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Mr Dominic Raab MP
House of Commons
London
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30th January 2011

Dear Mr Raab MP

Ref - Equality and male victims of domestic abuse

As Chairman of a national charity that supports male victims of domestic abuse across the UK I am writing to thank you for raising the issue about discrimination against men and that men get a raw deal.

In the sector that our charity works within, we see institutional discrimination in many forms.

At a public policy level, the coalition government has continued with the view that domestic abuse is a gendered crime rather than a crime against an individual. The consequences of this view can be seen in the government's decision to continue to place domestic abuse policy and action under an umbrella strategy called Ending Violence against Women and Girls. Of course, we support ending violence against women and girls but we also we also support ending violence against men and boys.

The consequence has been that the government has continued to ignore the needs of heterosexual and gay male victims of domestic abuse and its policies and initiatives are only concerning female victims. This is a conscious decision. Two examples can be seen by an anti-domestic abuse Christmas campaign run by the Home Office, which failed to mention male victims. The Ministry of Justice's Equal Treatment Bench Book is another case where male victims are barely recognised – an issue we have raised with the government.

At a local level, if you are a male victim (one in six men will be in their lifetime and for every three victims of domestic abuse – two will be female and one will be male) there are very few services or information available. We also continue to receive calls on our helpline where men feel they have not been treated fairly by a council or the police, in a way they would have rightly been treated if they were a female victim.

Thank you once again for raising the issue about men and male discrimination, as well as standing firm when others may have buckled. For far too long politicians have been silent on these issues.

Yours sincerely

Mark Brooks
Chairman
The ManKind Initiative
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