beds for victims of gender-based violence were created or repaired bringing the total of shelter beds to 7,000 (Government of Canada, 2019). Additionally, the Shelter Enhancement Program on Reserve has provided financial assistance to repair shelters for victims of DV to increase the total of shelter beds and reduce waiting times (Government of Canada, 2020). Moreover, \$10 million has been funded to increase the capacity of 46 emergency shelters for members of Indigenous communities impacted by GBV (Government of Canada, 2022).

The Canadian government have made an investment of \$20 million to address gaps, develop and distribute GBV services for Indigenous communities (Government of Canada, 2019). VAW services such as housing, health and education has been provided for Indigenous communities under Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (Government of Canada, 2017b),

In relation to services, \$93,616 has been allocated to the establishment of a survivors' network which will allow victims and survivors of GBV to connect with one another whilst also creating survivor-driven support services (Government of Canada, 2019). A free hotline for Human Trafficking has been established allowing victims dedicated access to housing, health, and law enforcement services (Government of Canada, 2020). A confidential service for identity change for individuals at risk of violence has been established (Government of Canada, 2020). Project Arachnid was also established, creating an online service that removes intimate images (Government of Canada, 2017a). Furthermore, Women and Gender Equality Canada has funded \$91 million to women shelter organisations, sexual assault centres and other GBV oriented organisations (Government of Canada, 2022).

In 2017, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness allocated \$4,132,000 worth of funding to the Canadian Centre for child protection (Government of Canada, 2019). Additionally, the Public Health Agency Canada (PHAC), has invested \$6 million over a five-year period to promote the health of child maltreatment and IPV survivors and also deliver perpetrator interventions (Government of Canada, 2019). Similarly, funding was allocated to the Child Maltreatment Prevention program and the Family Violence Initiative in order to address and support child maltreatment (Government of Canada, 2022). This meets the RWF the 'child and adolescent abuse prevented' criteria of success. Similarly, the VEGA Project increased health service capacities to respond to child maltreatment, IPV and child exposure to IPV safely (Government of Canada, 2019).

The programme initiative ‘Calling Men and Boys In’, was introduced to identify negative attitudes and norms towards VAW and educating men and boys to unlearn these behaviours (Government of Canada, 2022). In addition, \$1.8 million was allocated to develop strategies to engage men and boys in creating gender equality over the 2019-2020 period (Government of Canada, 2020).

### *Australia*

Despite the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032* only being published in 2022; several measures have already been implemented by the Australian Government to reduce Violence Against Women. In relation to helplines, 1800RESPECT has established in Australia (DSS, 2022). In addition, DV-alert has been established to train frontline workers in responding to SV and DV (DSS, 2022). The Australian Government have also commenced consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to create the first VAW action plan targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (DSS, 2023b). The Action Plan aims to address and support the familial and DV needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (DSS, 2023b).

Several services have also begun its implementation under the policy. \$159m has been invested to extend the ‘National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses’ which provides DV and SV supports for women and children (DSS, 2023c). ‘Stop it at the Start’ has been developed to change attitudes and how to have conversations about respect with young people (DSS, 2023d). ‘Our Watch’ has been funded under the *National Plan* in order to support the implementation of the plan (DSS, 2023d). In relation to housing, the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program has commenced (DSS, 2023a). Over \$100m has been committed to the program from 2022 to 2027 to increase the number of appropriate and new emergency accommodation for women and children leaving DV (DSS, 2023a). The program has begun its optimistic target of 720 safe spaces in Australia to bring its total to 1,500 safe houses (DSS, 2023a; DSS, 2023d).

The area of education has also seen numerous measures be implemented. \$3.8m has been available in 2023 for the creation and distribution of consent education for young people (DSS, 2023c). Funding has also been provided to create a new advertisement campaign on consent targeted at young people (DSS, 2023d). Social protection has seen an attempt for implementation with the 2023-2024 Budget has committed \$38.2m to extend the ‘Escaping

Violence Payment’ and ‘Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence’ pivot schemes to reduce the financial strain of individuals leaving work due to IPV (DSS, 2023c).

In order to try to prevent adolescent and child abuse, counselling services have been expanded for children impacted by DV (DSS, 2023d). Plans to change attitudes of individuals at risk of perpetrating gender-based violence has also commenced (DSS, 2023d). Helping Children Heal has also begun a pilot program of providing trauma-informed services for children aged between six and twelve affected by DV (DSS, 2023d). Regarding transforming attitudes, early intervention campaigns targeted at men and boys at risk of perpetrating GBV has commenced (DSS, 2023d). Community activism has also seen slight developments with \$10.7m being funded into community activities addressing DV and SV (DSS, 2023d). These activities include victim-survivor supports, perpetrator attitude change and aiding men with becoming positive role models for children (DSS, 2023d).

### *Comparative Analysis*

The measures that Ireland, Canada and Australia have taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women have been extremely similar. All three jurisdictions have provided funding for gender-based violence services and measures. In addition, all three countries have addressed the issue of housing in terms of VAW and have taken measures to increase the availability of houses for individuals leaving domestic violence and inter-partner violence. Moreover, Ireland, Canada and Australia have taken measures to improve VAW education especially in areas of respect and consent. Similarly, all three countries have established new services that are equipped to respond to VAW.

Although Ireland and Australia have adopted similar approaches in relation to providing DV employment leave, it is evident that the Canadian and Australian measures to address and reduce VAW have more in common. Both countries have taken measures to address VAW in Indigenous communities and have provided services to respond to the unique needs of Indigenous communities. Additionally, Canada and Australia have both addressed the need for child protection and have taken measures to respond and address to child maltreatment. Furthermore, both countries have taken measures to deliver male intervention programmes for men and boys at risk of perpetrating GBV. However, new legislation to develop certain VAW crimes as standalone crimes, carrying larger sentences to other crimes, has been a unique measure to Ireland.

### **Application of Respect Women Framework**

To understand the extent in which Ireland, Canada, and Australia's measures meet the WHO Respect Women Framework's criteria for success, findings were made through applying the elements of the World Health Organisation (2019) Respect Women Framework to Ireland's (2022) policy targeting Violence Against Women, *Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence*, Canada's (2017) *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence*, and Australia's (2022) *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

There are seven elements of the framework: Relationship skills strengthened, Empowering women, Services ensured, Poverty reduced, Environments made safe, Child and Adolescent abuse prevented, and Transformation of attitudes. The criteria were applied through finding policy measures that have been taken to address and reduce VAW and policies measures that will be taken to address and reduce VAW. Once identified, the measures will be applied to the RWF to determine the capacity in which the policy in question meets the criteria for success.

#### *Ireland*

The following section will apply the WHO Respect Women Framework to Ireland's (2022) Violence Against Women policy, *Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence*. The policy will be assessed under the subheadings Relationship skills strengthened, Empowering women, Services ensured, Poverty reduced, Environments made safe, Child and Adolescent abuse prevented, and Transformation of attitudes.

#### *Relationship Skills Strengthened*

Ireland's policy plan to promote restorative justice among female victims and male perpetrators in cases of sexual violence (DOJ, 2022). This meets the promotion of communication and relationship building between men and women outlined under 'Relationship skills strengthened'. However, the policy fails to include the couples counselling aspect.

#### *Empowering Women*

The Irish Government plans to raise awareness of the harm of prostitution and intimate image abuse and how it contributes to misogyny and gender inequality (DOJ, 2022). The policy also intends to create material for migrant and Traveller women designed to meet their needs and encourage empowerment (DOJ, 2022). This meets the 'programmes for women empowerment' criteria of 'Empowering women'.

In addition, the policy meets the ‘safe spaces’ criteria. This is evident in the Irish policy through the goal to create safe school environments that are free from gender-based violence (DOJ, 2022). The policy intends to make public spaces safer by introducing safety audits and action plans in workplaces and assisting employers and trade unions to create workplaces free from sexual harassment (DOJ, 2022). With regard to the economy, the policy aims to make the gig economy safer (DOJ, 2022). However, the policy fails to meet the ‘financial control’ criteria.

#### Services Ensured

The policy meets the ‘helplines’ criteria of ‘Services ensured’ through their plans to implement helplines that target intimate image abuse and through developing and expanding helpline services to increase its capacity and responsiveness (DOJ, 2022). Similarly, the policy has set out a goal in introducing online learning hubs for consent and DV and SV awareness for higher education facilities (DOJ, 2022).

