

# Examining Issues Surrounding Public Attitudes and Awareness in Relation to Domestic Violence Against Males

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## Disclaimer

I confirm that this research is entirely my own. All names and identities have been removed to ensure confidentiality at all times, including from the consent correspondence. All sources of information used have been appropriately referenced throughout.

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### List of Abbreviations

BERA – British Educational Research Association

DV – Domestic Violence

FoI – Freedom of Information

MIC – ManKind Initiative Chairman

VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls

## Abstract

It can be suggested that the issue of female-male domestic violence is a topic area which is often skimmed over by the vast majority of people in the UK. Issues surrounding the lack of provision, stereotypical views of men, feminism and the treatment of male victims by wider societal institutions such as the Government and police have all impacted upon the collective views of the public. In addition to this socialisation was taken into consideration in relation to how the public form their views and morals, with much literature surrounding the socialisation process. This study found that within a small sample, most of the participants felt negatively towards the treatment of a male actor, when presented with a male DV awareness video which entailed two set-up DV scenarios. This video formed the basis for the questionnaires used, which found that many participants found the abuse of the man unacceptable, however within the study it is argued that this could have based on socially acceptable answers. The issue of female-male DV is considered to still be an issue within society, which needs to be addressed from the basic level of the Government, with the re-defining of current legislation or creating new legislation which does not encompass men and boys within the female Violence Against Women and Girls legislation. Lastly, findings suggest that more action needs to be taken to change society's views and perceptions, as this research found that individuals still hold men as the default perpetrator in their minds, with most being emotionally affected by the video watched which gave a real-life example of female-male DV.

## Literature Review

### Defining Domestic Violence

Domestic violence (DV) against males is often overlooked in today's society (Moss, 2014). Issues such as provision of services, attitudes and treatment by the police and public all have the potential to create barriers for male victims to come forward and get the help that they need. The Home Office (2013) define domestic violence (DV) as any pattern of threatening, coercive and controlling behaviour, and can affect anyone, regardless of gender and sexuality. DV is most likely to be carried out by intimate partners and family members. The most common forms of abuse are psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional, although this is not an exhaustive list. The definition provided by Women's Aid (2015) defines DV in the same terms as mentioned above, it concludes the definition with the statement that the majority of cases of DV are experienced by women and perpetrated by men. Another definition, provided by Refuge (2016) offers a definition focused around men being the perpetrators. For example Refuge's (2016) conclusion is solely focused on men being perpetrators, "It continues because men are allowed to get away with it".

According to McNeely, Cook and Torres (2008) DV like all violence, is a human issue, not a gendered issue. They argue that in DV relations, women are just as inclined to engage in physically abusive acts towards their partner. Although, many reports in the press and scholarly journals, frame the issue as a form of masculine assaultive behaviour which embeds a false and inaccurate view of the problem into national consciousness. The research by McNeely *et al.* (2008) found that the popular view of DV not only contributes to the increasing legal and social defenselessness of male victims, but also seeps in to social policy which obstructs efforts of successfully address the problem of female-male DV. Hine (2017) has repeatedly argued that more needs to be done to challenge the societal and political narrative which portrays women as the sole victims of domestic violence. He goes on to state that whilst the Government website definition provides gender neutral language, their legislation does not. Hine (2017) makes reference to the 'Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)' legislation (Home Office, 2016b), which is frequently referred to in reports about domestic and sexual violence. Hine (2017) affirmed that this not only undermines the experiences and needs of male victims,

the prejudice is often found elsewhere through the inequality of funding for male refuges or support services.

### Provision of Services

In addition to male victims of DV experiencing stigma, barriers and lack of recognition, there is also a nationwide issue of little or no provision of services in many areas (Baker-Jordan, 2017). There appears to be a disproportionate amount of refuge beds available throughout England and Wales, with Hackett (2010) reporting that there are currently 7,500 beds available for women and children, with only 32 beds available for purely male victims, despite the fact that 40% of victims of DV are men (ManKind Initiative, 2015c).

Fogg (2008) noted the total absence of support services for male victims. He went on to state that despite the lack of support and refuge space for male victims, there are multiple support services for males whom seek to address their abusive behaviour, with every town having support services ranging from self-help groups to treatment programmes. Fogg (2008) also found that after having researched the help available to male aggressors, there is no service equal to this type of service which focuses solely on women, not a single one. ManKind Initiative (2015a) stated that although 500,000 men suffer from partner abuse every year, there are only 19 organisations that offer refuge or safe house provision in the UK. Of these, there are only 32 of 78 bed spaces available to male victims of DV, the other remaining spaces are reserved for either gender. ManKind Initiative (2015a) go on to state that the proportion of available refuge for male victims amounts to a considerable shortage. Further to this, all Governmental reference to refuge provision relates solely to women. This could place local authorities at risk of breaching Sections 185 and 186 of the Housing Act (HM Government, 1996) and the Equality Act (HM Government, 2010). Despite ManKind Initiative (2015a) campaigning for more funding for men's refuge provision, they do not believe that any funding should be taken away from women's services, they believe that funding should be available equally throughout the DV sector.



## Historical Context, Feminism and Portrayal of Men

According to Garratt (2012) the history of domestic violence is often conflated with patriarchal society, with the view that men are always the perpetrators of domestic violence. It is argued that this dates back to earlier periods where women were seen to be subordinate to men in the home and had fewer rights. An article by George (2002) examined the historical laws surrounding domestic violence, looking at 'common law' in particular. He was expecting to find the much reported 'legal backing' for men to beat their wives. He instead found that contrary to popular belief, there were laws in place dating as far back as the 11<sup>th</sup> century that punished men for physically harming their wives. George (2002) went on to state that not only were men subject to public humiliation, in the form of riding backwards on a donkey through the streets, there were also harsh prison sentences and public floggings during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Garratt (2012) argued that based on historical myths surrounding public and legal support of men abusing women, in reality there have always been laws against men committing these types of offences.

Garratt (2012) found that perceptions of domestic violence became more publicised during the 1970's following the rise of feminism, which led to an increase of concentration on justice regarding violence against women. In the 1970s, the works of Steinmetz (1978) endured a disturbing backlash amongst the feminist movement. Her work highlighted that males could also be victims of domestic violence, something which was not received well. Kelly (2003) explained that Steinmetz (1978) faced many threats of verbal abuse, followed by more extreme bomb threats and many efforts were made to remove her from her academic posts. According to Kelly (2003) many other researchers were deterred from entering this field of research in fear of a violent backlash.

## Primary and Secondary Socialisation

According to Hogg and Reid (2006) an individual's beliefs are generally formed through the socialisation process. This process includes agents of socialisation such as families, education systems and the mass media. Fearon (1999) found that individuals develop ideas about their similarities and differences from others by learning about societal values and beliefs. These include roles, social statuses and behaviours. Manning (2011) discussed this in relation to negative primary

socialisation. Manning (2011) argued that as families are the first agent of socialisation, a negative environment can perpetuate negative opinions and beliefs.

According to Katz (2003) men are subject to a particular set of societal pressures via the media, whilst also being subject to expectations in society. He argued that whilst women do face pressure to fit the feminine norms characterised by the media, such as physical beauty, submissiveness and delicate demeanour, men face messages outlining characteristics that they must possess to in order to be considered a 'real man'. The notion of masculinity is often defined by having physical toughness, control, and an aggressive force such as glamorised representations for role models such as athletes, movie stars and advocates of war (Katz, 2003).

