

Statement of Need

What the evidence tells us are the needs of female veterans

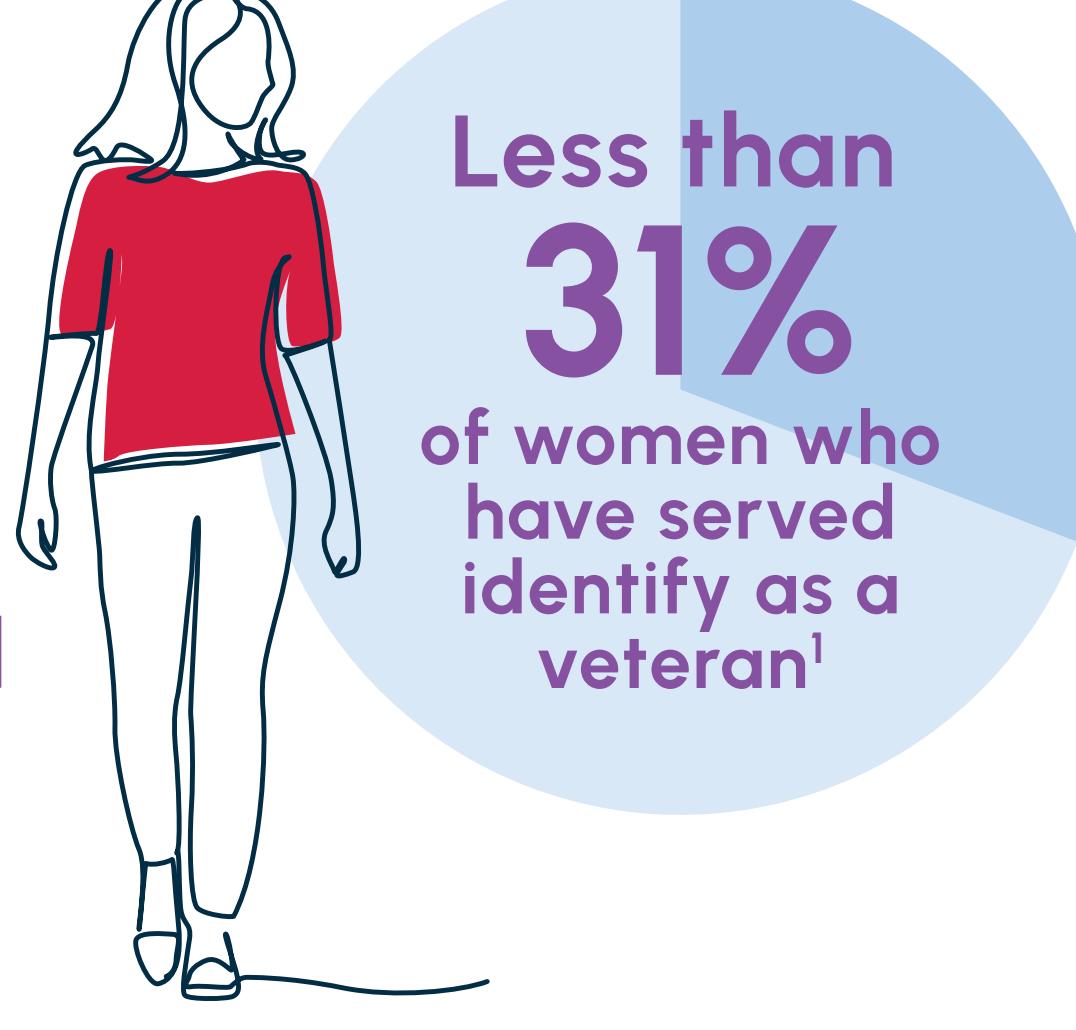


Female
Veterans

TRANSFORMATION
PROGRAMME

IDENTITY

Women often do not identify with the term 'veteran' and face specific, complex and multi-layered issues as a result of their service.