The policy meets the ‘safe accommodation’ criteria as the policy issues plans to review policies that assist victims of DV to access emergency and long-term accommodation (DOJ, 2022). The policy plans to create more long-term accommodation facilities for victims and survivors and removing any legal barrier facing victims and survivors to access and live in safe accommodation (DOJ, 2022). The policy also increased safe homes for victims of IPV and DV to 15 in 2023 (Harris, 2023).

The policy fails to meet the ‘crisis centres’ and ‘alcohol misuse/intervention services for perpetrators’ of VAW. However, the policy does aim to encourage perpetrators to engage with perpetrator programmes by removing barriers to participation and ensuring the voice of adult and child victims and survivors are included in the programme (DOJ, 2022).

#### Poverty Reduced

The policy meets the ‘social protection’ criteria by stating that they will introduce statutory domestic violence employment leave as a form of social protection (DOJ, 2022). This was achieved in August 2023 through the introduction of paid DV leave (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 2023). However, the policy fails to meet ‘economic transfers’ and ‘employment opportunities.’

#### Environments Made Safe

‘Gender responses to urbanisation’ is evident in the Irish policy by creating safe spaces for women to wait for public transport, gender-proofing public transport, and working collectively with all stakeholders to ensure travel experiences are safe for all users (DOJ, 2022).

‘Bystander interventions’ are evident in the Irish policy in two ways. First, the policy aims to encourage bystanders to recognise DV behaviours and when it is safe, intervene (DOJ, 2022). Secondly, the policy aims to implement education for staff and students in higher education settings on intervening with GBV (DOJ, 2022).

There are several measures included in the Irish policy on ‘school intervention.’ First, the policy aims to develop education in schools regarding raising awareness of the harm of pornography, the sex trade and intimate image abuse and how it fuels misogyny (DOJ, 2022). This was achieved through the ‘Serious Consequences’ campaign (DOJ, 2023). Additionally, the policy states that the government will make efforts to update school curriculums on coercive control, DV and the effects it has on relationships and the LGBTQ+ community (DOJ, 2022). This was achieved through the Active\* Consent programme and the ‘Good Practice Guide’ framework (DFHERIS, 2023a; DPHERIS, 2023b).

The policy aims to raise awareness among higher education settings on sexual violence, harassment, and consent (DOJ, 2022). This was achieved through the establishment of Coimisiún na Meán in 2022 (DOJ, 2022b). The policy also aims to support the implementation of teachers and children who do not access the traditional education system through targeting education and interventions to sports, youth, and state childcare settings (DOJ, 2022).

#### *Child and Adolescent Abuse Prevented*

Irish policy successfully meets the ‘IPV and child maltreatment’ criteria as the policy aims to develop child sexual abuse services, respond to DV in a child-friendly and age-appropriate manner and to further develop specialist services for children experiencing DV (DOJ, 2022). However, it fails to meet ‘IPV school programmes.’

The implementation of ‘home visits’ is not included in the policy; however, ‘health worker outreach’ is evident in several ways. It is evident through goals to bridge the gaps on approaching victims and survivors of DV in a health setting (DOJ, 2022). Continued professional development, risk assessment and management training and sufficient education regarding DV and GBV for healthcare professionals and support staff will be provided to adequately support victims and survivors (DOJ, 2022). The policy aims to ensure DV victims and survivors are referred to appropriate and adequate services whilst also developing a key worker approach across all services to ensure each victim and survivor receives adequate support (DOJ, 2022).

In terms of providing ‘psychological services’ for victims of GBV, the policy aims to provide a range of health services for women and child victims and survivors of VAW including mental health services (DOJ, 2022).

*Transformation of attitudes*

The Irish policy meets the ‘attitude change’ and ‘community activism’ criteria by raising public awareness across all groups in society and challenging established beliefs and misconceptions of VAW (DOJ, 2022). ‘Workshops promoting attitude change’ is evident by encouraging men and boys to actively contribute to preventing all types of violence (DOJ, 2022). Similarly, the policy aims to change attitudes among men and boys to a zero-tolerance attitude towards GBV and to support campaigns targeted at men and boys that are designed to end GBV (DOJ, 2022).

‘Community activism’ is evident in the policy through rolling out campaigns targeting VAW on a local and national level by using a community development approach (DOJ, 2022). In addition, the policy aims to improve and progress the national campaign on consent (DOJ, 2022). Finally, ‘community activism’ is present in the Irish policy as it aims to resource the participation of community-based organisations, specialist organisations and civil societies on the implementation of GBV policies (DOJ, 2022).



**Table 4.1 Ireland: Respect Women Framework Application**

| <b>Respect Women Framework</b>              | <b>Criteria</b>  | <b>Evident in Policy?</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women     | Yes                       |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services   | No                        |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces | Yes                       |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control  | No                        |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines  | Yes                       |
|   | Safe accommodation   | Yes                       |
|   | Crisis Centres   | Yes                       |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention  | No                        |
|   | Anger Management   | No                        |
|   | Behavioural Therapy  | Yes                       |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers   | No                        |
|   | Employment opportunities   | No                        |
|   | Social Protection  | Yes                       |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation   | Yes                       |
|   | Bystander Interventions  | Yes                       |
|   | School Interventions   | Yes                       |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing IPV and child maltreatment                                      | Yes                       |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV   | Yes                       |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach   | Yes                       |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV                          | Yes                       |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change  | Yes                       |
|   | Community Activism   | Yes                       |

*Canada*

The following section will apply the WHO Respect Women Framework to Canada's (2017) Violence Against Women policy, *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence*.

*Relationship Skills Strengthened*

Canada's policy fails to meet the 'workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women' and 'couples counselling/therapy' criteria of RWF.

### Empowering Women

Similar to the ‘Relationship skills strengthened’ aspect of the RWF, Canada’s policy document fails to address the ‘programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women’, ‘safe spaces’ and ‘financial control policy’ criteria of ‘Empowering women.’

### Services Ensured

The ‘safe accommodation’ criteria of ‘Services ensured’ is met as the policy states that attempts will be made to increase access to housing (Government of Canada, 2017). This was achieved through increasing shelters for victims from 4,000 to 7,000 (Government of Canada, 2019). Similarly, the policy aims to join service providers and experts in the fields of VAW and housing to discuss and recommend ways to improve housing for victims and survivors of VAW (Government of Canada, 2017). Moreover, the policy aims to fund more organisations as a response to deal with the unique needs of victim-survivors (Government of Canada, 2017). In terms of helplines, Project Arachnid has provided an online helpline to remove intimate images (Government of Canada, 2017). Additionally, a Human Trafficking hotline has been established (Government of Canada, 2020).

The policy fails to meet ‘crisis centres’, ‘alcohol misuse intervention’, ‘anger management’ and ‘behavioural therapy criteria of ‘Services ensured.’

### Poverty Reduced

The policy successfully employs the ‘social protection’ feature of ‘Poverty reduced’ through its aims to offer job security for victim-survivors of VAW who need to take unpaid leave to seek help or care from family violence (Government of Canada, 2017). However, the policy fails to meet ‘economic transfers’ and ‘employment opportunities.’

### Environments Made Safe

Canada’s VAW policy successfully includes ‘gender responses to urbanisation.’ First, the policy aims to support services and programmes that meet the needs of urban Indigenous women (Government of Canada, 2017). Equally, the policy aims to continue to support several activities aimed at prevention for diverse populations, including Indigenous populations of Canada (Government of Canada, 2017). Moreover, the policy pledges to act towards creating workplaces free from sexual violence and harassment (Government of Canada, 2017). However, the policy fails to meet ‘bystander interventions’ and ‘school interventions.’

### Child and Adolescent Abuse Prevented

Canada's policy addresses 'IPV and child maltreatment' through its vow to test, implement and fund methods to prevent GBV, including teen dating violence and child maltreatment (Government of Canada, 2017).

Regarding 'psychological supports' and 'health worker outreach', the VEGA Project gives support, culturally appropriate and trauma-informed training for service providers including healthcare practitioners to help respond to child maltreatment, IPV and child exposure to IPV (Government of Canada, 2017). Similarly, the Government state they will increase mental health supports for Indigenous communities experiencing VAW (Government of Canada, 2017).

The policy also aims to target VAW by testing and delivering support programmes and services to victims and survivors of violence including those experiencing family violence (Government of Canada, 2017). The policy fails to implement 'school curriculum programmes on rape and IPV'.

### Transformation of attitudes

The government meets the 'change attitudes' criteria of RWF through "Calling Men and Boys In", which engages men, boys, and young people in GBV related workshops and highlight their role in violence prevention through initiatives targeting VAW awareness (Government of Canada, 2017). The Canadian government aims to promote 'community activism' by funding community-based programmes for Indigenous programmes that adopt restorative approaches to justice (Government of Canada, 2017).

