



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WRC welcomes government's move to abandon anonymity pledge for those accused of rape

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The Women's Resource Centre welcomes the coalition government's decision to abandon its pledge to grant anonymity to men charged with rape in England and Wales.

Women's organisations across the country, including WRC, had expressed concern and outrage over the anonymity move.

"This is the correct move by the government on what was an unfair and ridiculous proposal in the first place, which undermined both those who have survived rape and also the organisations who work so hard to support them," said Vivienne Hayes, chief executive of the Women's Resource Centre.

"Survivors of this terrible crime must be able to feel that their rights and security are prioritised by this country's authorities. The government must now take firm steps to address such priorities for the future."

For more information, including interviews, please contact Sarah Brown, Head of Communications on Sarahbrown@wrc.org.uk or call 0207 324 3040

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Notes for editors/about WRC

1. About WRC - the Women's Resource Centre (WRC) is a charity which supports women's organisations to be more effective and sustainable. We provide training, information, resources and one-to-one support on a range of organisational development issues. We also lobby decision makers on behalf of the women's not-for-profit sector for improved representation and funding.

Our 328 member organisations work in a wide range of fields including violence against women, employment, education, rights and equality, the criminal justice system and the environment. They deliver services to and campaign on behalf of some of the most marginalised communities of women.

2. Women's organisations and value for money - previous WRC-commissioned research of the economic impact of women's organisations in 2006 found that women's organisations save money. A rape crisis centre demonstrated value for money with a total economic cost to funding received ratio of 1 to 3.58, in other words, for every pound, £3.58 of public spending is saved (The economic and social impact of the women's voluntary and community sector - a pilot study, Matrix research and consultancy, 2006)