2025 *Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey*

Gender-Based Violence Teaching Dataset

Teaching Resources

September 2026

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Introduction

ARK, a joint resource between two Northern Ireland universities (Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast), is dedicated to making social and political information on Northern Ireland available to the widest possible audience. ARK runs a suite of annual attitudinal surveys that aim to provide time-series attitudinal data across age groups. You can find more information about ARK surveys here. Please note that this document refers to the 2025 Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) teaching dataset only. For the full 2025 NILT survey dataset, please consult the ARK website.

This document is in two sections[1]:

Section 1: A codebook for the 2025 NILT teaching dataset.

Section 2: A summary of the 2025 NILT survey technical report.

2025 Northern Ireland Life and Times teaching dataset

- This teaching dataset focuses on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and has been created from the full 2025 NILT survey dataset. The full dataset is available in SPSS format from the ARK website.
- The teaching dataset contains background information relating to the respondent, their spouse/partner, and the household.
- Some variables have been constructed and/or simplified for this teaching dataset for the purposes of teaching – further details are provided in the codebook (Section 1).
- While the teaching dataset contains the total number of respondents, it is intended for teaching purposes only. For research purposes, please use the full 2025 NILT survey dataset.

Queries

For queries, please contact Dr Erin Early, Ulster University (e.early@ulster.ac.uk).

[1] The teaching resources document for ARK teaching datasets was originally created by Dr Emma Calvert and Dr Paula Devine as part of a Higher Education Academy funded project (2012/13) *Teaching Quantitative Methods: Innovative Shared Learning Resources.* The creation of the current document for the 2025 NILT teaching dataset on Gender-Based Violence is supported by funding from the Quality Assurance Agency Collaborative Enhancement Project *Classroom to practice: enhancing quantitative methods teaching through real-life data.*

Section 1: Codebook for the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

This codebook aims to provide information on the variables in the teaching dataset. However, it is recommended to consult the 2025 NILT survey questionnaire in conjunction with this documentation. All NILT questionnaires are available on the ARK website.

Levels of measurement

This codebook and the teaching dataset indicate the levels of measurement of all variables (scale, ordinal and nominal). Please be aware that in most datasets, the variables are set up as nominal by default, and it is up to the researcher to decide the appropriate measure and appropriate analysis.

Table 1 presents the list of variables included in the NILT 2025 teaching dataset on Gender-Based Violence.

Table 1: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
SERIAL	Serial number of respondent.	Numeric	Scale
HOUSEHLD	How many people are there in your household?	Numeric (number of people)	Scale
RAGE	Age of respondent.	Numeric (years) -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Scale
RSEX	Gender of respondent.	1 Male 2 Female -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
NADULT (computed variable)	Number of adults aged 18 years or over living in the household.	Numeric (number of people)	Scale
NKIDS (computed variable)	Number of children aged under 18 years living in the household.	Numeric (number of people)	Scale
RMARSTAT (recoded variable)	Marital/civil partnership status.	1 Single (never married) 2 Married/civil partnership 3 Living as married 4 Separated 5 Divorced/dissolved civil partnership 6 Widowed -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
LIVEAREA	How long have you lived in the town (city, village) where you live now?	Numeric (years) 0 Less than 1 year	Scale
PLACELIV	Would you describe the place where you live as…?	1 A big city 2 The suburbs or outskirts of a big city 3 A small city or town 4 A country village 5 A farm or home in the country -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal

Table 1 continued: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
HIGHQUAL (recoded variable)	Highest educational qualification.	1 Degree level or higher 2 Higher education – diploma or equivalent 3 GCE A level or equivalent 4 GCSE grades A* to C or equivalent 5 GCSE grades D to G or equivalent 6 No qualifications 7 Other qualifications: level unknown -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
TEA	How old were you when you completed your continuous full-time education?	1 15 or under 2 16 3 17 4 18 5 19 or over 6 Still at school 7 Still at college or university 8 Other -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
ECONACT	Economically active?	1 Economically active 2 Economically inactive -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
EMPSTAT	Currently in paid employment?	1 In paid employment 2 Not in paid employment -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
WORK (computed variable)	Work/supervisory status.	1 Employee: foreperson or supervisor 2 Employee: not foreperson or supervisor 3 Self-employed -9 Not applicable -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
RSECT	Do/did you work in the public, private or voluntary sector?	1 Public sector 2 Private sector 3 Voluntary, community or charity sector -9 Not applicable -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal

Table 1 continued: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
RNSSEC	Respondent: 5-item National Statistics Socio-Economic Status (NS-SEC).	1 Managerial, administrative and professional occupations 2 Intermediate occupations 3 Small employers and own account workers 4 Lower supervisory and technical occupations 5 Semi-routine and routine occupations -9 Not applicable -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
PNSSEC	Partner: 5-item National Statistics Socio-Economic Status (NS-SEC).	1 Managerial, administrative and professional occupations 2 Intermediate occupations 3 Small employers and own account workers 4 Lower supervisory and technical occupations 5 Semi-routine and routine occupations -9 Not applicable -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
RELCAT (recoded variable)	Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? (See notes on page 15 for further details about this variable).	1 Catholic 2 Protestant 3 No religion -999 Other religion/don't know/not answered	Nominal
CHATTND2	How often nowadays do you attend services or meetings connected with your religion? (Only asked if the respondent has a religion). (See notes on page 15 for further details about this variable).	1 Several times a week 2 Once a week 3 2 or 3 times a month 4 Once a month 5 Several times a year 6 Once a year 7 Less frequently 8 Never -9 Not applicable -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal

Table 1 continued: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
CAREHOME	Is there anyone living with you who is sick, disabled or older whom you look after or give special help to?	1 Yes 2 No -9 Not applicable -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
CARESEP	Do you provide some regular service or help for any sick, disabled or older relative, friend or neighbour not living with you?	1 Yes 2 No -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
ANYHCOND	Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
HCONDACT	Does your condition or illness/do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry-out day-to-day activities? (Only asked if response to ANYHCOND is 'Yes').	1 Yes, a lot 2 Yes, a little 3 Not at all -9 Not applicable -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
PINCOME	Personal income (annual).	Numeric -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Scale
HINCOME	Household income (annual).	Numeric -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Scale
KNOWCJS	How much do you know about the work of the Northern Ireland criminal justice system in general?	1 A lot 2 A fair amount 3 Not very much 4 Nothing at all -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
INFOGBV	How easy or difficult do you think it would be to get help and support if you were a victim of GBV?	1 Very easy 2 Quite easy 3 Neither easy nor difficult 4 Quite difficult 5 Very difficult -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal

Table 1 continued: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
ONLNSAFE	Do you feel safe online?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -9 Not applicable -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
HOMESAFE	Do you feel safe at home?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
DAYST	How safe would you feel walking on your own during the day in a quiet street close to your home?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
DAYBUSY	How safe would you feel walking on your own during the day in a public busy space such as a high street or train station?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
DAYPARK	How safe would you feel walking on your own during the day in a park or other open space?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
DAYTRAN	How safe would you feel using public transport on your own during the day in your local area?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
DAYSAFE (computed variable)	Number of daytime situations where respondent feels always or mostly safe.	Numeric -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Scale

Table 1 continued: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
NGTST	How safe would you feel walking on your own after dark in a quiet street close to your home?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
NGTBUSY	How safe would you feel walking on your own after dark in a public busy space such as a high street or train station?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
NGTPARK	How safe would you feel walking on your own after dark in a park or other open space?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
NGTTRAN	How safe would you feel using public transport on your own after dark in your local area?	1 Always safe 2 Mostly safe 3 Mostly unsafe 4 Always unsafe -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Ordinal
NIGHTSAFE (computed variable)	Number of nighttime situations where respondent feels always or mostly safe.	Numeric -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Scale
GBVRANK1A	If you were a victim of GBV, 1st most likely to speak to about it.	1 A close friend 2 My spouse or partner 3 Another family member 4 A charity or helpline 5 The police 6 A medical professional (e.g. a doctor or nurse) 7 A social worker 8 Other (please type in) 9 I would not feel comfortable speaking about it -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal

Table 1 continued: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
GBVRANK2A	If you were a victim of GBV, 2nd most likely to speak to about it.	1 A close friend 2 My spouse or partner 3 Another family member 4 A charity or helpline 5 The police 6 A medical professional (e.g. a doctor or nurse) 7 A social worker 8 Other (please type in) 9 I would not feel comfortable speaking about it -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
GBVRANK3A	If you were a victim of GBV, 3rd most likely to speak to about it.	1 A close friend 2 My spouse or partner 3 Another family member 4 A charity or helpline 5 The police 6 A medical professional (e.g. a doctor or nurse) 7 A social worker 8 Other (please type in) 9 I would not feel comfortable speaking about it -99 Don't know -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSSPRT	Noticed GBV public messages - Sports club/Gym/Leisure centre.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSWRK	Noticed GBV public messages – Workplace.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSCARE	Noticed GBV public messages - Café, restaurant, pub, club or disco.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSEDUC	Noticed GBV public messages - School, Further and Higher Education College or University.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal

Table 1 continued: List of variables in the NILT 2025 Teaching Dataset

Variable Name	Variable Label	Values	Measurement level
MESSREL	Noticed GBV public messages - Church/Religious community.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSPIN	Noticed GBV public messages - Public indoor space (e.g. community centres, libraries or medical centres).	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSPOUT	Noticed GBV public messages - Public outdoor space (e.g. parks, shopping areas, bus/train stops).	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSTRAN	Noticed GBV public messages - Public transport.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSONLN	Noticed GBV public messages - Online/Social media platforms.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSMED	Noticed GBV public messages - Traditional media sources (e.g. TV/radio, newspapers, magazines).	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
MESSOTH	Noticed GBV public messages – Other location.	1 Yes 2 No -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Nominal
NUMMESS (computed variable)	Number of places respondent has noticed GBV public messages.	Numeric -999 Missing/not answered/refused	Scale
WTFACTOR	Weight factor		Scale

Section 2: Technical Report Summary

This section presents a summary technical report designed to accompany the teaching dataset based on the 2025 NILT survey. For the full documentation related to the 2025 NILT survey, please consult the ARK website.

Aims and objectives

The Northern Ireland Life and Times survey was launched in 1998. Its mission is to monitor the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland annually to provide a time-series and a public record of how our attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues. The survey explores a range of topics, with some topics repeated every year (for example, Community/Good Relations) and others varying from year to year. In general, the questions are designed to be repeated in years to come.

Links with other surveys

The Northern Ireland Life and Times survey is a direct successor of the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes survey (NISA) which ran from 1989 to 1996. NISA was linked to the British Social Attitudes survey (BSA) and therefore provided a time-series of social attitudes allowing comparisons with Britain. NILT now carries on the tradition of a time-series of attitudes but has shifted the focus away from comparisons with Britain. It is largely Northern Ireland focused, it is social policy focused, and it is designed to be accessible to the wider public.

The 2025 Northern Ireland Life and Times survey received ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast, where the survey coordinator (Dr Paula Devine) is based.

Survey content

The full 2025 NILT survey consists of a number of different modules, each based on a specific topic. The complete modules included in the 2025 survey are:

- Background – including demographic and socio-economic status
- Abortion
- Artificial Intelligence

- Community safety and perceptions of paramilitary influence
- Criminal justice system
- Education
- Gender-Based Violence
- Income and poverty
- Languages
- Minority ethnic people
- Political Attitudes
- Respect

Technical details

Sampling design

The sample for the 2025 NILT survey consisted of a systematic random sample of addresses selected from the Postcode Address File (PAF) database of addresses. This is the most up-to-date and complete listing of addresses. The PAF is the most widely used sample frame for high quality social surveys in the United Kingdom (UK) and is a list of UK addresses that is maintained by the Royal Mail.

PO boxes, and where possible, non-residential addresses, and businesses were removed following the extraction of addresses. A total of 8,000 private addresses were selected for invitation. To provide a random sample of Northern Ireland households, the sample was stratified proportionately by District Council area. The Postcode Address File (PAF) provides a good sampling frame of addresses but contains no information about the number of people living at an address. Further selection stages were therefore required to convert the listing of addresses to a listing of individuals from which one person (the 'selected respondent') was chosen to complete the survey.