**Table 4.2 Canada: Application of Respect Women Framework**

| <b>Respect Women Framework</b>              | <b>Criteria</b>   | <b>Evident in Policy?</b> |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women.     | No                        |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services.   | No                        |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces. | No                        |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control.  | No                        |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines   | Yes                       |
|   | Safe accommodation  | Yes                       |
|   | Crisis Centres  | No                        |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention   | No                        |
|   | Anger Management  | No                        |
|   | Behavioural Therapy   | No                        |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers  | No                        |
|   | Employment opportunities  | No                        |
|   | Social Protection   | Yes                       |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation  | Yes                       |
|   | Bystander Interventions   | Yes                       |
|   | School Interventions  | Yes                       |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing inter-partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment.             | Yes                       |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV.   | No                        |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach.   | Yes                       |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV.                          | No                        |
|   | Workshops promoting attitude change   | Yes                       |
|   | Community Activism  | Yes                       |

*Australia*

The following section will apply the WHO Respect Women Framework to Australia's (2022) Violence Against Women policy, *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

*Relationship Skills Strengthened*

The Australian policy meets the 'workshops to promote communication and relationship building between men and women' criteria by promoting equal, respectful, and positive relationships between people in both private and public realms (DSS, 2022). The policy fails to meet the 'couples counselling' criteria of the framework.

### Empowering Women

The policy meets the ‘programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women’ through condoning VAW and by embedding prevention activities across all settings (DSS, 2022). Similarly, the policy states goals to improve gender equality through the promotion of the independence of women and their capacity to make decisions in relationships and in public life (DSS, 2022). The policy fails to meet the ‘financial control’ criteria.

### Services Ensured

The Australian Government states they will increase capacity of ‘helplines’ (DSS, 2022). In terms of ‘safe accommodation’, the policy aims to support and provide crisis accommodation and longer-term sustainable social housing for women and children fleeing violence (DSS, 2022). The policy fails to meet ‘crisis centres’, ‘alcohol misuse intervention’, ‘anger management’ and ‘behavioural therapy’ criteria of the framework.

### Poverty Reduced

The policy aims to offer ‘social protection’ for victim-survivors of VAW through providing paid parental, domestic violence, and family leave (DSS, 2022). The policy fails to meet the ‘employment opportunities’ and ‘economic transfers’ criteria of the framework.

### Environments Made Safe

The policy adopts a ‘gender response to urbanisation’ by vowing to invest in creating safe workplaces and preventing sexual harassment in workplaces (DSS, 2022). Measures targeting ‘bystander interventions’ are stated in the policy through educating trauma-informed training for service providers (DSS, 2022). Additionally, the policy aims to build community and sector capacity to identify and support victim-survivors and those at risk of VAW to reduce the escalation risk of violence (DSS, 2022). The policy meets the ‘school intervention’ criteria as it plans to fund prevention and early intervention programmes, including through education means to increase GBV understanding (DSS, 2022).

### Child and Adolescent Abuse Prevented

The policy successfully addresses ‘IPV and child maltreatment’ by using technology as a means to prevent VAW and child maltreatment (DSS, 2022). The policy aims to address adolescent violence in family settings (DSS, 2022). Moreover, the Australian Government successfully addresses child maltreatment by recognising children and young people as victim-survivors of VAW in their own capacity and provide appropriate services and supports to meet their recovery and safety needs (DSS, 2022).

The policy also successfully adopts a ‘health worker outreach’ approach by ensuring a worker in the DV/SV sector is assigned to a family experiencing GBV and providing them with all-round support for the victim-survivors (DSS, 2022). The policy pledges to provide specialist recovery and healing services for individuals impacted by SV (DSS, 2022). Finally, in the ‘psychological services’ aspect, the policy plans to support and provide services to support victims with their mental health and wellbeing needs (DSS, 2022). The policy fails to meet the ‘school curriculum programmes on rape and IPV’ and ‘home visitation’.

#### *Transformation of Attitudes*

The Australian policy takes several steps to promote ‘attitude change’. Firstly, the policy vows to engage young people with respectful relationships and behaviours to reduce VAW (DSS, 2022). Similarly, the Australian Government plans to deliver behavioural change programmes and support programmes that encourage the development of healthy behaviours and relationships in male relationships (DSS, 2022).

To promote ‘community activism’, the Australian Government states they will work with community organisations to promote frameworks for change that are consistent, evaluated frequently and co-ordinated (DSS, 2022). Moreover, the policy aims to promote awareness of GBV through community campaigns (DSS, 2022).

**Table 4.3 Australia: Respect Women Framework Application**

| <b>Respect</b>                              | <b>Criteria</b>   | <b>Evident in Policy?</b> |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women.     | Yes                       |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services.   | No                        |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces. | Yes                       |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control.  | No                        |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines   | Yes                       |
|   | Safe accommodation  | Yes                       |
|   | Crisis Centres  | No                        |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention   | No                        |
|   | Anger Management  | Yes                       |
|   | Behavioural Therapy   | Yes                       |
|   | Economic transfers  | No                        |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Employment opportunities  | No                        |
|   | Social Protection   | Yes                       |
|   | Gender responses to urbanisation  | Yes                       |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Bystander Interventions   | Yes                       |
|   | School Interventions  | Yes                       |
|   | Interventions addressing inter-partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment.             | Yes                       |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV.   | No                        |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach.   | Yes                       |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV.                          | Yes                       |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change   | Yes                       |
|   | Community Activism  | Yes                       |

*Comparative Analysis*

Ireland, Canada, and Australia have met several of the Respect Women Framework criteria for success. Ireland's policy has been most successful, meeting sixteen of the requirements. Australia is in close second, meeting fifteen of the requirements. Canada shows the least promise, meeting ten of the requirements. Under the criteria 'Relationships Skill Strengthened', Ireland and Australia meet the 'workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women'. Canada fails to meet this criterion. In addition, all three countries fail to meet 'couples counselling and therapy services.' Under the criteria 'Empowering Women', Ireland and Australia meet the 'programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces.' Canada fails to meet this criterion.

All three jurisdictions fail to meet the ‘policies that ensure women having financial control’ criterion.

Under the criteria ‘Services Ensured’, all three jurisdictions meet the ‘helplines’ and ‘safe accommodation’ criteria. Both Ireland and Australia meet the ‘behavioural therapy’ requirement. The ‘crisis centre’ criterion has only been met by Ireland. Australia is the only country to meet the ‘anger management’ criteria. All three policies fail to meet the ‘alcohol misuse’ criteria. Regarding ‘Poverty reduced’, all three policies successfully implement an element of ‘social protection’. However, all three countries fail to meet the ‘economic transfers’ and ‘employment opportunities’ aspect.

In relation to ‘Environments made Safe’, all three jurisdictions meet ‘gender responses to urbanisation’ and ‘school interventions. Ireland and Australia meet the ‘bystander interventions’ criterion whilst Canada fails to do so. Under the criteria, ‘Child and Adolescent Abuse Prevented’, all three countries meet the criteria ‘interventions addressing IPV and child maltreatment’ and ‘home visitation and health worker outreach’. Ireland and Australia meet the ‘psychological services for parents and children experiencing IPV’, whilst Canada does not. Ireland is the only jurisdiction to meet the school curriculum programmes on rape and IPV’. Finally, all three countries successfully adopt the ‘workshops promoting attitude change’ and ‘community activism’ requirements under the ‘Transforming Attitudes’ category.

## **Conclusion**

This chapter has outlined the findings of the research questions “What measures have Ireland, Canada, and Australia taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women?” and “To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework’s criteria for success?” To understand the measures taken by Ireland, Canada, and Australia to address and reduce Violence Against Women and the extent in which they meet the criteria of the Respect Women Framework has highlighted that Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken several measures to address and reduce VAW. However, as Canada’s VAW policy was established five years before Ireland and Australia, more evidence of measures was found to address and reduce VAW in Canada in comparison to Ireland and Australia. Nonetheless, it is possible to suggest that Ireland and Australia could show progress similar to Canada in the following years.



The analysis of the question “To what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework’s criteria for success?” found that Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet several criteria for success of the WHO Respect Women Framework. However, all three jurisdictions fail to meet the criteria for success completely. Of the twenty-two subcategories of the framework, Ireland met sixteen of the RWF criteria for success, Canada met ten and Australia met fifteen. Furthermore, this suggests that Australia’s policy has been the most successful in meeting the criteria of RWF the most and Canada has least successfully applied the RWF to its policy. However, it goes without saying that significant efforts will need to be made across all jurisdictions to ensure that future policies meet all the criteria guided by the RWF.

