

First response of police in dealing with cases of violence against women & girls



General duties of the police

- Respecting and protecting human rights and dignity
- Fairness and impartiality
- Prevention crime and maintenance of public order
- Effective and efficient investigations
- Support and protection of victims
- Informing victims of their rights

Consequences of non-adherence to general duties

- Disciplinary action
- Loss of community respect
- Lack of community cooperation
- Loss of faith for police and criminal justice system
- Secondary victimisation

Initial police response to sexual & gender based violence



First response at crime scene

- Respond to all alleged incidence immediately
- Quickly separate parties involved (victim & abuser)
- Identify & secure any weapons for safety.
- If perpetrator is present isolate, search and arrest if necessary
- Arrange medical treatment if necessary
- Take steps to insure victim & children safety

Continuation of first response at crime scene

- Ascertain initial facts of what occurred
- Identify and collect all potential evidence at scene
- Conduct detail interview with victim
- Conduct thorough investigation and make formal arrest and your role in process is complete until trial

Police response to victim at police station

- Allow the victim time to make statement
- Interview the victim in private
- Ask victim if they would be more comfortable speaking with male or female officer
- Inform victim of each stage of process
- Do not leave victim alone
- Conduct a detail interview with victim and witnesses

Five Main Needs of Victim

- Safety- Remove from immediate harm
- Health- Seek medical attention
- Counseling- Initial assessment of trauma
- Advice- Explain the complete process
- Assistance- Inform of welfare assistance

Dealing with offenders



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- Arresting and questioning of perpetrator
- Providing victim with bail information
- Breach of bail conditions
- Protection measures
- Treatment options