Houston (2014) suggested that patriarchy is the act of dominance towards females by males. In its most simple form, patriarchy relies on force for its maintenance. According to Houston (2014) rape is one type of this force, domestic violence is another. Houston (2014) also stated that as women have been under patriarchal rule for so long, many women have started to think like men, often blaming other women for their behaviour by 'asking for it'. Houston (2014) argued this in relation to rape cases, which she argued was just one patriarchal tool used by men to control women. Further to this, MacKinnon (1983) suggested that women are living under a 'false consciousness', with women not being able to recognise that men raping and beating their wives and girlfriends is another aspect of patriarchal behaviour which is imposed upon them. Ally Fogg (2008), an established writer in the DV arena, shared his views of patriarchy in relation to DV cases where the victim is female. He argued that research has consistently shown that there has been fewer than a quarter of cases whereby the male perpetrator was shown to have been exerting 'patriarchal' power over a female partner. However, despite this, the definitions available today still use patriarchy as a reason why men commit DV against females.

### Gender Stereotyping

Brannon (2004) defined gender stereotyping as a set of beliefs about the traits, characteristics and activities appropriate to men or women. In addition, Brannon (2004) argued that gender roles are inherently different from gender stereotypes, in so much as gender stereotypes tend to be based on an individual's beliefs and attitudes, whereas a gender role is defined by behaviour. However, Brannon (2004)

does state that individuals may associate behaviour by attributing it to either men or women, which in turn creates influential conceptualisations of gender, which can be very powerful. Therefore, it must be considered what effect this has upon male victims of DV, with many negative associations begin made toward men as being perpetrators.

In addition to the socialisation process, Hine (2017) suggested that in order to understand where stereotypes come from in relation to DV, firstly the understanding of the social world must be taken into account. The views held by members of society are formed through the process of social cognition, this allows an understanding of the social world, which is usually achieved subconsciously. Hine (2017) discussed the ways in which over a lifetime, members of society continually absorb knowledge about the way society operates, which inevitably contribute to the formation of 'schemas', a concept first discussed by Piaget and Cook (1952) in relation to child development. According to Hine (2017) the most fundamental 'schema' is the understanding of gender, with the associated characteristics of men and women, or masculinity and femininity. This notion was argued by Bem (1981) whom stated that it is easy to see why people see men being the perpetrators and not the victims of DV.

### Feminism, Language and Disposable Men

Dutton and Nicholls (2005) found that the feminist paradigm was originally intended to generate social change following the perceived imbalance against women. They argued that the result however has misdirected social and legal policy, whilst also misinforming custody assessors, police and judges to disregard data which contradicts their theory of men and the 'patriarchy'. Lambert (2015) discussed the feminist approach to female violence in relation to DV, arguing that feminists strongly believe that women purely act in self-defence. However, as Miller, Gregory and Iovanni (2005) stated, this is speculative with no evidence to back up this theory. Feminist writers, such as Freda Alder (Jones, 2006), suggested that the reason for an increase in female perpetrators was because of female emancipation. The notion of female emancipation is based around the notion of women becoming freer in society which enabled them to act like men. However, Dagnall (2006) questions the logic used behind this theory, with questions surrounding the rise in crimes rates.

Dagnall (2006) stated that if these theories are valid, then female crime rates should have risen in line with male crimes rates since the women's movement became more influential in the 1960's. However, this argument does not fully address the issues surrounding the idea of female emancipation.

As feminism has gained pace over the past 20 years, so has the negative portrayal of men (Devon, 2014). Revisiting the notion of socialisation, feminism has become more prominent in everyday life, such as the media, schools, college and work. Bell (2015) argued that feminism has infiltrated classrooms across the nation, with an overwhelming emphasis on an ideological world view which treats young boys as future perpetrators and abusers whilst also ignoring the fact that young boys and men are also the victims of violence, both physically and sexually. In addition to this, throughout history men have always been portrayed as being disposable, this is evident when examining war and disasters which require evacuation. Men have been socialised to become self-sacrificial toward women, be it through the act of protection, being the breadwinner so that women can stay at home with children and being deployed on the front line to fight for their country (Farrell, 1993).

The notion of 'disposable' men originated in the works of Farrell (1993) whom discussed the ways in which males undervalue their own lives in order to protect and provide. This is evident when Farrell (1993) discussed the ways in which males make up 99% of the workers in the world's most dangerous jobs, with the Health and Safety Executive (2016) finding that in the UK between the years 2015-16, males made up 97% of deaths within the workplace, with two men a week dying at work.

Further to this, Farrell (1993) also stated that women are perceived as the valuable gender, who need to be protected and preserved at all costs, especially in evolutionary terms, while men are thought of as being disposable. He argued that men work as 'unpaid bodyguards' for the women in their lives, by being expected to protect women in their vicinity if trouble arises. Another example, albeit from America, highlights the fact that every single male in America since 1971 has to register for draft. However, as Frantzen (2016) argued, women have not rushed to sign up to the military following the acceptance of women into frontline combat, in order to ensure equal opportunity within the workplace. This is evident when looking

at the statistics, only 14.6% of the military in the US are women (Statistic Brain, 2016).

A study carried out by FeldmanHall, Dalgleish, Evans, Navrady, Tedeschi and Mobbs (2016) discussed the occurrence of gender bias in society today, with participants more likely to sacrifice a man than a woman, whilst also finding this morally acceptable. Their study consisted of 350 participants, of which were subjected to the 'trolley dilemma' case, FeldmanHall *et al.* (2016) suggested that because of chivalrous behaviour norms in society, females found it more acceptable to harm a male. In addition to the 'trolley dilemma' a self-interest test was also carried out. This found that women were more likely to harm a male for their own self-gain. Participants were given £20 during the experiment, however they had to decide whether to keep it or return it. If they kept it they would receive ten times the amount (FeldmanHall *et al.*, 2016). There was a catch however, the experiment involved electric shocks, which involved other people receiving the shocks if they decided to keep the money. The study concluded that women were less likely to keep the money when presented with a female receiving the electric shocks. Social norms and perceptions of women and men are still a determining factor when it comes to moral choices, with a gender bias towards the harm, or disposability of males and the notion of harming females unacceptable (FeldmanHall *et al.*, 2016).

### Females as Perpetrators

DV is not a gendered crime, which means that women are just as capable of committing DV, just as much as they are also victims. Research by Correy, Fiebert and Pizzey (2002) has shown that women whom commit DV often have several risk factors which will determine whether or not they have a higher chance of being perpetrators. Corry *et al.* (2002) defined ten different archetypes of women which are predictive of such violent behaviour. These include women whom have eating disorders, drug and alcohol problems, mental health conditions and having been abused as a child, however this is just an example of the list offered by Corry *et al.* (2002).

The term 'violence prone' was first recognised by Pizzey and Shapiro (1982). A feminist herself, Pizzey, and Shapiro's (1982) writings were censored for 20 years, their writings asserted the equal culpability between male and females with the issue of DV, however this was not received well amongst other feminists, which is why the book came to be censored (Ross, 1997). Pizzey was responsible for the opening of the first 'battered women' shelter in 1971 (Pizzey, 2014) and also the founder of what is now known as 'Refuge' (Ross, 1997). The book by Pizzey and Shapiro (1982) suggested that 62 of the first 100 females whom fled their partners and husbands to the shelter were as violent as the men from which they had fled. Further to this, research by McLeod (1984) examined the use of weapons in DV situations. He found that in combat 80% of women will use weapons to 'make up for their size' when they seriously assaulted their mates. He also suggests that men will often not retaliate as men are raised to not hit a woman, regardless if they experience the fight or flight paradox. The notion of self-defence is not always an option for males at the hands of females as McLeod (1984) found, a male will most certainly be arrested under current laws and practice if he uses forcible restraint or retaliation.

