

Press Release

22 February 2018

## **New domestic abuse Sentencing Guidelines welcomed especially on gender stereotypes and court orders**

Following the Sentencing Council's announcement today of new sentencing guidelines for those convicted of domestic abuse, **Mark Brooks, Chair of the ManKind Initiative, a national charity supporting male victims, said:**

"The new guidelines are a clear step in the right direction in reflecting the seriousness of domestic abuse and the additional psychological effect and impact it has when it is someone you personally trust who is committing this terrible crime.

"Recently we have seen light sentences that have not truly reflected the long lasting damage that domestic abuse causes so these guidelines will go some way in redressing this for the future. Often victims never start up any other relationships because of the lifelong psychological damage and fear of never trusting anyone again that this can cause.

"We are particularly pleased that the guidelines make clear that the gender of the victim should **not be taken into account** and that gender stereotypes should not play a part in sentencing. The former was considered in the draft guidelines. We made clear that this would mean that both male and female victims and perpetrators would not be viewed equally when it came to sentencing.

"Taking into account the aggravating factor regarding the disobedience of court orders is a vital new piece of guidance if it starts to include the continual and wilful breach of child arrangement orders issued by the family courts. This pernicious form of domestic abuse must be taken into account and is an important step in formally recognising parental alienation as a domestic abuse crime – which it clearly is."

## Ends

### Notes to Editors

The Sentencing Council's Guidelines can be found [here](#) alongside the Council's [response](#) to the Consultation's they received. The ManKind Initiative's original consultation response can be found [here](#).

### About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative ([www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)), is a national charity which runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. It receives 1,800 calls every year from men s (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers and sisters seeking help). It created the award winning #violenceisviolence social experiment highlight society's double standards when it comes to domestic abuse against men:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3PgH86OyEM>

### Statistics

- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 26% of women and 15% of men aged 16 to 59 had experienced some form of domestic abuse since the age of 16, equivalent to an estimated 4.3 million female and 2.4 million male victims, according to the year ending March 2017 CSEW.
- An estimated 7.5% of women (1.2 million) and 4.3% of men (713,000) experienced domestic abuse in the last year.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2nXfpTC>

### Further Information

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357 or [chairman@mankind.org.uk](mailto:chairman@mankind.org.uk)

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