



Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT

[chairman@mankind.org.uk](mailto:chairman@mankind.org.uk) : [www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893

Honorary Patrons – Lord Cotter, Liz Lynne MEP, Ian McNicholl, John Penrose MP and Erin Pizzey

---

## **Report on False Allegations to the ManKind Initiative Helpline**

### **(1) Background**

This short report will highlight the data that the ManKind Initiative received during 2009 from male callers (69 completed questionnaires) who through contacting the domestic abuse helpline complained that the female of the perpetrator of the domestic abuse they were suffering from would or did make a false allegation against them.

These false allegations were based on alleging that the male victim was actually the person committing the domestic abuse, when in fact the male callers contended that this was both not true and was actually a method used by the female to hide the fact that she was the perpetrator.

False allegations, or the threat of false allegations, are a form of domestic abuse/violence, under the Home Office definition of domestic abuse/violence:

Domestic violence is any threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship, or between family members. It can affect anybody, regardless of their gender or sexuality. The violence can be psychological, physical, sexual or emotional. .

It is rightly contended that domestic abuse is form of power and control exhibited by one adult over another where both have been or are in a relationship.

There are four types of false allegations of domestic abuse made by female perpetrators of domestic abuse:

- (1) Calling or reporting to the police (or any other statutory agency) that they have been a victim of domestic abuse by their male partner, when in fact, the male has been the victim and they the perpetrator.
- (2) Threatening to call or report to the police that they have been a victim. This is a psychological form of control.
- (3) When the male victim has contacted a statutory agency (for example, the police) and the statutory agency investigates, a counter allegation is then made. Often along with the claim that the female perpetrators was 'defending herself' so that is why he has a bruise.
- (4) Calling or reporting to the police (or any other statutory agency) that they have been a victim of domestic abuse by their male partner, when no such incident(s) have taken place.

This is a weapon that is known to be used particularly in family court disputes, where during custody negotiations it can be brought up in the family court (when it has never been reported to the police, court or CAFCASS until the family court is in session) as a way of influencing any custody decisions made by magistrates and judges. These false allegations are devastating and are not uncommon. Further detail can be sought from charity, Families Need Fathers.

Due to the policy of the police to actively make an arrest in a domestic abuse incident, there still remains a tendency for the police to take the word of the female over the male unless it is obviously not true. Female perpetrators know this and as one caller stated in 2009:

“She often said she was going to call the police if I told anyone and even on occasions picked up the phone and started ringing 999, often pressing two 9’s and then hovering her finger over the last digit. She said, the police would never believe me if I reported her.”

The power of the false allegation is a real power and it is used by many of those who are female perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In addition, as the gender establishment’s view is that domestic abuse is a gendered crime which percolates through to the training statutory agencies often receive, this also gives the power of the false allegation.

Viewing domestic abuse as a gendered crime and not a crime against an individual is a position that bears no merit and is the antithesis of equality.

The ManKind Initiative wrote in June 2010 to the Kenneth Clarke QC MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, asking him to stand firm in his proposals to extend anonymity to defendants in rape cases. This is also a form of domestic abuse and although it is not common for this issue to be raised on the helpline, the naming of rape defendant further adds to the power of the false allegation and by ensuring anonymity, it thereby reduces its power.

*The calls that the ManKind Initiative receives are, in the majority, calls from men in heterosexual relationships. Those in same-sex relationships that contact the charity are signposted to Broken Rainbow, who specialise in this area.*

---

## **(2) Statistics (2009)**

The ManKind Initiative has been running a helpline for male victims for nearly ten years, firstly as a voluntary helpline and for the past five years it has been managed and operated professionally.

When male victims call the charity, a questionnaire is used to by the helpline to guide the caller through open up and talk about the problems they face.

Although the charity received over 600 calls during 2009, questionnaires are often not successfully filled in either the appropriate information has been given to the caller before the questionnaire can be completed or it is simply not appropriate to ask the caller particular questions.

Of those men that contacted the charity by telephone and a questionnaire was successfully completed (69 surveys) in 2009 (calendar year), the following results were produced:

- (1) The average length of time that the male had suffered domestic abuse was five years with 52% suffering daily. The average of victims was 43 and the female perpetrator, 41.
- (2) 56% of male victims had been threatened by the female perpetrator that she would make a false allegation to the police if his suffering was ever revealed.
- (3) The police had been involved in 72% of the cases and of those 72% where the police had been involved, 67% had said their wife/partner had made false allegations to the police.

As the statistics clearly show, false allegations from part of the domestic abuse crimes that male victims face. Often men will be faced with a range of crimes and false allegations are but one.

For example, of those in 2009:

- (4) 90% had suffered violence, 98% had suffered verbal abuse, 64% had been stopped from seeing friends and family and 30% stalked.

In conclusion, false allegations are a powerful weapon used by female perpetrators of domestic abuse and the experience that the charity has in supporting male victims has shown this is a real and live problem.

Produced by Mark Brooks, Chairman, The ManKind Initiative (12 September 2010)