

# National Advocacy Project – Background Information

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## Rape Crisis Scotland

Rape Crisis Scotland is a national charity working to end sexual violence.

Our aims are to:

- Challenge prejudicial attitudes towards survivors of sexual violence;
- Work with local rape crisis centres to ensure survivors are offered consistent, high quality support;
- Provide a National Helpline to offer support to survivors of sexual violence across Scotland;
- Assist in the development of new rape crisis provision around Scotland and
- Provide a central information and resource service on sexual violence.

## Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre

Established in 1978 Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) is a unique support, advocacy and information service to all survivors aged 12 and over in Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian who have experienced sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.

Our charitable objectives are to reduce the distress and suffering of people affected by sexual violence through the provision of support and information, and to increase awareness of sexual violence and its impacts within the wider community. To deliver these objectives, we provide a range of trauma-informed support services for survivors of sexual violence, including short-term and longer-term support, advocacy, outreach, and group support. In addition, we deliver training for a broad range of stakeholders across Edinburgh and the Lothians, and run a sexual violence prevention project which works with young people towards preventing sexual violence.

## National Advocacy Project

The National Advocacy Project is funded by the Scottish Government and is a partnership between Rape Crisis Scotland and local rape crisis centres across Scotland. The project aims to provide support and advocacy to survivors who have engaged or are considering engaging with the criminal justice system following a sexual crime.

The objectives of the project are:

- An improvement in the support available to victims of rape and serious sexual crime;
- An improvement in the experience of the criminal justice process for victims of rape and serious sexual crime; and
- The development of a better understanding of motivations to proceed or not to proceed within the criminal justice process and what difference advocacy support makes to this decision.

The project was externally evaluated by the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, who found that it provides a “life changing” service to survivors of sexual crime. More information about the evaluation findings can be found here: <https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/publications/evaluation-of-the-rape-crisis-scotland-national-advocacy-project-final-report-2018/>

This post is currently funded by the Scottish Government until March 2026, and we expect this funding to be extended beyond this date.