A study by Fiebert and Gonzalez (1997) examined the reasons that women gave for assaulting their partners. Of the respondents, 46% gave the reason that their partner was not being sensitive to their needs, 43% stated they assaulted their partners because they were not listening and 44% stated it was to gain their partner's attention. These replies indicate that women do not always assault in 'self-defence' instead the reasons given do not justify the use of physical assault. This implies that women commit DV for the same reason as men are reported to, for control of the relationship. The respondents to this study also offered their commonly held beliefs. They stated that they assault their partners because they believed that men can protect themselves, with respondents stating that they did not fear retaliation because most men 'are trained not to hit a woman' (Fiebert and Gonzalez, 1997).

### Under-reporting of Abuse

There is a sizeable issue with the under reporting of abuse by male victims, which occurs for a number of reasons. An article written by Scarff (2008) noted that one in six men will experience abuse in their lifetime. Taking this into consideration, Scarff (2008) discussed the issue of stigma felt by male victims, whilst also examining the

impact of being a male victim in terms of self-worth and emotional well-being. Scarff (2008) highlighted that whilst female domestic violence victims may find it easier to open up and tell someone about their abuse, many male victims feel isolated and often do not have the same levels of social networks as females do in general. Further to this, male victims experience barriers when trying to access emergency accommodation. There is currently a requirement from local authorities that homeless male victims of DV provide evidence of their abuse. Whereas female victims will often have little or no barriers when accessing emergency accommodation (Scarff, 2008).

In reference to stigma, an article by Maeland (2016) argued that male victims fear not being believed if they were to seek help. Maeland (2016) stated that after a survey of male victim's experiences, many men felt shame for being victims because of an innate and societal idea of what men are supposed to be. This, combined with society's view that men are physically stronger than women and that women's violence cannot be very serious, create a narrow minded view of female-male DV (Maeland, 2016). Maeland (2016) argued that in portraying women this way, society will view them as incapable of carrying out actions that society consider unacceptable toward a woman. However, Maeland (2016) argued that regardless of your gender, there is something which is universally human that comes to light when individuals are exposed to violence from an intimate partner. Maeland (2016) concluded that some male victims are afraid to defend themselves in fear of being accused of being the perpetrator, with this being used against them.

An additional study by McCarrick (2016) found that male victims of DV are frequently arrested under false allegations with their disclosures of victimisation being dismissed by the police and criminal justice system. Following interviews with male victims of DV, McCarrick (2016) discovered that men often find themselves being arrested although they have been the party to make the initial call to the police. McCarrick (2016) argued that as research has shown, men find it increasingly difficult to talk of their personal experiences with DV because of the ingrained societal sense of shame and emasculation. She concluded that society needs to do more to understand the emotional experiences of male victims, to create a gender balanced perspective of DV.

## Modern Law and Legislation

The introduction of 'Clare's Law', a domestic violence disclosure scheme, has introduced a clear gender bias in relation to how the Government views the perpetrators and victims of domestic violence. Strickland (2013) put forward the paper for Government piloting, which included gaining feedback from national domestic violence charities. When examining the paper, it can be seen that the language used is gender biased, with no mention of men being victims throughout. The law has since been passed (Home Office, 2016a) and is in fact intended for use by both genders, however in the available literature, there is no mention of this vital fact. One recommendation, taken from the pilot paper (Strickland, 2013), highlights the clear bias toward women, it states "This Review recommends that the law be changed to permit the registration and 'tracking' of serial perpetrators of violence against women and girls".

ManKind Initiative (2015b) released a response paper, aimed at publicising the fact that Clare's Law can be used by both male and female partners. The charity raised concerns with the wording within the document and had particular concerns with the name itself, with the potential for men to think that the scheme is not available to them. Within the paper, ManKind Initiative (2015b) highlight the importance of domestic abuse professionals and local police and crime commissioners fully understanding that this disclosure scheme is available to everybody. The charity is already worried that the scheme is being underused by men, with research carried out by freedom of information requests to police forces, showing that only 1 in 24 men access the scheme, despite the fact that 1 in 5 DV victims whom have reported to these same police forces, being men. This indicates that the scheme is not being used by men whom clearly have a need to do so.

Further to the introduction of Clare's Law, or the National Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, there is also the issue with the bias in relation to further strategies within the Government. Hidden amongst the current legislation is the fact that the Government records incidents of DV against men under the same legislation which is meant for 'Women and Girls' (Home Office, 2016). This essentially skews the data in favour of women in relation to the statistics available for DV against women



and girls. Fogg (2016) highlights this in an article, with his main concerns focusing around the lack of gender-inclusive legislation from the Government.

Fogg (2016) defined the VAWG legislation, as its name does not necessarily portray its actual meaning. Fogg (2016) found that the crimes actually recorded under this name are not crimes that were committed to solely women and girls, but instead the crimes which were recorded are a subset of criminal offences which have been put into a category which states that these types of crimes are only committed against women and girls. Fogg (2016) also found that issues of gender and sexuality are often central to the trauma and recovery of the victims, with many feeling that the legislation does not recognise men and boys as being victims of this type of abuse, therefore many experience a sense of emasculation and isolation. Fogg (2016) also found that because of the categorisation of male victims, there is often a lack of reliable data, which then affects the process of applying for funding, support and donation, putting male victims at further disadvantage (Lambert, 2015). Baker-Jordan (2017) added that many male victims are being failed by the system, with many men being advised to contact female support services, adding another aspect of embarrassment and emasculation.

### Primary Aggressor

According to a study by Dutton and Nicholls (2005) women are more likely to call the police when involved with domestic violence, with Stets and Straus (1992) also stating that women are 10 times more likely to call the police following a DV incident. However, whether women are perpetrators or not, the male will often be arrested first, in line with 'positive action' police arrest procedures (College of Policing, 2017). Akbar (2015) argued that these arrest procedures contribute to the stigma attached to male victims whom will often not be believed if they call the police or as just stated, arrested first.

The implications made by societal institutions such as the police, contribute towards to stigma male victims face (Bell, 2015). This in turn perpetuates the issue with much literature available which is biased in its use of language. Such as the Violence Prevention Alliance (2015), whom released guidance for the West Midlands Police service on DV, this included statements about the 'gendered' nature of DV, which McNeely *et al.* (2008) argued is not the case. Their definition of DV also includes the

notion that DV consists of mainly violence by men against women. Further to this they state that men tend to be the primary aggressor, with women only becoming violent to retaliate and protect their children. The Devon and Cornwall Police (2017:1) website hosts a page dedicated to DV, however yet again, there is the assumption that women are the victims. This is evident when examining the web page itself, with the bottom of the page including a link to Women's Aid:

“The Women's aid website has some information on how to cover your tracks online but as they warn, there is no way to completely cover your movements online so do not use a computer that you share with your abuser. The local library will have computers you can use or ask a friend to borrow theirs.”

Not only does this website exclude men from the signposting services, it also promotes days such as 'White Ribbon Day' (White Ribbon Campaign, 2017), which incidentally is only for female victims of DV. There does not appear to be any external signposting links available for male victims of DV.