Overall, it is difficult to understand Ireland and Australia’s progress in comparison to Canada due to both policies being established in 2022. Though, if all elements of the RWF were implemented into VAW policy in Ireland, Canada, and Australia, it would provide a better understanding of successful commitment to addressing and reducing VAW. The following chapter will provide a discussion on the findings made in this chapter, including an analysis of findings and recommendations for future policies and research.

## Chapter Five: Discussion

### Introduction

Having critically analysed and assessed the initial research questions, “what measures that have been taken to address and reduce Violence Against Women in Ireland, Canada, and Australia”, several disparities have been identified from previous research in relation to this issues and the findings from the data produced as part of this research. Primarily the theme of these disparities were categorised as failing to address VAW risk factors (WHO, 2019).

Moreover, the analysis of the question, “to what extent do Violence Against Women policies and measures in Ireland, Canada, and Australia meet the WHO Respect Women Framework’s criteria for success?” highlighted that Ireland, Canada, and Australia fail to meet the RWF criteria for success to a satisfactory degree. The policies also failed in several ways to address the risk factors of VAW which the RWF has been designed to address (WHO, 2019).

This chapter will discuss the disparities between risk factors and the measures that have been implemented by Ireland, Canada, and Australia to address and reduce VAW. In addition, this chapter will highlight the disparities found between risk factors and the RWF criteria for success. This chapter will provide recommendations for policy development and further research.

### Measures to Address and Reduce Violence Against Women

As outlined in chapter two, previous research has shown that although Violence Against Women targets people of all ages, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and social class, it is more likely to target ethnic minorities, those living in poverty, Indigenous communities, and LGBTQ+ communities (Statistics Canada, 2018; WHO, 2019). The findings showed that when it came to protecting the LGBTQ+ community from VAW, rather than implementing measures that would protect them from VAW, the measures implemented focus on implementing LGBTQ+ and VAW discourse. Though education is important for addressing VAW, Ireland is the only country who has taken any measure to include LGBTQ+, making the community at increased risk of VAW in Canada and Australia.

Similarly, the literature review shows that those from working-class backgrounds or living in poverty are at increased risk of VAW (WHO, 2019). It is recognised that the LGBTQ+ community, those living in poverty are insufficiently protected by VAW measures. The

research found that paid domestic violence leave in Ireland, and the Escaping Violence Payment in Australia are measures that have been taken to address and reduce VAW, whilst Canada has not made progress in this area. However, this form of social protection only protects those in employment experiencing VAW.

Ethnic minority communities can be found among the Traveller community in Ireland, Indigenous communities in Canada and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. These communities can often be isolated by society and neglected when policies are formed (DSS, 2023b). The findings highlight that Australia has shown the most commitment to addressing VAW among Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander communities through the formation of the first 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children'. Canada shows a similar commitment to protecting ethnic minority groups from VAW through the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples.

Ireland completely fails to provide any measures to protect the Traveller community in Ireland from VAW. The Irish policy states issuing educational leaflets to the Traveller community and other ethnic minority groups on gender-based violence. Unlike Canada and Australia, no solid measures have been taken to protect the Traveller community from VAW.

The findings have shown that Australia and Canada have established Child Maltreatment Programmes to provide trauma-informed services for children who have experienced child maltreatment. Though Ireland has pledged funding to provide services to target child maltreatment, as of now, it has failed to establish any Child Maltreatment Programmes.

It is evident through the findings that Ireland, Canada, and Australia believe that education acts as a key tool for addressing and reducing VAW. This is evident in the several educational programmes targeting consent, sexual education and GBV awareness in the Irish, Canadian, and Australian measures. Although education is important for creating positive attitudes and informing young people on GBV, disparities in education between men and women have failed to be acted on. Educational disparities between men and women act as a risk factor for VAW and has the power to assert male dominance and poverty, which are other leading risk factors for VAW.

It is evident that Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken several adequate measures to address and reduce VAW in their retrospective regions. However, it is clear that the response to VAW should include a larger focus on reducing risk factors of VAW.

### **Implications for Policy Development and Moving Forward**

As discussed in the literature review, there are several methods to address Violence Against Women risk factors. Some include encouraging further education, increased socialisation, reduction of educational disparities, gender equitable attitudes, encouraging behaviour that promotes gender equality, non-violence and the empowerment of women and laws that promote women's access to education and employment and laws that protect women from VAW (WHO, 2019).

Ireland, Canada, and Australia's policy successfully promote unlearning negative GBV behaviours and promoting gender equitable attitudes through early intervention programmes for at risk perpetrators and workshops that promote attitude change among boys and men. Furthermore, meeting the 'workshops to promote attitude change' and 'community activism' criteria under 'transforming attitudes'.

Ireland, Canada, and Australia's policy fails to promote equality within intimate partner relationships and the empowerment of women. This fails to meet the 'relationship skills strengthened' and 'empowering women' RWF criteria. As a result, this puts women at risk of VAW as it leads to male dependence and dominance. Similarly, all three policies fail to have laws that promote women's access to employment and education. Furthermore, pushing many women into poverty and having very little resources which can lead to male dependence, allowing VAW to occur.

Another policy measure to address VAW, are laws that address VAW. This was successfully included in Ireland's policy as it includes the Miscellaneous Bill which addresses crimes such as strangulation as a VAW law carrying a standalone sentence. Australia and Canada fail to address this risk factor.

As mentioned above, those living in poverty are more likely to experience VAW in comparison to counterparts not living in poverty. All three policies fail to include 'financial control policies', 'economic transfers' or 'employment opportunities' to reduce poverty and subsequently reduce the risk of VAW. The policy fails to consider women who engage with

labour in the home and are not employed within the traditional labour market. Furthermore, isolating women more and creating opportunities for VAW to be perpetrated against them. Additionally, it reinforces the male breadwinner model, contributing to male dominance and dependence and the reaffirmation of VAW as a 'norm'.

It is important to note that there are several criterion in the RWF that may not be included in VAW policies as it is not deemed to be directly connected to VAW<sup>4</sup>. However, to successfully address VAW it is important to consider the risk factors connected with VAW and implement measures that reduce risk. For example, risk factors such as poverty, low educational attainment and low levels of employment should be addressed in VAW policies, and an implementation plan should be included to reduce these risks. Where this is not achieved, the policy should acknowledge this and direct them to policies that do address the risk factors. This would achieve the departmental cohesion nature the policy documents suggest are necessary for success. However, to meet the criteria for success of the RWF, all requirements should be included within a VAW policy.

---

<sup>4</sup> Criteria includes financial control policies, economic transfers, employment opportunities, social protection, gender responses to urbanization, home visitation and health worker outreach.

**Table 5.1 Comparison of Respect Women Framework in Ireland, Canada, and Australia**

| <b>RWF</b>                                  | <b>Criteria</b>   | <b>Ireland</b> | <b>Canada</b> | <b>Australia</b> |
|---|---|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women.     | Yes            | No            | Yes              |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services.   | No             | No            | No               |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces. | Yes            | No            | Yes              |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control.  | No             | No            | No               |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines   | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
|   | Safe accommodation  | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
|   | Crisis Centres  | Yes            | No            | No               |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention   | No             | No            | No               |
|   | Anger Management  | No             | No            | Yes              |
|   | Behavioural Therapy   | Yes            | No            | Yes              |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers  | No             | No            | No               |
|   | Employment opportunities  | No             | No            | No               |
|   | Social Protection   | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation  | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
|   | Bystander Interventions   | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
|   | School Interventions  | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing inter-partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment.             | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV.   | Yes            | No            | No               |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach.   | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV.                          | Yes            | No            | Yes              |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change   | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
|   | Community Activism  | Yes            | Yes           | Yes              |
| <b>Total</b>                                |   | 16             | 10            | 15               |

The table above showcases the similarities found in Violence Against Women policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. The table shows that Canada failed to meet any of the ‘relationship skills strengthened’ and ‘empowering women’ criteria whilst Ireland and Australia met one criterion in both categories. This shows that significant efforts are needed on

Canada's part to promote communication between men and women, couples counselling, financial control, and empowering women.

In relation to 'Services Ensured', Ireland and Australia met four of the six criteria, whilst Canada met two. Again, this demonstrates that Canada needs to make significant improvements with providing crisis centres, alcohol misuse interventions, anger management and behavioural therapy. Though, Ireland and Australia can make improvements in the provision of alcohol misuse prevention. Ireland could provide anger management whilst Australia could provide crisis centres.

