

IMPRESS Code Review: Call for Evidence

Centre of Women's Justice submission

This is a broad subject but it might assist to look at two reports we have authored one is the just published report on women who kill, which includes a section (appendix) on media reporting

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aa98420f2e6b1ba0c874e42/t/602a9a87e96acc025de5de67/1613404821139/CWJ_WomenWhoKill_Rpt_WEB-3+small.pdf

We also co-authored a report on Rape which doesn't specifically cover media reporting but implicitly – see here

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aa98420f2e6b1ba0c874e42/t/5fd1e272ebc7ce75e8b47101/1607590527377/Decriminalisation+of+Rape+Report%2C+CWJ+EVAW+IMKAAN+RCEW%2C+NOV+2020.pdf>

Other than that, we do get media attention for many of the cases we highlight – one issue that has come up relates to press reporting of an important case brought by a group of women challenging prostitution convictions – our most recent update here

<https://www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk/news/2021/2/12/criminal-convictions-of-women-exploited-in-prostitution-will-remain-on-the-police-national-computer-pnc-until-they-reach-100-years-of-age>.

The women involved were originally exploited into prostitution as children/teenagers and forced to sell sex from the streets where they acquired numerous criminal convictions for soliciting and loitering, press reporting repeatedly describes them as 'sex workers', which the women object to, but it is very hard to get the media to hear this as there seems to be a default position to use this language.