In relation to arrest procedures, Brown (2004) found a large disparity in the arrest and prosecution of males in DV situations. This included that women were four times as likely to report abuse to the police with 81% of women compared to 19% of men. In addition, Brown (2004) also found that women were more likely to have men arrested when reporting DV, with 75% of women compared to 60% of men. Brown (2004) also highlighted the occurrence of higher arrest rates of males, despite injuries to male victims. The Dispatches TV programme (1998) 'Battered Men' survey also found that men are automatically removed from the incident in 25% of cases, although the male in question was responsible for the initial call for help. In addition, it was found that females were arrested on only 7% of incidents, although none of these instances resulted in the female being charged for DV. Taking into account the above literature, it can be concluded that DV against males is still somewhat an unrecognised issue in society today. Having considered literature suggesting that feminism, treatment by institutions, socialisation and stereotyping have contributed to the ways in which male victims of DV are viewed by society, this study will examine how the public view male victims of DV alongside issues from a professional's point of view. Lastly, this study will also be utilising statistics available from the local police constabulary to gain an insight into the scale of the issue.

## Methodology

### Introduction

In order to examine the public's attitudes and awareness of male victims of domestic violence, the primary research was carried out within a Higher Education college environment in mid-Cornwall. The locality of this setting was chosen for convenience, although, the participants varied in age and gender which allowed for a mixed response. The aim of this research was to gain an insight into the thoughts and opinions towards male victims of domestic violence, alongside testing participant's knowledge of any support services which may be available to male victims.

### Philosophy (Research Paradigm)

The research question was formulated utilising the post-positivist paradigm in relation to the knowledge and perceptions of the public's views of female-male domestic violence. The topic was chosen because of an event that was witnessed by the researcher. A female was belittling her partner in public and being abusive, although he did not retaliate, instead he just stood there in silence. This motivated the researcher into questioning if there is a double standard in society when it comes to the treatment of females and males by their partners in society in relation to domestic violence. The post-positivist's epistemological approach is primarily focused around the world being an objective place, with an individual's knowledge being informed by their personal experiences, this in turn with the phenomena of female-male domestic violence, it can be determined that not everyone will have the same knowledge as others based on the philosophy that knowledge is partial and bound by personal experience. The ontology of the research question was established to explore the awareness and opinions of the public surrounding the issue of female-male domestic violence, as in a real-world context the topic area is widely taboo in current society.

### Approach (Methods)

The data was gathered using a mixed method, grounded theory approach, this aimed to gather a mixture of qualitative and quantitative data for the purpose of identifying any possible correlations, causations and recurring patterns within the

topic area of female-male domestic abuse. The mixed method approach was chosen to gain an insight into the honest thoughts and opinions of the participants, by using qualitative questions this enabled the researcher to gain a more in-depth understanding of the participant's views. The study was carried out at the Higher Education establishment in Mid-Cornwall. This setting was chosen for a number of reasons, including the topic area that the participants were studying. This was based on assumptions that the knowledge and awareness of the participants would be as neutral as possible, having been educated in the Social Sciences. The research activity was undertaken when it could be established that numerous participants would be present in the college, this was decided between the researcher and their supervisor.

### Sample

The sample that was originally chosen were inaccessible for the date of the activity. This meant that the research could not go ahead, and due to the researcher not having made contingency plans for this, a quick fix was required. Ultimately the participants were all students of the same university course. This meant that the study had not proceeded as planned from the primary research stage. All of the students in the group were invited to become participants, which meant that the sample was variant in age and gender. Ethical considerations meant that inviting under 18's to carry out the activity was ruled out to ensure that no harm came to participants due to the sensitive nature of the study.

### Strategy and Research Design

The main bulk of the primary research data was gathered by the use of questionnaires. The use of questionnaires was chosen for the purpose of gathering data within a relatively short space of time. Popper (2002) explained that there are several advantages and disadvantages to using questionnaires. Although they can provide large amounts of data in a short period of time, they often fail to convey the information effectively, sometimes leading to participants answering the questions based on their own interpretations of the question (Popper, 2002). Holloway (1997) suggested that in order to avoid these types of errors and miscommunicated mistakes with questionnaires, the use of piloting is highly recommended. Not only are there issues with the participants understanding the question being asked, but

also there is the potential for response bias to occur. According to Sedgwick (2013) response bias occurs when participants have the tendency to alter their answers based on what they perceive to be socially acceptable. McLeod (2014) also argued that there are issues with a participant's social desirability. He argued that participants may lie when answering questionnaires in order to portray a positive image of themselves, which in turn could result in dishonest answers. Although, the University of Portsmouth (2012) stated that questionnaires do have advantages in allowing the participant to answer freely within their own time, whereas there may be pressure if being asked face-to-face.

The questionnaires were designed to gather a mainly qualitative response, with seven open questions designed to allow the participants to explain their thoughts and feelings in their own words. Groves, Fowler, Couper, Lepkowski, Singer and Tourangeau (2004) stated that consideration needs to be taken as to the design of questions, as the researcher needs to bear in mind the cognitive process that will be involved when a participant answers a question. Groves *et al.* (2004) developed a four part model, comprising of 'comprehension, retrieval, judgement and reporting'. These elements need to be taken into consideration when designing questions, by doing so the researcher can ensure that they have designed the questions to suit the level of cognitive ability for participants (Groves *et al.*, 2004). In addition to ensuring the semantics of the questions were appropriate, the impartiality of the questions was also taken into consideration during the design process. In order to maintain impartiality throughout there were several drafts of the questionnaire which had to be approved by the researcher's supervisor. This ensured that the research remained unbiased throughout.

In addition to using questionnaires a video was also shown to participants in between the first and second questionnaire. This was chosen for its thought provoking nature and its close proximity to the research topic. The video, designed and published by a domestic violence charity which supports men, ManKind Initiative, was at the centre of the primary research carried out at the college. The content of the video was focused around hidden cameras in central London, which aimed to highlight the unequal treatment of male victims of DV by members of the public.

The use of existing videos in research is not a new phenomenon. The idea of re-purposing a video, such as a YouTube video (Adami, 2010) has been gaining pace in the last few years, probably due to the advancing technological nature of the world. Jewitt (2012) stated that there are many issues to take into consideration when weighing up whether to use a video or not. These include the participants understanding the history, context and original purpose audience. All of these factors have the potential to influence their perceptions of the video. It is important to recognise the validity of the video's data being used for research purposes. Further to this, Jewitt (2012) discussed the camera effect and post-production editorial issues which can skew the original intentions of the raw film data. Jewitt (2012) finally noted that the debate around the use of video in research is an ongoing issue, with three different outlooks on what a video achieves in research, these are, that it produces a replica of events, distorts reality or is a reflexive research tool. Having already thought about these implications, the video chosen for the research activity was already subjected to this level of scrutiny.

Examining the video and its content allows for a better understating of its purpose. The video was chosen as it did not appear to contain bias, with no emotive music to invoke emotional reactions amongst participants, this ensured that no manipulation occurred. It lasted for 1:51, in which time it shows a couple, one female and one male walking through central London. The first scenario they act out is the male becoming verbally abusive toward the female. Members of the public rush to help her, however when the male is being abused both verbally and physically, the public do not approach the couple, instead members of the public can be seen to be laughing. The video ends with the figure that 40% of domestic violence victims are men.

