Centre for Women’s Justice l Blog Guidelines

1. *Mission*

Centre for Women’s Justice mission is to hold the state to account and challenge discrimination in the justice system around male violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The purpose of our blog is to raise awareness of how the state fails to protect women from violence. We welcome original contributions which highlight important legal cases, challenges and developments in relation to law and policy in the area of VAWG. We also welcome stories from survivors which highlight systemic issues in the criminal justice system.

1. *Values and approach*

Our values and approach (outlined below) are at the core of what we do. We anticipate that contributions to our blog will reflect our values and approach, for example, through the content, language and style of writing.

* All women have an equal right to access justice and to be safe.
* Male violence is not inevitable: it can be eradicated.
* Women resist male violence but are blamed for it.
* All women and girls can be subject to male violence regardless of their socio-economic and cultural position.
* Male violence may take different forms in different contexts, so opportunities for resistance may differ.
* Work with the client not for the client, by listening and responding to each woman’s individual experience.

1. *Content preferences*

We would like to hear from lawyers, campaigners, activists, survivors, advocates, and human rights defenders about issues associated with VAWG and the criminal justice system. We are keen to hear about potential issues for legal challenge and legal cases on this theme as well as creative ways in which international legal remedies and instruments can be used.

Here are a few topics as a starting point:

* Important legal cases and judgments
* Policies and practices around the country
* How schools, colleges and universities are responding to rape
* Campaigns related to VAWG
* Experiences from survivors who have faced discrimination by the criminal justice system
* A radical feminist perspective on transforming the criminal justice system
* Legal cases and campaigns from other countries

1. *Style and quality requirements*

*4.1. Tone*

The tone CWJ aims for is bold and engaging. Posts should be written in first person in plain English. The website [Plain English](http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/how-to-write-in-plain-english.html) gives a useful overview of what we would expect.

For example, make sure you use words appropriate for the reader and avoid jargon - terms that are only understood by a particular group. When it is necessary, respect your readers by explaining concepts so that posts remain accessible to different audiences.

* 1. *Formatting*

Submissions should be written in English and have a wordcount of between 500 -1000 words. Please send us your contribution as a Word doc.

Your title should signal to readers what the article is about. Make sure to start with a clear and compelling opening that engages the reader and informs them of the subject. We encourage the use of headers and sub-headers to break up your article. Try to avoid big blocks of text.

It’s useful to end the post with a clear call to action, such as sharing the post, or signing the petition. The more specific, the better.

1. *Attribution requirements*

Please make it clear when you are quoting from or referring to a piece of work that is not yours, including images, laws, treaties and legal texts. Always include the source of the work using a hyperlink.

1. *Editing and approval process*

If you would like to contribute to the blog, please email your submission to [info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk](mailto:info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk) with your name and blog title in the subject line. If you’re unsure about whether your topic is suitable, we are happy to discuss this with you.

Once we’ve received your contribution, the Editors will decide whether your post is suitable for publishing based on the topic and quality of the post. We endeavour to respond to all the submissions we receive within **four weeks** and will inform you of whether your submission has been approved, potential to be published or rejected. If your post is unsuitable, we will let you know and provide you with brief feedback. If it has potential to be published, but needs a few changes, we will get in touch with you with suggestions for improvement. If your post is accepted, we will let you know and discuss with you the date of publication. We are a small charity with limited resources and so there may be a delay in between us receiving and publishing your post. We will do our best to review and publish it in good time, if it is particularly time sensitive.

If you would like to include a brief biography or photo, please include this with your submission. Please also **inform us at the time of submission** if you would like your post to be **anonymous**.

1. *Contact*

If you have any questions, get in touch with us at [info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk](mailto:info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk)

We are a small charity with very limited resources and therefore we are unable to pay any fees for blogs.