



SUPPORTING MALE DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**CRIME STATISTICS ARE WAKE UP CALL  
ON THE PLIGHT OF MALE DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS  
1.7% of men and 1.8% of women are victims of severe partner abuse**

Analysis conducted by The ManKind Initiative (a charity supporting male victims of domestic abuse) of the latest Home Office intimate violence statistics<sup>1</sup> shows that men are as likely to be a victim of severe force in a relationship as women. As male victims receive little support or information from the Government and other state agencies (police, local government and the health service), the charity believes the plight of male victims can no longer be ignored.

**Mark Brooks, Chairman of The ManKind Initiative, states:** "The figures in these latest statistics show there is a clear mismatch between the proportions of men and women who are victims of severe force within a relationship and the help available to them.

"Support for men is 35 years behind the support available for women and the Government can no longer continue to turn a blind eye to the plight of male victims. The figures are a wake-up call, especially when they are the Government's own figures.

“For far too long domestic abuse has been seen by the Government, local authorities and the police as only a problem that affects female victims, when in truth, it is a social and family problem where both men and women can be victims. ”

The 2006/07 British Crime Survey statistics on intimate violence, issued by The Home Office, report that in that year 4.3% of men and 5.6% of women were victims of domestic abuse (ratio of 43.4%:56.5%). This concurs with the commonly used Home Office statistics<sup>2</sup> which highlight that 1 in 6 men and 1 in 4 women will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime (ratio of 40%:60%).

In addition, 1.7% of men and 1.8% of women were victims of ‘severe force’ (ratio of 48.6%:51.4%) in 2006/07.

**Table 1: Prevalence of intimate violence among adults (aged 16 – 59) in the following years:-**

	Men			Women		
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
<b>Partner Abuse (non sexual)</b>	4.1%	4.0%	4.3%	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%
<b>Partner Abuse (non sexual - severe force)</b>	1.6%	1.3%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%

### Lack of services for male victims

There are only two organisations (The ManKind Initiative and MALE Advice Line) that offer specialist support for male victims and these are very small and find it difficult to attract funding. Funding for The ManKind Initiative’s helpline runs out at the end of March 2008.

Whilst there are over 470 refuges available to women but there are no dedicated refuges for heterosexual men and only one for homosexual men. There are only approximately twelve rooms available for heterosexual men nationwide in the 470 refuges and these are only available when there are no female occupants. These places are dependent on the goodwill of those who run the refuges.

The first ever female refuge opened in 1971, hence support for men is at least 35 years behind, as there are no refuges for men.

The Home Office provide local authorities with £60 million per year in financial support for women at risk of domestic violence under the Supporting People Initiative. This funding does not support men and local authorities cannot bid for money from this fund to support men at risk of domestic violence. From 2008/09, it is believed that this funding will no longer be kept in a ring-fenced fund and will be given to local authorities as part of their core grant.

## **ENDS**

### Notes to Editors

- 1 Source : Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006/07 (Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2006/07) Povey et al. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 03/08, 31 January 2008.
- 2 See <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/domestic-violence/> - 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will suffer domestic violence in their lifetime.

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