

Objectives

The key objectives of the ESRC Justice, Inequality and Gender-Based Violence project were:

1. To close the knowledge gap that exists regarding justice, inequality and gender-based violence.
2. To address how 'justice' (in its wider sense) is understood, sought, and experienced by victims-survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and key practitioners.
3. To explore experiences and perceptions of 'justice' related to a range of criminal, civil and alternative forms of justice and their intersection with different types of GBV and forms of inequalities.
4. To produce findings that will contribute to the enhancement of justice for victims-survivors of GBV by influencing academic and policy debates in the UK and elsewhere, and will be fed into the practice of GBV, justice and related service providers at the national and local levels.

Research questions

1. How do victim/survivors and others experience and perceive 'justice'?
2. How does inequality affect access to support pathways and trajectories through the formal and informal justice systems?
3. How are notions of resistance and empowerment linked to notions of justice and access to justice?
4. How do practitioners themselves perceive notions of 'justice' whether enacted through formal or informal routes.
5. What would a truly victim focused justice agenda for gender-based violence look like?

Methods

Stage 1: -an extensive literature searches and review leading to the development of database of national and international literature relating to justice, inequality and GBV and models of justice

Stage 2: -quantitative analysis of trajectories of rape and DVA cases through the criminal justice system as indicated through police data and linked to inequalities PLUS quantitative analysis of survivors use of Women's Aid services, inequalities and justice links/outcomes (criminal, civil and family)

Stage 3: -qualitative analysis of the experiences and perceptions of survivors regarding justice, inequalities and GBV – to identify enablers of and barriers to justice and qualitative perceptions of professionals/practitioners regarding justice, inequality and GBV

Stage 4: -synthesis of police and non-CJS agency data and qualitative interview data using the socio-ecological model to draw together themes and groups (inequalities, justice forms) linking Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3

Stage 5: -Dissemination / Knowledge and Information Translation, Transfer and Exchange (KITTE)