The 'poverty reduced' findings suggest that all three countries only met one of the three criterion. Subsequently, this highlights that more efforts need to be made, in order to reduce the risk of poverty for women to prevent VAW among low socioeconomic communities. The findings for 'environments made safe' show that all three criterion were met by all jurisdictions. The findings indicate that under the criteria for RWF, Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken the necessary measures to make environments safe.

The findings suggest that in relation to 'child and adolescent abuse prevented' Ireland met all four criteria, Australia met three and Canada met two. The findings highlight that Ireland have taken sufficient steps to prevent child and adolescent abuse. The findings show that Australia and Canada should update school curriculums to include rape and IPV, whilst Canada should provide psychological services for children and parents experiencing IPV. All three policies met both criterion under 'transforming attitudes'. The findings indicate that under the criteria for RWF, Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken the necessary measures to transform attitudes.

### **Application of Respect Women Framework to Violence Against Women Theories**

Chapter Two discussed several theories that aid an understanding of Violence Against Women. The findings suggest that the measures taken, and implementation plans fail to consider most of VAW theories when creating policies and implementing measures.

Strauss' (1973) system theory argues that VAW occurs due to a lack of socialisation and in settings where VAW is considered a 'norm'. All three countries have failed to take measures to create employment opportunities and all three policies have also failed to implement measures targeting employment. Employment is a setting where women could socialise with a vast range of people. Similarly, the lack of workshops and spaces to encourage women

empowerment also reduces the capacity for women to socialise. In turn, Strauss' (1973) system theory has failed to be considered in measures and policies targeting VAW.

As outlined in Chapter Two, Heise's (1998) ecological theory argues that VAW occurs in settings where there is male dominance, low economic status, rigid gender roles, male entitlement, and female isolation. The findings to the measures that have been taken to address and reduce VAW along with the findings of the RWF criteria for success showcase the lack of economic measures to protect women of low economic status allowing for male entitlement and dominance to occur. Social protection as suggested in the measures and policies only protect women in work and fails to consider women who work in the home or the gig economy. Similarly, no employment opportunities or financial control policies for women pushes women further into isolation, maintains their low economic status and allows for the male breadwinner model to reinstate male dominance and rigid gender roles. Furthermore, creating opportunities for VAW to occur.

Goode's (1971) resource theory, as mentioned in Chapter Two, argues that VAW occurs where women have low resources, status, and income. The findings share many similarities with Heise's (1998) ecological theory. However, resource theory adds the lack of resources influence the capacity for VAW to occur. As there are no crisis centres established under the policies or measures in any of the jurisdictions in question, it reduces the capacity for women to flee from domestic violence. However, all three countries measures and policies include efforts to increase safe accommodation for women and children fleeing DV and IPV, meeting resource theory to some degree.

Wolfgang & Ferracutti's (1967) subculture of violence theory is most prominent in the findings. As discussed in the literature review, the subculture of violence theory argues that VAW occurs in working-class communities where VAW is viewed as the 'norm' (Wolfgang & Ferracutti, 1967). Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken several measures to establish perpetrator intervention programmes, gender-based violence awareness-raising programmes, and education targeting men and boys to unlearn negative VAW attitudes and 'norms'. Similarly, the 'workshops promoting attitude change' and 'community activism' criterion were met by all three countries. Moreover, suggesting that the subculture of violence theory had theoretical grounding in the implementation of measures and formation of VAW policies.

As highlighted in the literature review, feminist theories argue that VAW occurs where hierarchal structures and inequality persists in modern society (Ritter et al., 2014; Dekel et al.,



2018). Employment disparities between men and women and the lack of evidence to suggest employment opportunities in the measures or policies adopted by Ireland, Canada, and Australia highlights the persistence of inequality in modern society. In addition, as found in the measures and policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia, education mainly focuses on educating those in secondary and post-secondary education about the dangers of GBV and how one can play a role in reducing GBV. The measures and policies fail to address disparities in education between men and women that contribute to women being at risk of VAW.

### **Future Policy Recommendations**

As a result of the findings, there are several recommendations that could be made regarding Violence Against Women policies. First, policies that target VAW should adequately address how the policy will target those at risk of VAW and reduce their risk. The current VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia fail to address this sufficiently. Where issues such as poverty and education are addressed in alternative policies, they should be included in VAW policies stating that measures will be taken by another Government Department.

Secondly, VAW policies should embed itself in VAW theories. Through gaining a deeper theoretical understanding of where and why VAW occurs, policy measures can adequately address the ‘when, where, who, why, what’ concept and adopt this to policy to ensure that measures are targeted in areas such as working-class communities where VAW is more likely to occur.

Thirdly, the RWF provides a valuable framework for policymakers to adopt when forming policies. The RWF is composed of a wealth of data and research with findings that show implementation of the framework has had successful repercussions in reducing and eradicating VAW. As Ireland’s policy meets sixteen recommendations, Australia meets fifteen recommendations and Canada meets ten recommendations, it would be valuable for future VAW policies to aim to meet all twenty-two recommendations to have the best opportunity to reduce and eradicate VAW.

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

As the Canadian policy was established five years before the Irish and Australian policy, the Canadian policy has had more time to embed itself into Canadian society. As a result, this presented more findings in relation to the measures that have been taken to address and reduce

Violence Against Women. This gave a greater scope for understanding of the implementation of VAW policy in Canada in comparison to Ireland and Australia. However, this presents the possibility for further research as more findings will be presented in the coming years regarding Irish and Australian measures that have been taken under their VAW policies.

The Canadian VAW policy was established in 2017, two years before the RWF was established in 2019. It is possible that Canada's policy meets the least requirements of the RWF due to being unaware of the framework when the policy was established. However, the Irish and Australian policies do not suggest that their goals have been informed by the RWF. This widens the scope for future research as the same study could be conducted in a few years when Canada's new policy has been implemented. This would ensure that all three policies have had a similar amount of time to be implemented. The study would be able to follow up on whether Canada's updated VAW policy meets more of the RWF criteria for success.

Future research could widen the scope to researching the response to VAW in alternative countries and their application of RWF to policies. The study could focus on lower income countries to gain a deeper understanding how responses to VAW can differ between high income countries like Ireland, Canada and Australia, and lower income countries.

Additionally, it would be beneficial if further research could also narrow the scope by focusing solely on RWF. This could be done through externally evaluating the impact RWF has on VAW policies on responding to VAW. Alternatively, further research could be taken on the benefits of implementing a worldwide VAW framework to VAW policies.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the findings, it is evident that Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken several measures to address and reduce Violence Against Women. However, there have been several discrepancies on bridging the gap between risk factors and measures that have been taken and VAW policies. The analysis has shown that the measures and VAW policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia has predominantly failed to be informed by VAW theories, with the exception of the subculture of violence theory. Validity has been difficult to assess due Canada's policy being implemented before the establishment of the RWF and the lack of accessible information to indicate whether Ireland and Australia's policies have been informed by the RWF.

The study found that Ireland met sixteen of the RWF criteria for success, Canada met ten and Australia met fifteen. This highlighted that areas such RWF criteria such as 'environments

made safe' and 'transforming attitudes' were criteria most achieved in Ireland, Canada, and Australia's VAW policies whilst 'relationship skills strengthened', 'empowering women', and 'poverty reduction' were least achievable across the policies.

This study has identified areas for further research which expands the scope of this research. Repeating the study when Canada's policy has been updated or when Ireland and Australia's policy has been implemented further should be considered as areas for further research. The following chapter will draw conclusions on the study that has been conducted.

## Chapter Six: Conclusion

This research was conducted based on the underlying to investigate Violence Against Women more thoroughly. The finite amount of data and discourse on VAW regarding its causes, risk factors, and the measures that should be taken to reduce and eradicate it, allows for VAW to be a valuable topic to research. With gender-based violence becoming a more common occurrence and nuanced and rich data often being disregarded, the timing of the research is more important than in previous times.

This research aimed to highlight the issue of VAW and the impact VAW policies can have on society. This study aimed to describe the issue of VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia through a policy lens. This study also aimed to use the Respect Women Framework as an innovative method to gather data and generate findings on policy development that may not have been considered in the past.

As highlighted in chapter two, previous research has shown several risk factors involved with identifying those at risk of VAW and those at risk of perpetrating GBV. The findings showed that measures taken by Ireland, Canada, and Australia to address and reduce VAW along with VAW policies failed to implement sufficient measures to address these risk factors on both the victim-survivor side and perpetrator side.