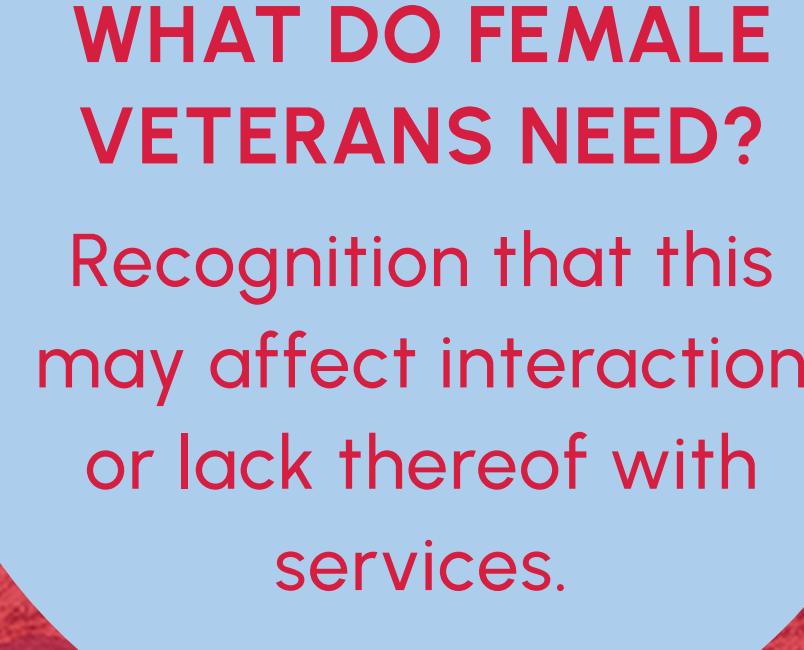


WHAT DO FEMALE VETERANS NEED?

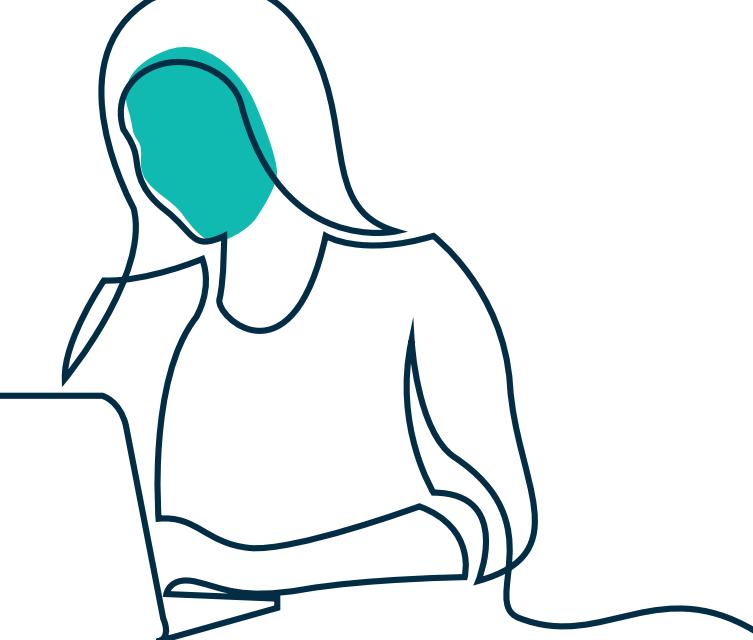
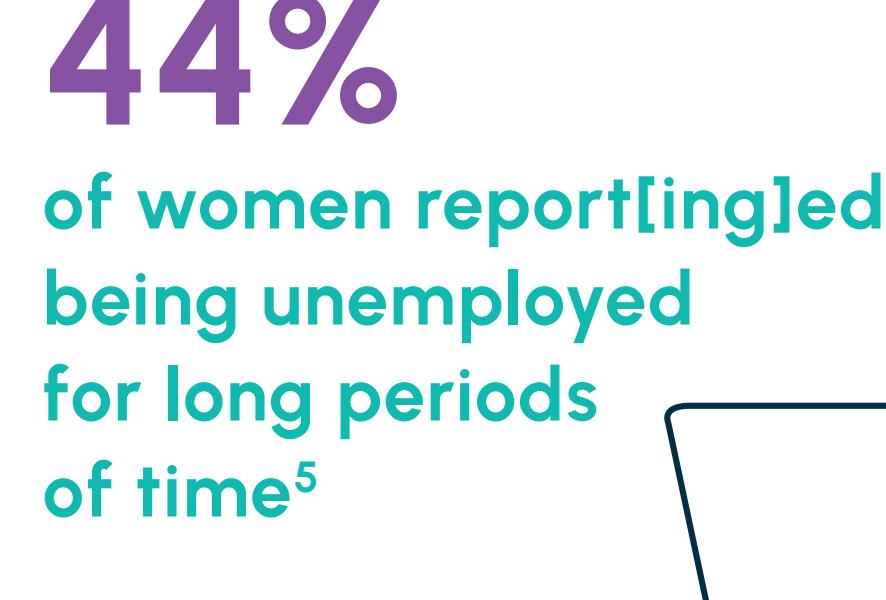
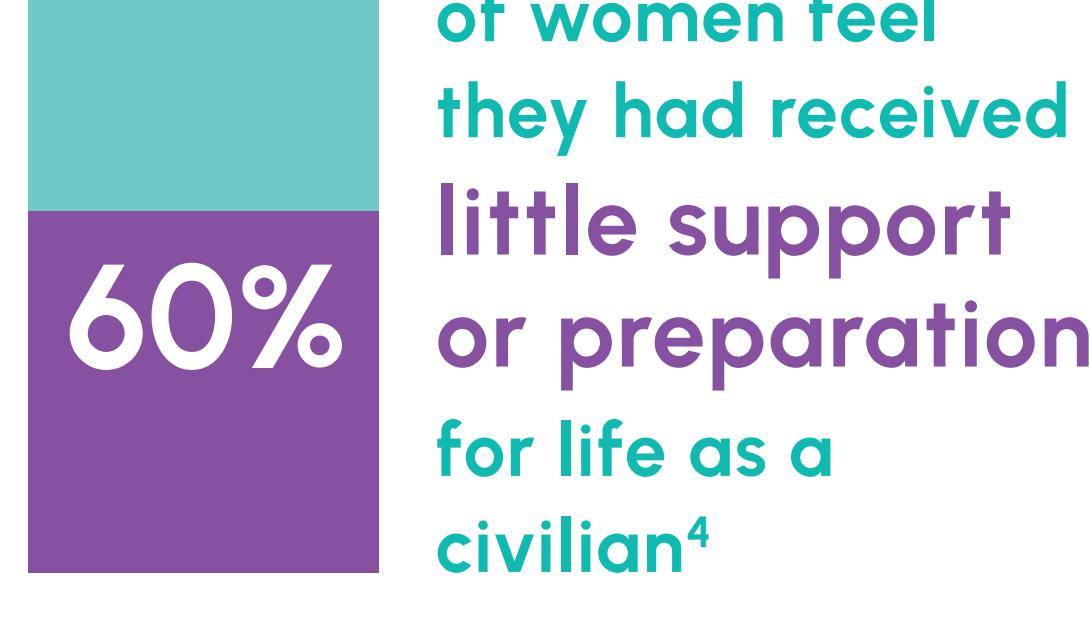
- Recognition of the specific needs of female veterans
- Empowerment for women to define their military service in their own terms
- Services should inquire about military service inclusively, rather than using singular terms like "veteran"
- Special attention to the impact of Services Bans (marriage, pregnancy, and gay bans)
- Provision of support for those negatively affected, especially LGBTQ+ individuals

