

**Institution: London Metropolitan University**

**Unit of Assessment: 22 – Social Work and Social Policy and Administration**

**a. Context**

The fundamental aim of our work is to generate research evidence which is used to develop and inform public understanding, public policy and professional practice in directions which are socially progressive and effective in combatting major social problems. Users therefore are the news media, policy makers at appropriate levels of government, service-providing professional practitioners and activists in relevant non-governmental interest groups.

In relation to CWASU's work on *Violence Against Women*, the principal engagements are with the Home Office, Crown Prosecution Service, NHS public health bodies, police authorities, the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. CWASU's work has been used by NGOs in the VAW field across the world, most notably the European Women's Lobby, Women Against Violence in Europe (WAVE), the European Institute of Gender Equality, the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (Republic of Ireland), Women's Aid Federations in England, Scotland and Wales, Rape Crisis Networks of England and Wales and of Scotland, End Violence Against Women Coalition, Greater London Authority and Mayors' Office for Policing and Crime MOPAC, Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary, Her Majesty's Crown prosecution Service Inspectorate and the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Users have drawn on CWASU's research, specifically, to develop improved response and support services for the victims of rape and domestic violence by demonstrating the effectiveness of Sexual Assault Referral Centres, by revealing the patterns of attrition in reported rape cases, by mapping the local unevenness of services addressing VAW, and by drawing on minimum standards for specialised VAW support services. CWASU staff are also regularly asked to provide expert testimony in legal cases, showing how individuals lives and circumstances 'fit' into the current knowledge base: this is a way in which research can have a direct impact on the rights of individuals.

In relation to JGC's work on *Crime Prevention*, the principal engagements are with the Home Office, UK local government, police and probation bodies in the UK, the Middle East, Turkey, and Rwanda, and financial regulators in Switzerland. JGC's work on gangs has contributed to the thinking and practice of public agencies including ACPO, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, OfSTED, Association of London Government, the London Anti-Gang Alliance, Birmingham Safer Partnership and the Metropolitan Police, as well as non-governmental organisations, including the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, Runnymede Trust, Policy Exchange and the Australian Institute of Criminology. JGC's work on terrorism, counter-terrorism, Muslim communities and the far right has been featured in a wide range of news media, as well as being utilized by non-governmental organisations including the National Association of Muslim Police, the Muslim Association of Britain, and the Muslim Council of Britain. JGC's work on terrorist financing and the failure of counter measures has been utilized by public bodies such as NATO and the European Parliament, and non-governmental organisations such as the Airey Neave Trust.

**b. Approach to impact**

**CWASU** has consistently sought and achieved critical engagement with key users which means upholding practical feminist approaches to violence and abuse of women and children, issues which tend to slip off the public and policy agenda in the wake of the disproportionate attention given to particularly high profile cases or misuses of data. Relationships with users, particularly the Home Office, EHRC, the European Commission, and the UN have been maintained over many years by networking and bidding, and by the unit's reputation for integrity and delivery. More recently relationships have been strengthened with the Department of Health, the Children's Society and the Office of the Children's Commissioner. Evidence of these relationships can be found in the successful bids for funding from these bodies, and in the endorsement of civil servants and politicians associated with these bodies. CWASU prioritises supporting its staff in

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disseminating its work at conferences and workshops, and through its own website [www.cwasu.org](http://www.cwasu.org). Staff maintain close contact with service providers such as Rape Crisis Centres, SARCs and women's domestic violence support services. CWASU is regularly contacted by groups and individuals, working in countries and/or contexts where gender based violence is only beginning to emerge onto the public agenda; CWASU supports them by sending packages of publications and information and linking them into existing networks and coalitions. CWASU also provides expert opinions for criminal and civil legal cases, reflecting an approach that maps out the relevant research knowledge, and seeks to fit individual women's lives into this broader picture. We see this as a route through which social justice research can have a direct impact on the rights of individuals. CWASU held a one day conference in July 2011, presenting new research on VAW from staff and students entitled 'Work In Process, Work On Progress: 21st Century Approaches In Violence Against Women Research' which attracted 150 policy makers, practitioners and other researchers. A similar number attended the launch in February 2013 of *Moving in the Shadows*.

**JGC** has built up a network of key users around particular aspects of their work. Young and Silverstone have established links with several London boroughs (Brent, Enfield), the Metropolitan Police and the Runnymede Trust in their work on gangs. Ridley has a long-established relationship with the Airey Neave Trust, which has funded three studies on various aspect of counter-terrorism since 2008. One of these on 'terrorist use of cash couriers' is a featured case study at [www.aireyneavetrust.org.uk](http://www.aireyneavetrust.org.uk). Lambert's work on anti-Muslim violence in Britain, documenting with forensic care a serious and under-researched social problem, has been fulsomely applauded by several British Muslim organisations. Fitzgibbon's work on offender supervision and youth justice is fed back directly to the London Practitioner Forum, a network of professionals working in those fields.

**c. Strategy and plans**

CWASU are currently exploring re-design of their website, which is widely used but not as navigable as it could be. We will increase use of our Facebook page and Liz Kelly will continue to tweet about our publications and violence against women more broadly (2300 followers). Liz Kelly, and Maddy Coy are in high demand as speakers at practitioner conferences and we will continue to prioritise this. We will also attend high profile policy forums and working groups which allow us to take our research directly to those taking decisions: the Westminster inter-ministerial working group on violence against women; MOPAC practitioners network; CPS external consultation group; and HMIC rape monitoring group. Through FAIR we are developing a series of seminars and plan a more specific set of roundtables where it is possible to explore contentious issues in collegial spaces – a recurrent lack noted by our NGO users.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

Making an impact on policy and practice lies at the heart of both case studies. The CWASU study gives ample evidence for substantial and long-lasting impact on efforts to remedy attrition in rape cases, and to develop and consolidate appropriate support services for victims of rape and domestic violence. The JGC case study demonstrates the team's strong commitment to changing public and practitioner perception of gangs and anti-Muslim violence, alongside supporting and informing practitioners in developing appropriate and effective intervention in policing the finance of terrorism, the community basis of radical Islamism in Britain, and drug crime in British-Asian communities.