Additionally, chapter two highlighted the emphasis of education and employment disparity between men and women and how it is a leading contributor to VAW. The findings have suggested that whilst the importance of education is emphasised in the measures that have been taken and the policies; their focus has been on increasing knowledge around GBV and consent rather than reducing education disparity so that men and women are given the same opportunities. Similarly, this was the case in employment. The findings suggested that very few measures have been taken to increase employment for women to take them out of the 'at-risk' category and has subsequently influenced the likelihood of VAW to occur.

This study has added to VAW discourse. This research has described the issue of VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia through definitions, identification of VAW, VAW theories, prevalence, and policy nature. This project highlighted the policy measures that have been taken to reduce VAW in Ireland, Canada, and Australia. This study took an innovative approach to analyse the impact policy formation can have on policies and its subsequent outcomes.

The study has found that Ireland, Canada, and Australia have taken several measures to address and reduce VAW. Canada's measures were compared over the 2017-2023 period, whilst Ireland and Australia's measures were compared over the 2022-2023 period. This resulted in a higher number of measures implemented in Canada in comparison to Ireland and Australia due to Ireland and Australia's policies being newly updated. However, Ireland and Australia have already taken and have begun to take several measures under their new VAW policies. It is noted that findings could be similar or exceed Canada's findings if the policies in Ireland and Australia had been introduced earlier. Additionally, it is noted that findings could show greater similarities or differences if Canada's VAW policy was up to date. As the Government of Canada has begun the process of forming a new VAW policy, it would be valuable to compare measures under the new policy.

The research found that the measures already taken under VAW policies in Ireland, Canada and Australia meet several of the WHO Respect Women's Framework criteria for success. Additionally, the study found that the policy documents in Ireland, Canada and Australia set out policy goals which meets several of the criteria for success. Ireland's policy was found to be most successful in implementing the RWF criteria for success to its policy, meeting sixteen of twenty-two criterions. Australia's policy followed, meeting fifteen criterion. Whilst Canada's policy was least successful in implementing features of RWF meeting only ten of the requirements.

The RWF was established in 2019, two years after Canada's VAW policy was established, whilst Ireland and Australia's policy was released three years later. It is possible that Ireland and Australia's policy was informed by the framework as it was established after the release of the RWF. However, it is not explicitly stated on any Government website or policy document that the policy was informed by the RWF.

As the Canadian policy was established five years before the Irish and Australian policy, the Canadian policy was more embedded into society and presented more findings in relation to the measures that have been taken to address and reduce VAW. This gave a greater scope for understanding of the implementation of VAW policy in Canada in comparison to Ireland and Australia. However, it does present the possibility of further research in the areas as more findings will present itself for the Irish and Australian policy in the coming years.

It would be valuable for the same methods to be applied to a study on the same policies in the future when the Irish and Australian policy has become more embedded in society and has

shown more progress. Similarly, the scope could be widened to research the response to VAW in alternative countries and their application of RWF to policies. Alternatively, further research could be taken on the benefits of implementing a worldwide VAW framework to VAW policies. The scope for research could also be narrowed by conducting a study solely focused on the RWF and creating a more in-depth critical analysis of its application in specific countries and whether implementing the framework to policy has had any impact on reducing or eradicating VAW in that country.

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Key Policies that informed this Dissertation

#### Ireland

Department of Justice (2022) *Zero Tolerance: Third National Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence Strategy*. Available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/228480/67b6e3af-a0d2-4d70-889f-0b1e2001995b.pdf#page=null>

#### Canada

Government of Canada (2017) *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*. Available at:

[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2017/cfc-swc/SW21-172-2017-5-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/cfc-swc/SW21-172-2017-5-eng.pdf)

#### Australia

Department of Social Services (2022) *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032*. Available at:

[https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/11\\_2022/national\\_plan\\_to\\_end\\_violence\\_against\\_women\\_and\\_children\\_2022-2032.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/11_2022/national_plan_to_end_violence_against_women_and_children_2022-2032.pdf)

## Appendix B: Application of Respect Women Framework to policies in Ireland, Canada, and Australia

**Table 3.1: World Health Organisation Respect Women Framework Criteria for Success (WHO, 2020).**

| <b>Respect Women Framework</b>              | <b>Criteria</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women     |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services   |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control  |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines  |
|   | Safe accommodation   |
|   | Crisis Centres   |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention  |
|   | Anger Management   |
|   | Behavioural Therapy  |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers   |
|   | Employment opportunities   |
|   | Social Protection  |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation   |
|   | Bystander Interventions  |
|   | School Interventions   |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing IPV and child maltreatment                                      |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV   |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach   |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV                          |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change  |
|   | Community Activism   |

Using the Respect Women Framework document outlining the criteria for success, the table inserts the key headings from the criteria on the left-hand side. Under each criterion for success subheading, several recommendations were made. These recommendations were inserted to the right-hand side of the table under the subheading it correlates to.



**Table 4.1 Ireland: Respect Women Framework Application**

| <b>Respect Women Framework</b>              | <b>Criteria</b>  | <b>Evident in Policy?</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women     | Yes                       |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services   | No                        |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces | Yes                       |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control  | No                        |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines  | Yes                       |
|   | Safe accommodation   | Yes                       |
|   | Crisis Centres   | Yes                       |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention  | No                        |
|   | Anger Management   | No                        |
|   | Behavioural Therapy  | Yes                       |
|   | Economic transfers   | No                        |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Employment opportunities   | No                        |
|   | Social Protection  | Yes                       |
|   | Gender responses to urbanisation   | Yes                       |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Bystander Interventions  | Yes                       |
|   | School Interventions   | Yes                       |
|   | Interventions addressing IPV and child maltreatment                                      | Yes                       |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV   | Yes                       |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach   | Yes                       |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV                          | Yes                       |
|   | Workshops promoting attitude change  | Yes                       |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Community Activism   | Yes                       |

The above table collates the criteria for success of the Respect Women Framework and Ireland's (2022) *Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence*. The policy was analysed to find where the criteria for success has been included in the policy. The findings were then placed into the table.

**Table 4.2 Canada: Respect Women Framework Application**

| <b>'Respect</b>                             | <b>Criteria</b>   | <b>Evident in Policy?</b> |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women.     | No                        |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services.   | No                        |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces. | No                        |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control.  | No                        |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines   | Yes                       |
|   | Safe accommodation  | Yes                       |
|   | Crisis Centres  | No                        |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention   | No                        |
|   | Anger Management  | No                        |
|   | Behavioural Therapy   | No                        |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers  | No                        |
|   | Employment opportunities  | No                        |
|   | Social Protection   | Yes                       |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation  | Yes                       |
|   | Bystander Interventions   | Yes                       |
|   | School Interventions  | Yes                       |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing inter-partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment.             | Yes                       |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV.   | No                        |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach.   | Yes                       |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV.                          | No                        |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change   | Yes                       |
|   | Community Activism  | Yes                       |

The above table collates the criteria for success of the Respect Women Framework and Canada's (2017) *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*. The policy was analysed to find where the criteria for success has been included in the policy. The findings were then placed into the table.

**Table 4.3 Australia: Respect Women Framework Application**

| <b>Respect</b>                              | <b>Criteria</b>   | <b>Evident in Policy?</b> |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women.     | Yes                       |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services.   | No                        |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces. | Yes                       |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control.  | No                        |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines   | Yes                       |
|   | Safe accommodation  | Yes                       |
|   | Crisis Centres  | No                        |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention   | No                        |
|   | Anger Management  | Yes                       |
|   | Behavioural Therapy   | Yes                       |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers  | No                        |
|   | Employment opportunities  | No                        |
|   | Social Protection   | Yes                       |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation  | Yes                       |
|   | Bystander Interventions   | Yes                       |
|   | School Interventions  | Yes                       |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing inter-partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment.             | Yes                       |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV.   | No                        |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach.   | Yes                       |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV.                          | Yes                       |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change   | Yes                       |
|   | Community Activism  | Yes                       |

The above table collates the criteria for success of the Respect Women Framework and Australia's (2022) *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032*. The policy was analysed to find where the criteria for success has been included in the policy. The findings were then placed into the table.