The person to complete the survey was randomly selected using the 'next birthday' rule. Each letter that was sent to the selected addresses clearly stated that only the person with the next birthday was eligible to complete the survey online. At the beginning of the survey, the participant also had to confirm that they were the person within the household with the next birthday.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ipsos UK using an online questionnaire. However, respondents could also request to complete the survey via a telephone interview if they preferred. The fieldwork comprised two phases: a pilot phase followed by the mainstage fieldwork. The purpose of the pilot was to assess the reliability and accuracy of the questionnaire and the script, and to allow for any changes to be made ahead of the mainstage fieldwork. Question wording and understanding were tested, along with any routing and filtering.

The majority (97%) of the total survey responses were completed online, with 3% being completed by phone. Data collection was conducted between 26 September 2025 and 14 December 2025. On average, it took participants 51 minutes to complete the survey. Respondents were offered a £15 Love2shop voucher as a thank you for taking part.

Weighting

As is common practice for a survey of this nature, the data are weighted to ensure representation of the general population of Northern Ireland. Weighting is the process of correcting for sample differences by increasing the relative importance (or weight) of underrepresented groups and decreasing the importance of overrepresented groups (where over/under representation is determined by comparing to a target). A weighting variable WTFACTOR was computed based on age, gender and location, using 2021 Census of Population data.

Please note that all analyses using the 2025 NILT teaching dataset should be weighted using the WTFACTOR variable in order to allow for disproportionate household size. The only exceptions are the few household variables (for example, tenure and household income), which do not need to be weighted.

Variable construction in the teaching dataset

Social class construction

Occupational information was derived using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2020. The SOC2020 information was also used to derive the 5-item National Statistics Socio- Economic (NS SEC) variable *for the respondent* and *for their spouse/partner.*

Categorisation of religion

The original RELIGION2 variable has been removed from the teaching dataset in order to protect anonymity of respondents. This has been replaced by the RELCAT variable which provides a 3-way classification of religion. The Protestant category within the RELCAT variable was created by grouping together the following denominations:

- Presbyterian
- Church of Ireland
- Methodist
- Baptist
- Free Presbyterian
- Brethren
- Other Protestant

Other categories within the original RELIGION2 variable (e.g., Other Christian, Hindu, Islam, Other, Don't know, Prefer not to say) are set to missing, as the number of respondents in each category is too small to allow for meaningful analysis.

The question on religious practice (CHATTND2) was asked of all respondents who identified with a religion (RELIGION2). Thus, the variable CHATTND2 includes respondents who identified with Other Christian, Hindu, Islam and Other, which are set to missing in the RELCAT variable. This means the number of valid responses to CHATTND2 will be higher than the number of valid responses to RELCAT.

Sampling errors and confidence intervals

Table 2 presents the sampling errors and confidence intervals at the 95% confidence level relating to a Systematic Random Sample design as used in the survey. Note that the margin of error for all sample estimates is within the parameters of + 2.7%.

Table 2: Sampling errors and confidence intervals for key variables (unweighted)

		%	Margin of Error	95% Confidence limits
Age	18 – 24	5.1	1.2	3.9 – 6.3
	25 – 34	15.8	2.0	13.8 – 17.8
	35 – 44	18.4	2.1	16.2 – 20.6
	45 – 54	17.8	2.1	15.7 – 19.9
	55 – 64	17.5	2.1	15.4 – 19.6
	65 and over	25.0	2.4	22.6 – 27.4
Sex	Male	42.3	2.7	39.6 – 45.0
	Female	57.4	2.7	54.7 – 60.1
	In another way/prefer not to say	0.3	0.3	0.0 – 0.6
Marital status	Single	29.2	2.5	26.7 – 31.7
	Married/Civil partnership	51.8	2.8	49.0 – 54.6
	Separated	4.0	1.1	2.9 – 5.1
	Divorced	7.7	1.5	6.1 – 9.2
	Widowed	5.0	1.2	3.8 – 6.2
Religion	Catholic	30.2	2.6	27.6 – 32.8
	Protestant	39.1	2.7	36.4 – 41.8
	No religion	25.2	2.4	22.8 – 27.6
	Other religion/answer	5.5	1.2	4.2 – 6.8

ARK website: www.ark.ac.uk
NILT survey website: www.ark.ac.uk/nilt

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