

**United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Fifty-sixth session**  
**27 February – 9 March 2012**  
**New York**

**INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL**

**Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against  
women and girls**

**PRIMARY PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

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In producing the paper, EVAW was acutely aware that there are a number of ongoing challenges faced by institutions and practitioners in taking prevention work forward. In identifying some of the challenges and gaps, we see opportunities for them to be addressed through partnership, strong leadership and investment in, and commitment to, systematic approaches to prevention of VAWG. While these challenges are based on our experiences in the UK, we are confident that the themes are fairly consistent, irrespective of the State context.

## **Key Challenges**

investment in prevention work which does not negatively impact on funding of services for survivors.

Investment in prevention work makes economic sense. In the UK, the average cost of a

obligations to prevent VAWG, while promoting the ongoing development of effective practice.

### **Shifting Landscapes**

In many States, the 'conducive context' in which VAWG occurs has become increasingly

## **Final Word**

As previously highlighted violence against women and girls has serious consequences for all our societies. While it is essential that we continue to protect and support survivors of gender violence, it is also important that we begin to move towards preventing this violence from happening in the first place. It is not sufficient to run occasional awareness-raising