



RASASC statement on the provision of single sex services - 1st May 2024

Following a consultation exercise with RASASC staff, board members, volunteers, and service users we are able to outline our position on single sex services and access to the support services that RASASC provides.

Our organisation

RASASC was founded in 1985, originally set up as part of a Women's Aid project, with strong links to the rape crisis movement. We are a proud member of the umbrella group Rape Crisis England and Wales. We are a feminist organisation. The vast majority of sexual violence is perpetrated by men towards women and girls, and in line with our feminist values we understand that gender inequality exists as a cause and consequence of violence against women and girls. Our work is based on our empowerment model (see [here](#)), which acknowledges women's experience of patriarchy, with our expertise built over many decades.

We are committed to ensuring all survivors of sexual violence can access the support they need

Some of our services are open to all survivors of sexual violence. Our helpline is open to all genders, including trans and non-binary people, and men and boys. In other cases, we will signpost survivors to services that can best respond to their needs and specific circumstances.

At present, our children and young people's services are open to all biological females, however they identify (as girl/woman, non-binary, or trans). We are committed to exploring the practicalities of expanding access to our services for children and young people. We will conduct a thorough review of demand, specialism, and capacity to help determine future access to our children and young people's services.

We recognise that people's experiences of sexual violence and their reasons for seeking support will vary depending on their relationship to the intersecting axis of oppression. We strive to embody anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice in all of our work with survivors.

Too often, survivors of sexual violence are not able to access the caring support that they deserve. We will continue to use our voice to call for better funded, quality provision for all survivors of sexual violence, including trans and non-binary people.

We are committed to providing single sex services

Survivors and service users tell us that having access to single sex services and spaces after being subjected to male violence is vital for their recovery. As a result of what they have told us, we will maintain some of our services as single sex (adult counselling, advocacy and casework for adults). We will continue to utilise the occupational requirement employment exemption in only employing female workers. Maintaining a women-only staff team is essential to our model of working, and protects the single sex spaces that survivors tell us that they need.

We will review this statement in 12 months and then every two years thereafter. We continually monitor who is accessing our services and we are committed to improving those services so they respond to survivors needs.