DISTRUST AND MORAL INJURY

Women often feel betrayed and let down by the Military as they did not respond to their needs, complaints and requests for help and support.



TRANSITION, EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCE



Resulting in:

- Fewer financial struggles
- Less impact on mental health due to loss of identity
- Less likely to get involved in criminal activity

AREAS OF LITTLE EVIDENCE

There are many areas that still are largely under researched and therefore no practical action is being taken to improve the situation.

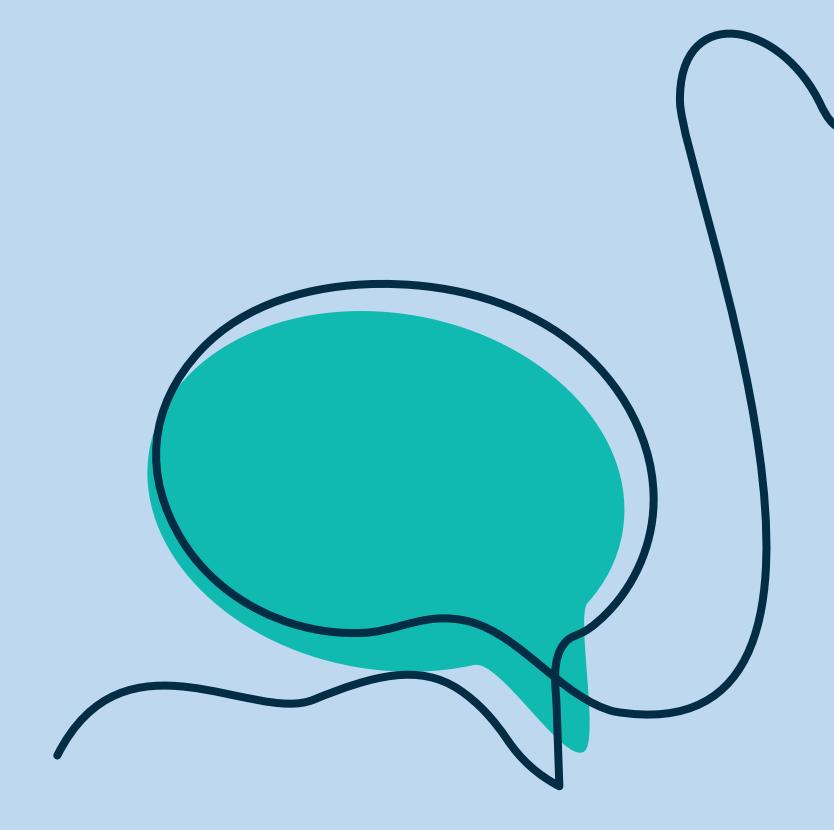
WHAT DO FEMALE VETERANS NEED?