**Table 5.1 Comparison of Respect Women Framework in Ireland, Canada, and Australia.**

| <b>RWF</b>                                  | <b>Criteria</b>   | <b>Ire</b> | <b>Can</b> | <b>Aus</b> |
|---|---|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Relationship skills strengthened</b>     | Workshops that promote communication and relationship building between men and women.     | Yes        | No         | Yes        |
|   | Couples counselling and therapy services.   | No         | No         | No         |
| <b>Empowering Women</b>                     | Programmes that concentrate on the empowerment of girls and women, including safe spaces. | Yes        | No         | Yes        |
|   | Policies that ensure women have financial control.  | No         | No         | No         |
| <b>Services Ensured</b>                     | Helplines   | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
|   | Safe accommodation  | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
|   | Crisis Centres  | Yes        | No         | No         |
|   | Alcohol Misuse Intervention   | No         | No         | No         |
|   | Anger Management  | No         | No         | Yes        |
|   | Behavioural Therapy   | Yes        | No         | Yes        |
| <b>Poverty Reduced</b>                      | Economic transfers  | No         | No         | No         |
|   | Employment opportunities  | No         | No         | No         |
|   | Social Protection   | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
| <b>Environments made safe</b>               | Gender responses to urbanisation  | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
|   | Bystander Interventions   | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
|   | School Interventions  | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
| <b>Child and Adolescent abuse prevented</b> | Interventions addressing inter-partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment.             | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
|   | School curriculum programmes on rape and IPV.   | Yes        | No         | No         |
|   | Home visitation and health worker outreach.   | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
|   | Psychological services for children of parents experiencing IPV.                          | Yes        | No         | Yes        |
| <b>Transformation of Attitudes</b>          | Workshops promoting attitude change   | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
|   | Community Activism  | Yes        | Yes        | Yes        |
| <b>Total</b>                                |   | 16         | 10         | 15         |

The findings of the comparative analysis element of the study have been collated into the table above. The table above collates the information from the application of the Respect Women Framework to Ireland, Canada and Australia's Violence Against Women policies. This is to highlight the comparison side by side. The above table shows that Ireland met sixteen criteria, Canada met ten and Australia met fifteen.

## Bibliography

- An Garda Síochána (2021) *Monthly Report to the Policing Authority* [online]. Available at: <https://www.policingauthority.ie/assets/uploads/documents/commissioners-monthly-report-to-the-policing-authority-december-2021.pdf> (accessed 13 July 2023).
- ANROWS (2022) *Intimate Partner Violence Homicides 2010-2018* [online]. Available at: <https://anrowsdev.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ADFVDRN-ANROWS-Data-Report-Update.pdf> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15*. Canberra, ACT: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017) *Personal Safety, Australia 2016* (ABS cat. No. 4906.0). Canberra, ACT: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) *Recorded Crime- Victims, 2020* [online]. Available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/2020> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023) *Personal Safety, Australia* [online]. Available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Australian Femicide Watch (2023) *Database* [online]. Available at: <https://australianfemicidewatch.org/database/> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (2023) *Family, Domestic, and Sexual Violence* [online]. Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence#common> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Australian Institute of Criminology (2021) *Homicide in Australia 2018-2019* [online]. Available at: [Homicide in Australia 2018–19 | Australian Institute of Criminology \(aic.gov.au\)](https://www.aic.gov.au/homicide-in-australia-2018-19) (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Banking and Payments Federation of Ireland (2022) *Over 20% of young women do not have control over their finances and are more likely to rely on others for help managing their money – new BPFi research* [online]. Available at: <https://bpfi.ie/over-20-of-young-women-do-not-have-control-over-their-finances-and-are-more-likely-to-rely-on-others-for-help-managing-their-money-new-bpfi-research/> (accessed 13 July 2023).
- Becker H. S. (2007) [1986] *Writing for social scientists: How to start and finish your thesis, book, or article*. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Bell, J. & Waters, S. (2014) *Doing your research project: a guide for first-time researchers*. 6th ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press/McGraw-Hill Education.
- Bryman, A. (2012) *Social Research Methods*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford University Press: New York: Oxford University Press.
- Butler, M., Audette, M., Robinson, Q., Poitras, M., & Evolfson, B. (2019) *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* [online]. Available at: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/> (accessed 10 July 2023).
- Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (2022) *#CallItFemicide: Understanding sex/gender-related killings of women and girls in Canada, 2018-2022*. [online]. Available at: <https://femicideincanada.ca/callitfemicide2018-2022.pdf> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Canadian Women's Foundation (2021) *Online Hate and Cyber-violence* [online]. Available at: <https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/online-hate-and-cyberviolence/> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Central Statistics Office (2021) *Recorded Crime Q3 2021* [online]. Available at: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-rc/recordedcrimeq32021/> (accessed 10 July 2023).
- Central Statistics Office (2022) *Sexual violence survey* [online]. Available at: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/psvsmr/sexualviolencesurvey2022mainresults/keyfindings/> (accessed 10 July 2023).
- Central Statistics Office (2023) *Sexual Violence Survey 2022* [online]. Available at: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-svsmr/sexualviolencesurvey2022mainresults/> (accessed 13 July 2023).
- Clark, L. (2017) Interviewing Vulnerable Populations In: Matthes, J., Davis, C.S. & Potter, R.F. ed. (2017) *The International Encyclopaedia of Communication Research Methods*. New Jersey: Wiley & Sons. Ch1-2.
- Conroy, S. (2017) *Police-reported violence against girls and young women in Canada 2017* [online] The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54981-eng.pdf?st=Kzyy38AR> (accessed 14 July 2023).
- Cotter, A. (2021) *Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2019* [online]. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00014-eng.htm> (accessed 5 July 2023).

- Curtis, B. and Curtis, C. (2011) *Social Research: A Practical Introduction* [e-Book]. London: SAGE Publications. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781526435415> (accessed 25 April 2023).
- Dawson, M.D., Sutton, A., Zecha, C., Boyd, A., Johnson, A., & Mitchell, A. (2021) *#CallItFemicide: Understanding Gender-based Killings of Women and Girls 2020*. Guelph: ON: Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence.
- Dekel, B., Abrahams, N., & Andipatin, M. (2018) Exploring the Intersection between Violence Against Women and Children from the Perspective of Parents Convicted of Child Homicide. *Journal of Family Violence* [online]. 34(1), 9-20. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-018-9964-5> (accessed 5 July 2023).
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, (2023) *Victims of domestic violence to receive full pay as part of new domestic violence leave measures* [online] 7 August 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/9cb46-victims-of-domestic-violence-to-receive-full-pay-as-part-of-new-domestic-violence-leave-measures/> (accessed 8 August 2023).
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (2023a) *Towards a Zero Tolerance Approach: A Good Practice Guide to implementing 'Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive – Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education'* [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f65c3-towards-a-zero-tolerance-approach-a-good-practice-guide-to-implementing-safe-respectful-supportive-and-positive-ending-sexual-violence-and-harassment-in-higher-education/> (accessed 8 August 2023).
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, (2023b) *Ministers Harris and McEntee announce 5-year Active\* Consent Programme* [online] 15 June 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/1ed9f-active-consent-programme/> (accessed 8 August 2023).
- Department of Justice (2010) *National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence*. Dublin: Department of Justice.
- Department of Justice (2016) *Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2-21*. Dublin: Department of Justice.
- Department of Justice (2022) *Zero Tolerance: Third National Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence Strategy*. Dublin: Department of Justice.

- Department of Justice, (2023a) *Minister Harris launches 'threat to share' awareness campaign on intimate image abuse* [online] 22 May 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/2c715-minister-harris-launches-threat-to-share-awareness-campaign-on-intimate-image-abuse/> (accessed 5 August 2023).
- Department of Justice, (2023b) *Ministers McEntee and Browne pass legislation to deliver range of new offences to tackle crime and protect victims* [online] 12 July 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/cb588-wide-ranging-criminal-justice-miscellaneous-provisions-bill-enacted/> (accessed 5 August 2023).
- Department of Social Services (2011) *National Plan to reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022*. Canberra: Department of Social Services.
- Department of Social Services (2014) *Second Action Plan; Moving Ahead 2013-2016*. Canberra: Department of Social Services.
- Department of Social Services (2022) *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032*. Canberra: Department of Social Services.
- Department of Social Services (2023a) *Recognising Homelessness Week 2023* [online]. Available at: [Recognising Homelessness Week 2023 | Department of Social Services, Australian Government \(dss.gov.au\)](https://www.dss.gov.au/recognising-homelessness-week-2023) (accessed 1 August 2023).
- Department of Social Services (2023b) *Help inform Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children* [online]. Available at: [Help inform Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children | Department of Social Services, Australian Government \(dss.gov.au\)](https://www.dss.gov.au/help-inform-australia-s-first-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-action-plan-to-end-violence-against-women-and-children) (accessed 1 August 2023).
- Department of Social Services (2023c) *Helping to deliver on the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032* [online]. Available at: [Helping to deliver on the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032 \(dss.gov.au\)](https://www.dss.gov.au/helping-to-deliver-on-the-national-plan-to-end-violence-against-women-and-children-2022-2032) (accessed 1 August 2023).
- Department of Social Services (2023d) *Women's Safety measures: Budget 2023-2023* [online]. Available at: [https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/04\\_2022/fact\\_sheet\\_-\\_budget\\_22-23\\_womens\\_safety.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/04_2022/fact_sheet_-_budget_22-23_womens_safety.pdf) (accessed 1 August 2023).



