

The human cost of corroboration is plain to see. Thousands left without justice, and many more deterred by a Criminal Justice System they see as intimidating, complex, and threatening. The impact of this requirement – unique to Scottish law – falls disproportionately on the shoulders of rape and domestic abuse victims, for whom “not enough evidence” or “not corroborated” means no justice.

At Scottish Women’s Aid we hear daily about the impact that corroboration has on women seeking justice for domestic abuse, a crime that for the most part goes unreported. Scrapping corroboration alone will not transform the issues that exist in the criminal justice system, but it will make sure that cases where there is strong evidence do not have to pass an artificial hurdle to reach court.

We are working closely with the Crown Office, Scottish Government and Police to improve responses to domestic abuse in Scotland, and have made great strides in doing so, but corroboration is too often an insurmountable barrier that stands between victim survivors of sexual and domestic abuse, and justice.

– Marsha Scott, Scottish Women’s Aid