In order to gain a deeper insight into the opinions and statistics surrounding female-male DV, a list of five questions were sent to five charities for both female and male victims, this was chosen to enable to researcher to understand the differing points of view from the female and male victim perspective. Although, only one charity replied to the emails, which happened to be a male victim charity, Mankind Initiative. A Freedom of Information Request (Fol) was also carried out to obtain local statistics to gain some knowledge on the prevalence of female-male DV and to find out how severe the punishments were for female perpetrators compared to male

perpetrators. University of Manchester (2016) suggested that using a FoI for research purposes is likely to be seen as an aggressive form of data collection to the agency that is being asked for information. This is partly due to the fact that extracting information from IT systems can involve considerable resources. However, to prevent the organisation from experiencing these types of grievances, the researcher obtained guidance from the generic police information contact number, since due to the scale of Devon and Cornwall Police, it was not possible to gain data through generic bureaucratic processes.

The occurrence of the telephone interview with ManKind Initiative Chairman was not initially planned. This particular charity was unable to answer the questions via email due to time constraints and requested that the researcher make a telephone call. The call was recorded for validation purposes and transcribed by the researcher, however after being offered a copy of the transcript, ManKind stated that they did not require a copy. Novick (2008) found that the use of telephone interviews for qualitative data collection are largely neglected, this is in part due to the claims of lower quality data, although there is no specific proof which backs up this claim. In addition, she found that although some communicative data is lost, for example visual cues and non-verbal data, there are advantages to telephone conversations. She argued that telephone calls may make the participants feel more relaxed and able to disclose more sensitive data (Novick, 2008). Something which was experienced during the telephone call to ManKind. Further to this, Farooq (2015) also added that time constraints make telephone interviews a much more ecological choice for researchers and participants due to their time commitments, for example work and family life, which means that meeting in person is avoided.

### Analysis Methods

The data analysis was carried out utilising thematic analysis. The answers for each question were examined and key themes were noted, alongside any similar responses from other participants. This allowed the researcher to correlate patterns in participant's responses. This occurred for every qualitative question. However, there were six quantitative questions which were used for demographic purposes and to gain an insight into the participant's background, through the use of their parent's occupations, alongside their knowledge of DV through the use of the 10

point Likert scale. This data, along with the telephone interview and FoI request, was used to formulate the basis of the discussion. This in turn created a triangulation of data that enabled the researcher to thoroughly examine the attitudes and opinions of the public, whilst also making correlations as to where they got their views.

### Ethical Implications

As this study was focused on a sensitive topic area, there were issues to begin with in gaining the appropriate level of permission to carry out the research. The ethical approval form had to be amended several times to ensure that the participants and the researcher were protected at all times. This study adhered to the University of Plymouth's (2015) research ethics and British Educational Research Association (BERA) (2011) ethical guidelines. The questions were specifically designed to allow the participants to answer without any information being given to them subconsciously about the activity, to ensure that the participants did not answer in a specific way which would have meant answers may have been biased. In order to protect the participants from ethical issues, this study was carried out with over 18's, of which they were freely able to withdraw from the study and activity at any time, using the right to withdraw (BERA, 2011). The questionnaire sheets also had signposting to support services if the participants felt that they needed to contact someone following the activity. In relation to the study itself, the elimination of confirmation bias was intended by utilising all of the available data, every answer was used to refrain from skewing the results.



## Results

### Fol Request Data

For 2015 and 2016 separately:

The number of domestic violence cases where the victim is male and the offender is female

The outcomes of the offences (i.e charge, caution, no further action etc.)

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Charged	113	90
Summonsed	18	6
Adult Simple Caution	105	66
Adult Conditional Caution	0	1
Youth Simple Caution	2	1
Youth Conditional Caution	1	0
Community Resolution	6	4
Penalty Notice For Disorder	0	1
Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Victim Not Supporting Action	0	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>170</b>

The table below shows the number of domestic abuse crimes resulting in arrest recorded in the Force area for 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2016 by year and gender

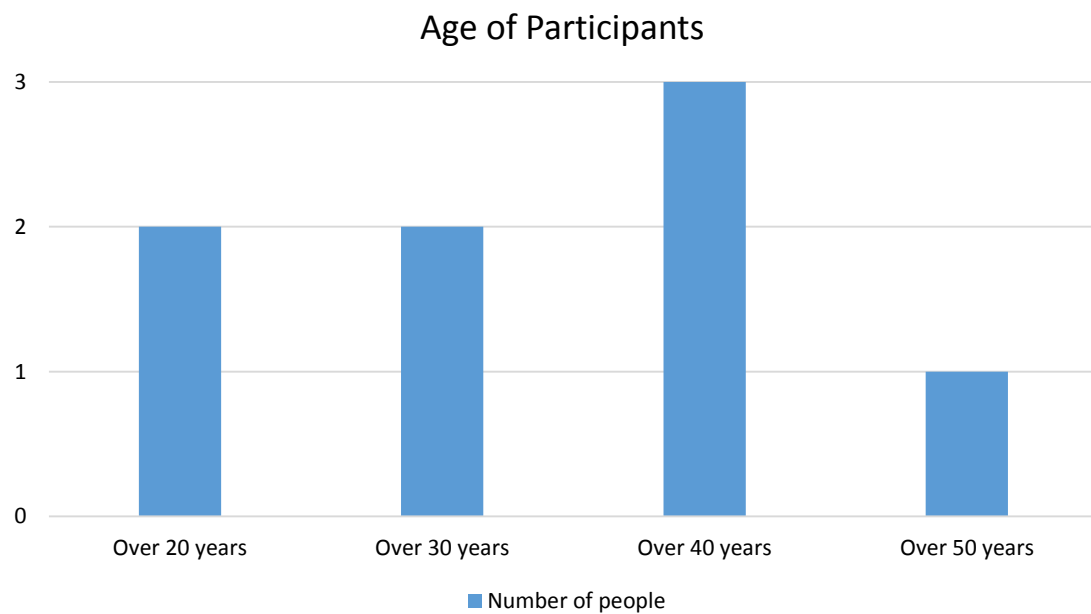
	<b>Offences resulting in arrest - period crime recorded</b>				
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2016</b>
Offences where victim is female	4168	4063	4394	4255	1734
Offences where victim is male	836	853	934	892	373

The table below shows the number of domestic abuse crimes resulting in a prison sentence recorded in the Force area for 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2016 by year and gender

	<b>Offences resulting in a custodial sentence - period crime recorded</b>				
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2016</b>
Offences where victim is female	211	235	264	214	25
Offences where victim is male	23	30	30	33	1

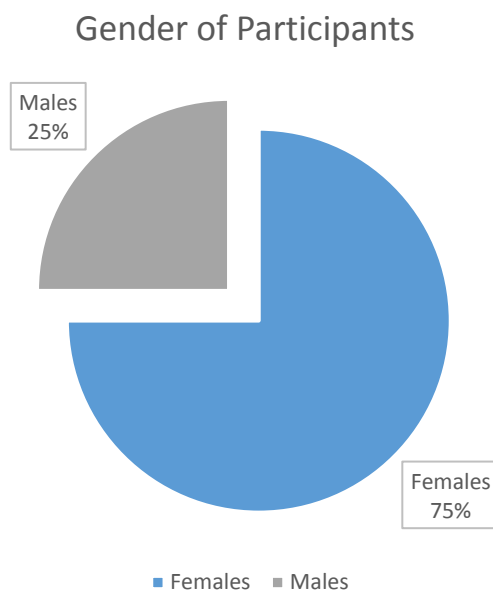
### Questionnaire Data

Figure 1.



