# Women's views on the policing of rape, domestic violence and stalking within the Durham Constabulary area

# Research Methods:

A sample of 180 women living within the Durham Constabulary area were asked their views in an online survey.

They were asked how serious rape by a stranger, rape by someone known to them, domestic violence, and staking were; whether they would report these crimes to the police (and why); what priority they think the police should give these crimes; how seriously they think these crimes are taken by the police; and how seriously they think they should be taken.

# Most women said these crimes were extremely/very serious

EXTREMELY / VERY SERIOUS

RAPE BY A STRANGER

100%

RAPE BY SOMEONE YOU KNOW

100%

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

98%

**STALKING** 

94%

# Not all women said they would definitely report these crimes if they happened to them

DEFINITELY REPORT RAPE BY A STRANGER

89%

RAPE BY SOMEONE YOU KNOW

69%

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

48%

**STALKING** 

59%

# Women explained why they said they would or would not report

Women from Black and other Minority Ethnic backgrounds may be even less likely to make a police report and to access generic (not specialist BME) services.

### RAPE BY STRANGER

## **WOULD REPORT**

'If I didn't report and it happened to someone else I wouldn't forgive myself.'

### RAPE BY SOMEONE KNOWN

# WOULD REPORT

'I would want them caught and punished. They could do this to someone else.'

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## **WOULD REPORT**

'Would not put up with it from anyone.' 'For my own safety.'

## STALKING

### **WOULD REPORT**

'This is a serious and frightening and threatening intrusion of someone's life.'

# WOULD NOT REPORT

'Hard to prove, often not believed, put through more torture and made to feel responsible.'

# WOULD NOT REPORT

'It would be so difficult if it was someone known to me.'

# WOULD NOT REPORT

'I would just leave for my safety in case I wasn't believed and they were free to come back and get me.' 'I don't think it would

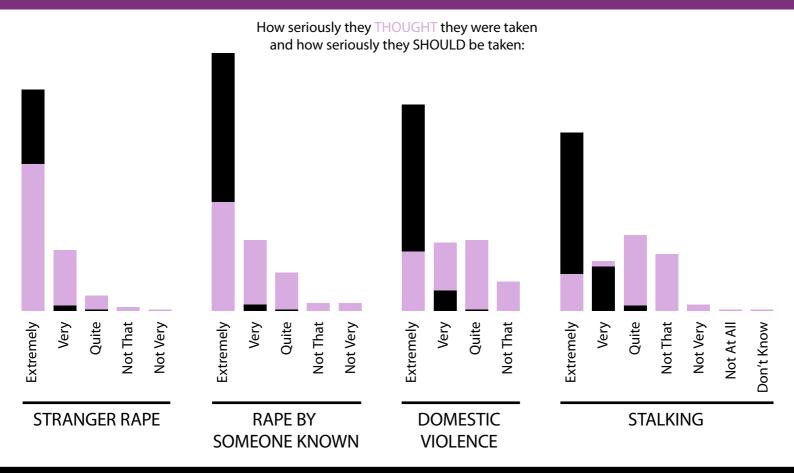
'I don't think it would be taken seriously.'

# WOULD NOT REPORT

'Don't think the police would be all that bothered, they'd make the right noises and do nothing to stop the stalker.'

'May not seem very important to the police.'

Women do not think the police take rape, domestic violence and stalking as seriously as they should do.



There is a gap between what people say the police should take extremely seriously, and their view of what the police actually take extremely seriously:

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF

33% 49% 65% 75%

FOR FOR FOR FOR FOR FOR STRANGER RAPE

WHEN THE RAPIST IS KNOWN TO THE VICTIM

THE VICTIM

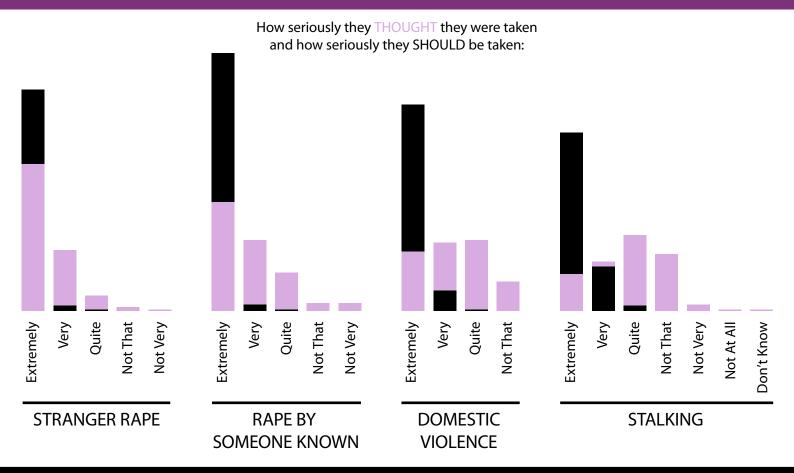
Most women said that these crimes should be given a very high priority, even when considering all the other demands on the police

RAPE BY A STRANGER	98%
RAPE BY SOMEONE KNOWN	95%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	89%
STALKING	75%





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