- Dobash, R.E. and Dobash, R.P. (1981) *Violence against wives*. New York: MacMillan Free Press.
- Ellsberg, M., & Heise, L. (2005) *Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists*. Washington: World Health Organisation, PATH.
- European Commission (n.d.) *What is Gender-Based Violence?* [online]. Available at: [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/what-gender-based-violence\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/what-gender-based-violence_en) (accessed 5 July 2023).
- European Institute of Gender Equality (2023) *Psychological Abuse* [online]. Available at: <https://eige.europa.eu/publications-resources/thesaurus/terms/1241> (accessed 5 July 2023).
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014) *Violence Against Women: an EU-wide survey, Main Results*. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: Vienna, Austria.
- Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Department (2022) *National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence*. Ottawa: Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Department.
- Ferracutti, F., and Wolfgang, M.E. (1967) *The Subculture of Violence Towards an Integrated Theory in Criminology*. UK: Routledge.
- Goode, W.J. (1971) Force and Violence in the Family. *Journal of Marriage, and Family* [online]. 33(4), 624-631. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.2307/349435>•<https://www.jstor.org/stable/349435> (accessed 5 July 2023).
- Government of Canada (2017a) *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*. Ottawa: Government of Canada.
- Government of Canada (2017b) *Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples* [online]. Available at: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1471368138533/1536932634432> (accessed 8 August 2023).
- Government of Canada (2019) *A Year in Review: 2017-2018* [online]. Available at: <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/gender-based-violence-strategy/year-review-2018.html> (accessed 5 June 2023).

- Government of Canada (2020) *A Year in Review: 2018-2019* [online]. Available at: <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/gender-based-violence-strategy/report-rapport2019-en.pdf> (accessed 5 June 2023).
- Government of Canada (2022) *Progress Report 2019-2020 and 2020-2021* [online]. Available at: [https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/gender-based-violence-strategy/progress-report-2020-and-2021.html#pillar\\_1](https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/gender-based-violence-strategy/progress-report-2020-and-2021.html#pillar_1) (accessed 5 June 2023).
- Gray, D.E. (2009) *Doing Research in the Real World*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
- Gray, D.E. (2014) *Doing Research in the Real World*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
- Heather Humphreys *Dáil Debates 1030, Cols. 5, 6 December 2022*.
- Heaton, J. (2008) Secondary Analysis of Quantitative Data: An Overview. *Historical Social Research*, 33(3), 33-45.
- Heise, L.L. (1998) Violence Against Women: An Integrated, Ecological Framework. *Violence Against Women*. 4(3), 262-290.
- Kueffer, C., Underwood, E., Hirsch Hadorn, G., Holderegger, R., Lehning, M., Pohl, C., Schirmer, M., Schwarzenbach, R., Stauffacher, M., Wuelser, G. and Edwards, P. (2012) Enabling Effective Problem-oriented Research for Sustainable Development. *Ecology and Society* [online]. 17(4), 8. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-05045-170408> (accessed 25 April 2023).
- Lawson, J. (2012) Sociological Theories of Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of Human Behaviour in the Social Environment* [online]. 22(1), 572-590. Available at: <https://doi-org.may.idm.oclc.org/10.1080/10911359.2011.598748> (accessed 12 August 2023).
- Marwick, A. (2001) *The Nature of History*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- McPherson, B.H. (2007) *The Reception of English Law Abroad*. Queensland: Supreme Court of Queensland Library.
- Newburn, T. (2017) *Criminology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Florida: Routledge.
- Noaks, L. & Wincup, E. (2004) *Criminological Research: Understanding Qualitative Methods*. London: SAGE Publications.
- O'Reilly, K. (2009) *Key Concepts in Ethnography*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (1993) *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women* [online]. Available at: [https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.21\\_declaration%20elimination%20vaw.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.21_declaration%20elimination%20vaw.pdf) (accessed 5 July 2023).
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (n.d.). *About LGBTI people and human rights* [online]. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity> (accessed 5 July 2023).
- O'Leary, Z. (2011) Deductive/inductive reasoning In: *The social science jargon buster.*, London: SAGE Publications. 57-58.
- O'Leary, Z. (2017) *The essential guide to doing your research project*. 3rd ed. London: SAGE Publications.
- Palys, T. (2008). Purposive Sampling In: L. M. Given (ed.), *The Sage Encyclopaedia of Qualitative Research Methods*, California: Sage Publications
- Patton, M. (1990) *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods*. California: Sage Publications.
- Rahman, A., Clarke, M.A., & Byrne, S. (2017) The Art of Breaking People Down: The British Colonial Model in Ireland and Canada. *Peace Research* [online]. 49(2), 15-28. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44779905>
- Ritter, K., Kivisto, A., Handsel, V., & Moore T. (2014) Intimate partner violence, PTSD, and substance use In: Ouimette, P. & Read, J.P. eds (2014) *Trauma and substance abuse: Causes, consequences, and treatment of comorbid disorders*. 211–230.
- Rubin, A and Babbie, E. (2009) *Research Methods for Social Work*. Boston: Cengage Learning.
- Sandelowski, M. (1986) The problem of rigor in qualitative research, *Advances in Nursing Science*. 8 (3), 27-37.
- Simon Harris *Dáil Debates 1036, Cols. 45, 18 April 2023*.
- Stark, E. (2007). *Coercive control: How men entrap women in personal life*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Statistics Canada (2009) *Cybercrime* [online]. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2011001/article/11530-eng.htm#a2> (accessed 14 July 2023).

Statistics Canada (2019) *Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS)* [online].

Available at:

<https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5256>

(accessed 14 July 2023).

Statistics Canada (2021) *Intimate Partner Violence in Canada, 2018* [online]. Available at:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210426/dq210426b-eng.pdf?st=WMXm-o1> (accessed 14 July 2023).

Strauss, M.A. (1973) A General Systems Theory Approach to a Theory of Violence Between Family Members. *Social Science Information* [online]. 12(3), 105-125. Available at:

[10.1177/053901847301200306](https://doi.org/10.1177/053901847301200306) (accessed 5 July 2023).

Tosh, J. (2010) *The Pursuit of History*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Harlow: Longman Publishing.

United Nations (n.d.) *What is Domestic Abuse?* [online]. Available at:

<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/what-is-domestic-abuse> (accessed 5 July 2023).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022) *Five essential facts to know about femicide* [online]. Available at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2022/11/five-essential-facts-to-know-about-femicide> (accessed 10 July 2023).

United Nations Women (2019) *Respect Women Framework* [online]. Available at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/respect-women-preventing-violence-against-women> (accessed 24 April 2023).

Women's Aid (2023a) *Recognising Domestic Violence* [online]. Available at:

<https://www.womensaid.ie/help/domesticviolence.html> (accessed 5 July 2023).

Women's Aid (2023b) *Annual Impact Report 2022* [online]. Available at:

[https://www.womensaid.ie/assets/files/pdf/womens\\_aid\\_annual\\_impact\\_report\\_2022\\_-\\_embargoed\\_0001\\_20623.pdf](https://www.womensaid.ie/assets/files/pdf/womens_aid_annual_impact_report_2022_-_embargoed_0001_20623.pdf) (accessed 10 July 2023).

Women's Aid (2023c) *Femicide Watch* [online]. Available at:

<https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2023/07/Womens-Aid-Femicide-Watch-1996-2023.pdf> (accessed 26 July 2023).

World Health Organisation (1998) *Researching Violence Against Women* [online]. Available at:

[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42966/9241546476\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=5CB00CC703992A2D3F74966C8C3C0D19?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42966/9241546476_eng.pdf;jsessionid=5CB00CC703992A2D3F74966C8C3C0D19?sequence=1) (accessed 4 July 2023).

World Health Organisation (2019) *Respect Women Framework* [online]. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-RHR-18.19> (accessed 23 April 2023).

World Health Organisation (2021) *Violence Against Women* [online]. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women> (accessed 24 April 2023).

Yorke, M. (2011) Analysing existing datasets: some considerations arising from practical experience. *International Journal of Research and Method in Education*. 34 (3), 255-267.