



Media Release

International Association of Women Police Prevention and Detection of Violence Against Women Award 2021 Detective Superintendent Vicky Washington, Metropolitan Police, UK

Detective Superintendent Vicky Washington joined the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in 1991 becoming a passionate and inspirational role model to women and has been relentless in her commitment to improving safety and opportunities for women and girls throughout her career. She is currently serving as the Deputy National lead for Prevent in the National Counter Terrorism Head Quarters.

As MPS lead for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), D/Supt. Washington led pioneering work to reduce the risk of girls being taken out of the UK through Heathrow Airport. Responding to intelligence and anecdotal evidence, she was tireless in securing agreement from airlines to act. Her work (Operation Limelight) received national media attention and was commended by the UK Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She inspired others through national FGM conferences and developed the first national resource for schools to raise awareness about FGM. This enduring legacy is now embedded within the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime annual plan.

As Community Safety Unit lead, D/Supt. Washington engaged stakeholder concerns through developing a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference improvement group. She re-designed referral forms to focus on victim needs, obtained sponsorship from John Lewis to refurbish 2 interview suites, tackled under-reporting within the LGBT community, and innovatively combined police generated and anecdotal community reporting to map risk. Her leadership was impressive: She increased Domestic Abuse referrals by 134%, achieved the top conviction rate at Magistrates' Court, drove best practice through a new MPS training manual, and established a professional steering group to embed improvements. Widely respected as an expert, D/Supt. Washington inspired others through the national Domestic Violence conference and presented at a Houses of Parliament (UK) international women's event.

As continuous improvement lead for the Child Abuse Command, D/Supt. Washington identified safeguarding risks and the potential for radicalisation in supplementary schools, arising from a lack of regulation, poor awareness of Child Protection procedures, and inappropriate physical chastisement. She worked across a complex stakeholder landscape, combining school and Counter Terrorism data to map risks. She influenced and supported plans to improve awareness of legislation and child protection across institutions. Over 180 Jewish and Muslim leaders engaged in the programme, which was commended by the London Safeguarding Children Board.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "The IAWP is so pleased to recognize the outstanding work of our colleagues in law enforcement. Their stories exemplify that with the right tools, training and opportunity, women excel in policing and keep our communities safer."

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit www.iawp.org

For further information on the 2021 recognition programme, permissions or award sponsorship opportunities, please contact executivedirector@iawp.org