



Responding to victims of sexual violence – The role of  
the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)

Learning about support for victims of sexual violence  
from the UK system

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# Introductions

Alison Eaton

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Sexual violence – UK  
response history

## Most Serious to Least Serious

A young woman is exercising in a park alone a man approaches her and attempts to have sex with her – she manages to run away

A man walks past a girl in the street whistles and shouts “hey sexy”

A man is assaulted by an acquaintance who uses a sharp object to penetrate him

A 20 year old man forces his 18 year old sister to have sex with him

A woman tells her husband she is too tired for sex he keeps toughing her and continues to have sex with her

Sara has plans to go out with friends this evening. She goes to a friend's house for pre drinks before heading into the city centre to go clubbing.

There is a man at the house party called Dai she notices Dai looking at her but ignores him.

At the club Dai keeps handing Sara alcohol she becomes more and more drunk.

Sara's friends look concerned, but they continue with their evening.

Sara becomes very drunk. Dai starts to pay Sara a lot of interest she brushes him off a few times but then stops.

Dai takes Sara's hand and walks her out of the club. They go back to Sara's home. Sara is clearly disoriented and lies down. Dai begins to have sex with Sara while she is barely conscious.

## Case Study Sara (呀咲)







# Considerations

What has happened here? Rape, sexual assault, nothing of concern

What will happen next

What should happen with Sara

What should happen with Dai



# A victim's journey and the role of the ISVA







Risk and Needs  
Assessment ·  
Support Planning



SARC



Safeguarding -  
Ensuring the Safety of  
Victims and the Public





Reporting to the  
Police



Criminal justice  
process · Support and  
services.



Practical support  
victims' rights · health  
and wellbeing



Single point of contact



Partnership Working



Pre-trial support, ·  
Trail Support · Post  
Trial Support





# Summary Role of the ISVA



Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) are specialist trained practitioners

ISVAs perform diverse and challenging roles

ISVA's provide emotional and practical support to individuals who have experienced sexual violence

ISVA's support those who have reported to the police and those who haven't or are considering reporting

ISVA's are independent

ISVA's assess and address the needs and risks for victims

ISVA's are nonjudgmental and can provide information on a range of subjects



It's all about  
impact – Right  
support right  
time

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Long term  
benefits

Sexual violence can  
have a severe  
psychological,  
emotional, as well as  
physical impact.

Better sexual health,  
mental health,  
improved long term  
outcomes, less likely  
to be a victim again.

# What next

ISVA development Programme -  
Due to the complex nature of the  
ISVA role, it is essential that all  
ISVAs have completed accredited  
training in order to ensure that they  
can support victims/survivors  
safely and effectively.

Development of a Bespoke Needs  
and Risk assessment for Japan

Quality assurance and  
sustainability

Developing the relationship with  
UK