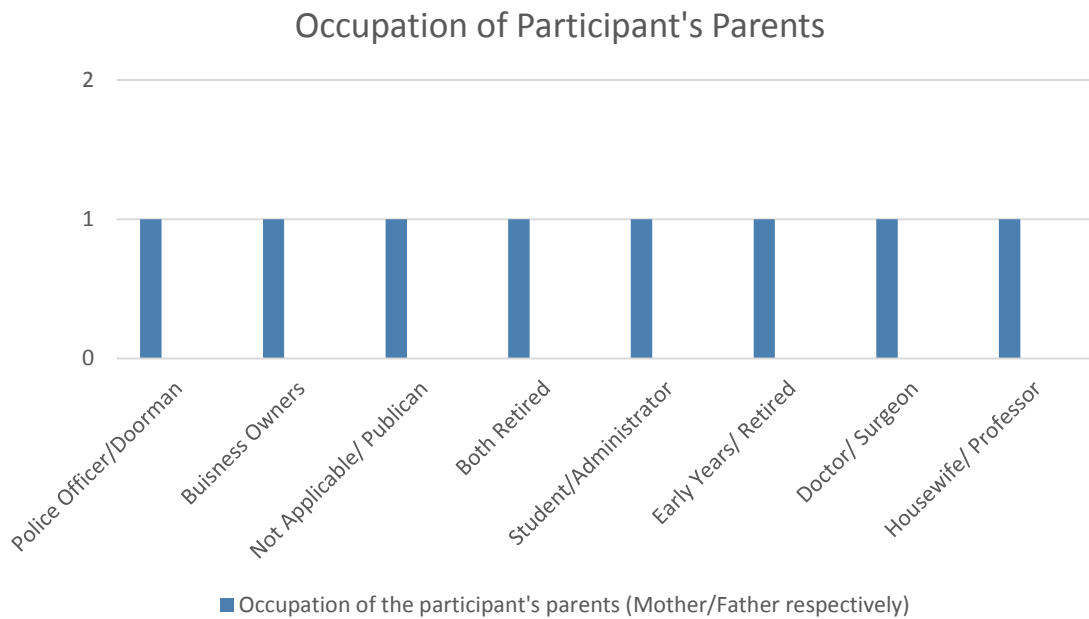
This table shows the age of participants.

Figure 2.



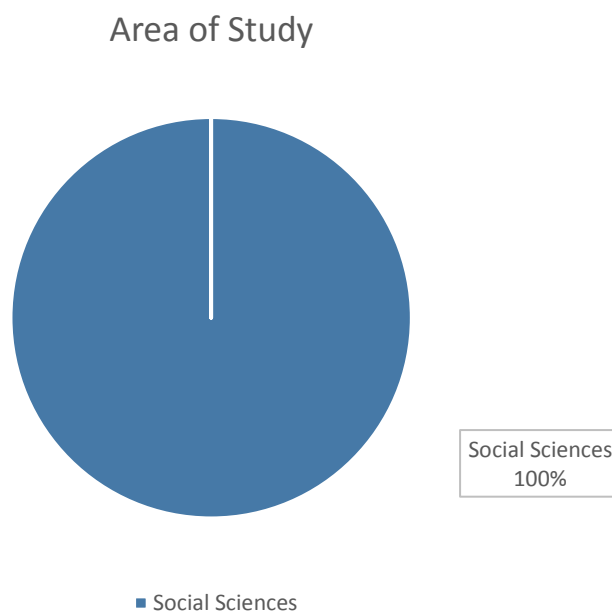
This table shows that the majority of participants were female.

Figure 3.



This table indicates that the majority of the occupations listed are white collar jobs.

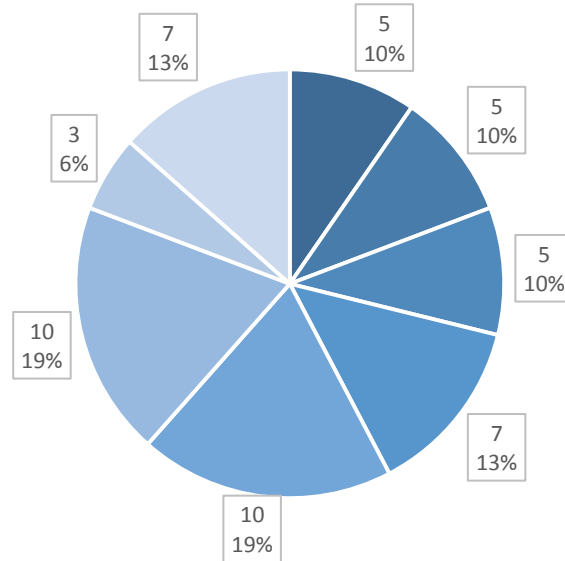
Figure 4.



This table indicates that all of the participants were studying social sciences.

Figure 5.

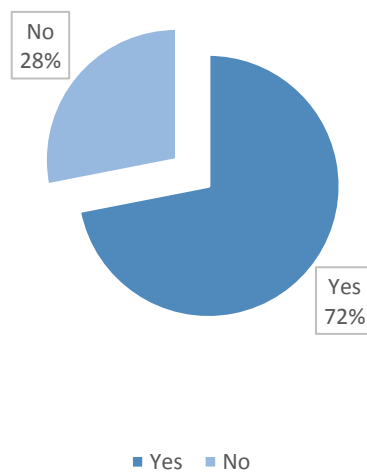
Participant's Knowledge of Domestic Violence (1-10 Likert Scale)



This table indicates that the participant's knowledge of domestic violence is varied, from little knowledge to very knowledgeable.

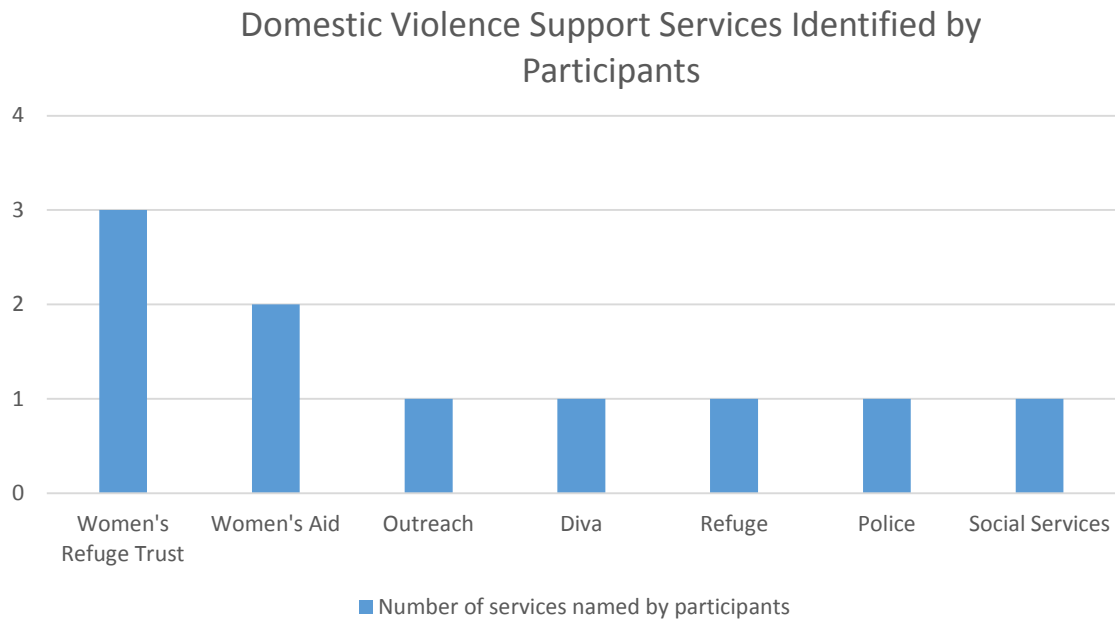
Figure 6.

