



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **HOME AFFAIRS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE REPORT - RECOGNITION OF MALE VICTIMS SUPPORTED BUT DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH ON LACK OF SUPPORT**

The ManKind Initiative, a national charity that supports male domestic violence victims has responded to the report (Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and “Honour”-Based Violence) published today by the Home Affairs Committee.

**Mark Brooks, Chairman of The ManKind Initiative, said:**

“While we welcome the Committee’s recognition of male victims of domestic violence, in a number of areas their report has not treated female and male victims equally and has failed to emphasise that local authorities and the police must meet the needs of both genders.

“Specifically, it has suggested that as an alternative to male refuges, another form of support could include a means-tested grant for accommodation. This is unacceptable as rightly, means-testing, would not be suggested for female victims.

“In addition, it wants the Equality and Human Rights Commission to publish an annual report on councils on their range of domestic violence services but does not emphasise that this must include services for men. It also makes no mention of the lack of programmes aimed at tackling female perpetrators of domestic violence.”

British Crime Survey Statistics and available support for male victims can be found in Appendix 1

#### Relevant Committee Report Recommendations

(9) Page 137 – Recognition of male victims

(56) Page 144 – Alternative support and means-testing

(101) Page 151 – Equalities and Human Rights Commission

The ManKind Initiative, based in Taunton, Somerset, believes that domestic abuse should be treated as gender neutral in that specific services and help should be available for both female and male victims. The charity runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims.

**ENDS**

#### Notes to Editors

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07985 566827 – [mark.brooks70@talktalk.net](mailto:mark.brooks70@talktalk.net)

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Patrons – Lord Cotter, Erin Pizzey, John Penrose MP (SW Branch) and Paul Rowen MP (NW Branch)

## **APPENDIX 1**

### Facts On Male Victims

The British Crime Survey states:-

- (1) Two in every five domestic abuse victims per year are men (2006/07 - 4.3% men and 5.6% women).
- (2) Practically the same percentage of men as women was a victim of severe force in a relationship (2006/07 - 1.7% men and 1.8% women).
- (3) One in every four domestic abuse incidents is against a man.
- (4) One in six men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime. As 1 in 4 women will also be a victim, then the ratio is 40%:60%

#### **Sources**

(1), (2) - 2006/07 British Crime Survey: Intimate Violence (page 80) – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2008  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf>

(3) - 2006/07 British Crime Survey: General  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107.pdf>

(4) - Walby, S. and Allen, J. (2004) *Domestic Violence, sexual assault and stalking : Findings from the British Crime Survey*. Home Office Research Study No. 276. London : Home Office

### Help-line and Services

- (1) There are six refuges with dedicated space for men in the UK (one is specifically for gay men), there are 500 for women.

There are five small charities/organisations in the UK offering specialist support and help-line services for male victims.