More research and data capture is needed to better understand specific issues for female veterans such as the criminal justice system, race and faith, care services, loneliness, digital poverty and accessibility and Reservists.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

Women often don't access veteran facing services as they are seen to be male dominated and not able to meet their needs.



WHAT DO FEMALE VETERANS NEED?

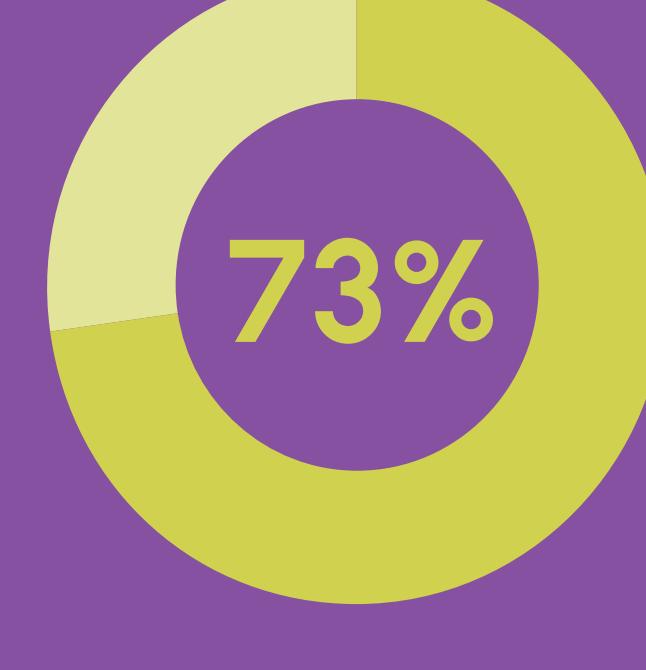
- Women need to feel welcome, equal and able to access veteran support services
- Services should be personalised based on the individual's needs and what matters most to that person
- Professionals need to have greater awareness, understanding of the specific needs of women and respond in a way that makes a difference to them

BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND SEXUALLY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS INCLUDING ASSAULT AND RAPE

A significant percentage of women have faced or witnessed one or more of these issues during service.



85% felt that they were treated differently to their male counterparts



of women reported witnessing or experiencing sexual discrimination²

WHAT DO FEMALE VETERANS NEED?

- The widespread and insidious impact of this issue needs to be acknowledged and accepted across the sector so women feel seen and heard and therefore supported in a way that reduces shame and stigma
- Where appropriate and needed, services should be female only, delivered by women

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

'Women in the British Army have been found to be seven times more likely than men to suffer from musculoskeletal injuries.....they are ten times more likely than men to suffer from hip and pelvic stress fractures³

Women are often left with long term impact on their physical and mental health as a result of service.

WHAT DO FEMALE VETERANS NEED?

- Women's specific health needs as veterans need recognising and professionals to have a better understanding of the potential causes
- Women need to feel confident to declare their military service and be supported into specific Armed Forces pathways where appropriate and wanted

To find out more visit www.fvtp.org.uk

¹ Lauren Godier-McBard, Nicola Gillin and Matt Fossey, We Also Served: The Health and Wellbeing of Female Veterans in the UK (Chelmsford: Anglia Ruskin University, 2021), 104.

² Godier-McBard, Gillin and Fossey, We Also Served, 30.

³ Paula Edwards and Tony Wright, No Man's Land, (Dudley: Salute Her UK, 2019), 5.

⁴ Edwards and Wright, No Man's Land, 16.

⁵ Edwards and Wright, No Man's Land, 18.

⁶ Christina Dodds and Matthew Kiernan, "Hidden Veterans: A Review of the Literature on Women Veterans in Contemporary Society," *Illness Crisis and Loss* 27, no. 4 (2019): 2.