Awareness of Domestic Violence Support Services



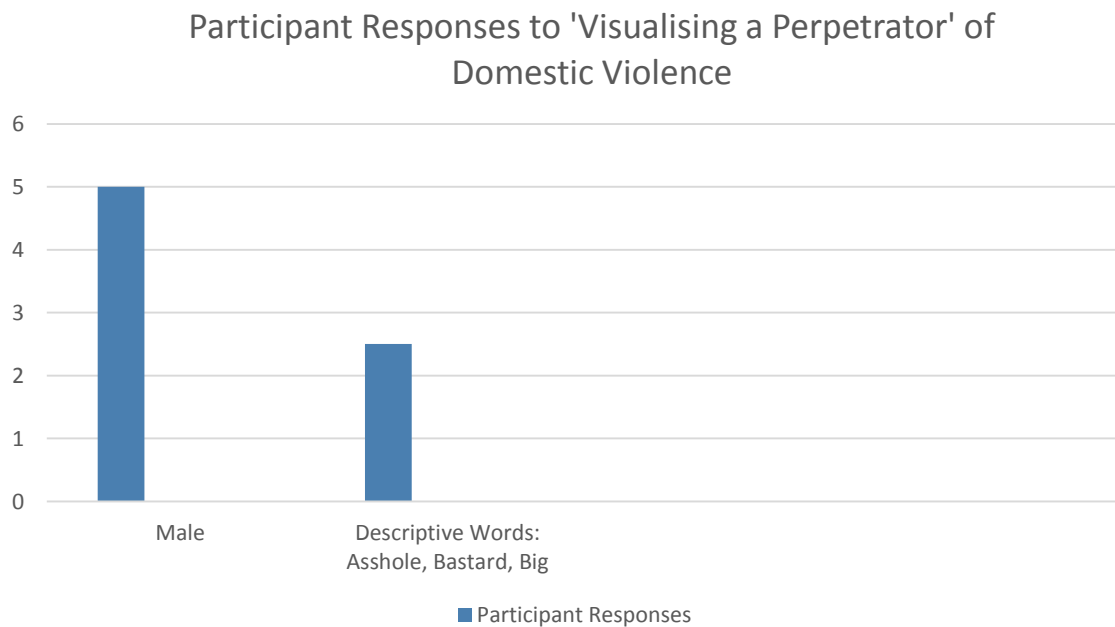
This table indicates that the not every participant had knowledge of support services.

Figure 7.



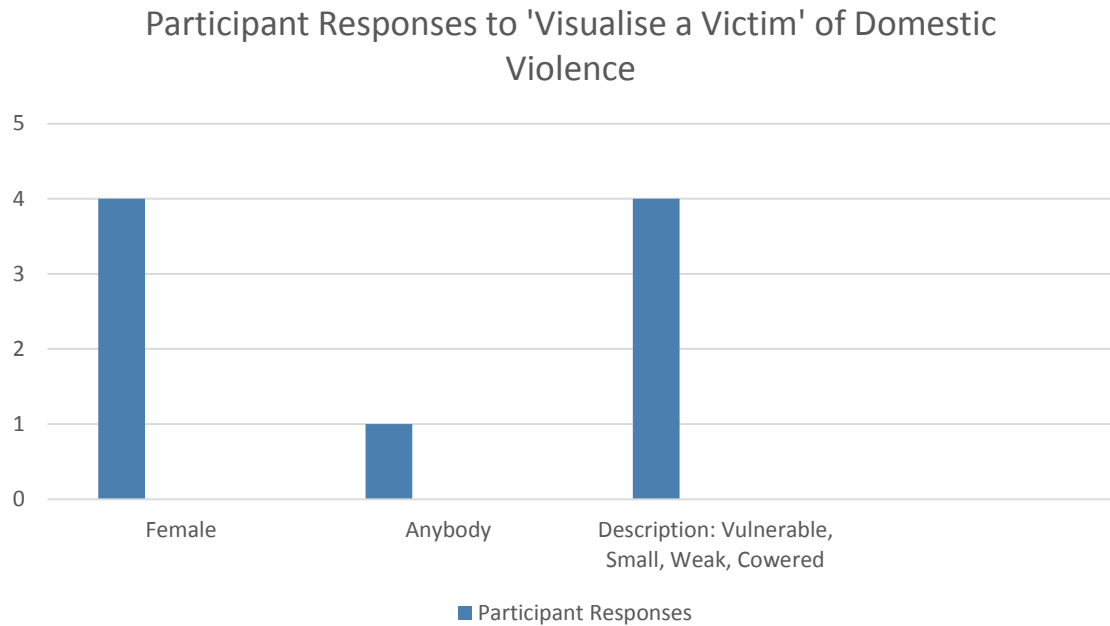
This table explains that all but two of the services named, are female only services.

Figure 8.



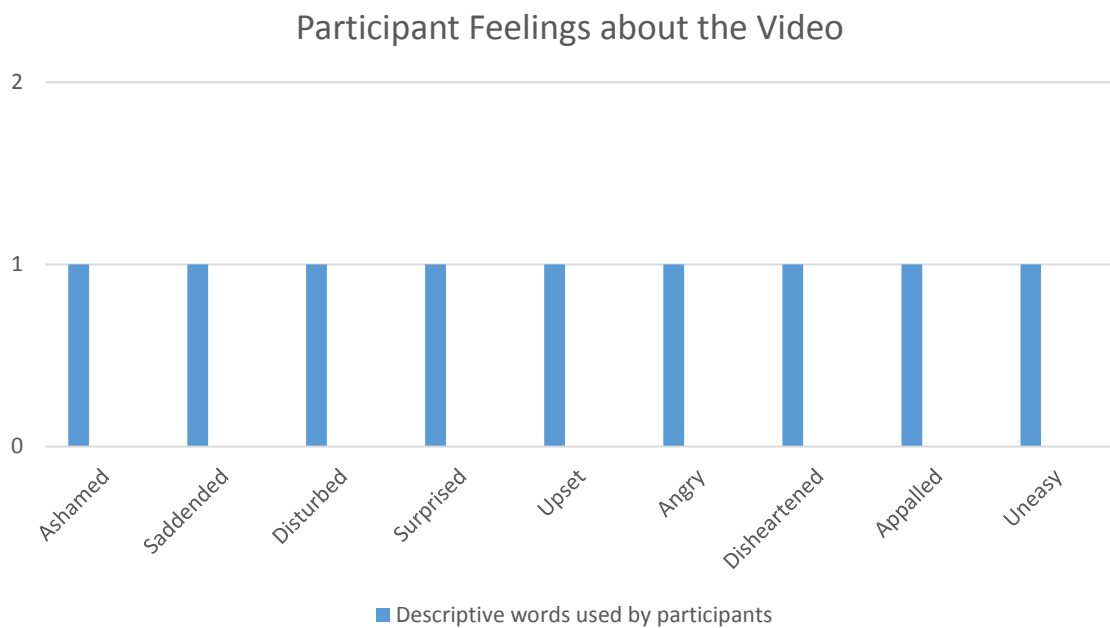
This table shows that men were mainly how the participants viewed perpetrators of domestic violence.

Figure 9.



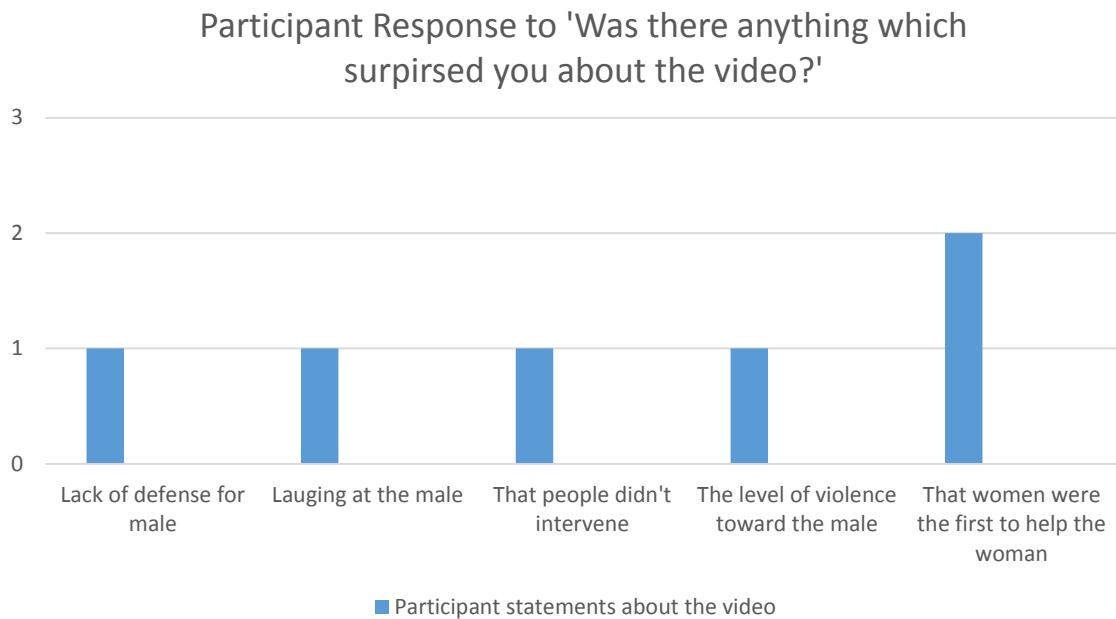
This table indicates that most of the responses referred to females as victims.

Figure 10.



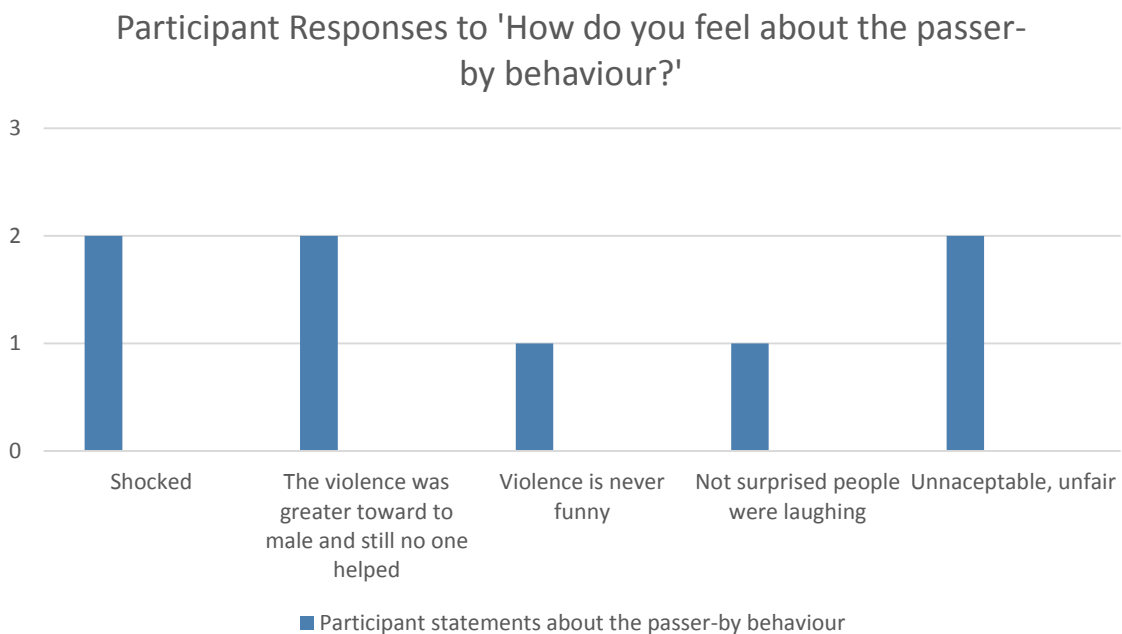
This table shows that the participants experienced a range of negative emotions whilst watching the video.

Figure11.



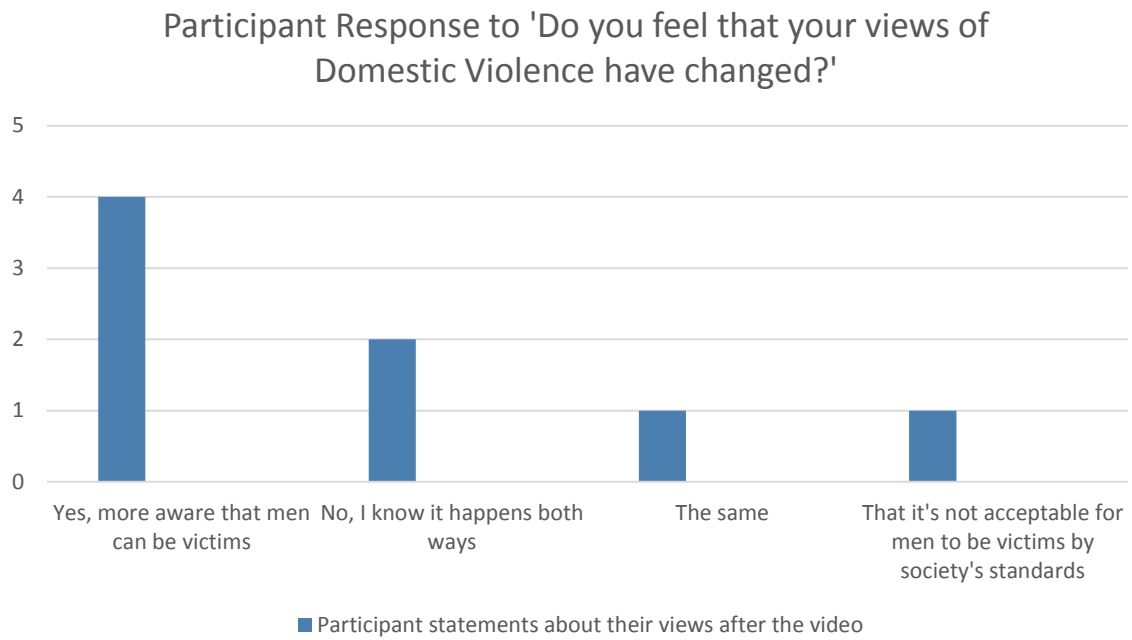
This table shows that different reasons were given by the participants about what surprised them.

Figure 12.



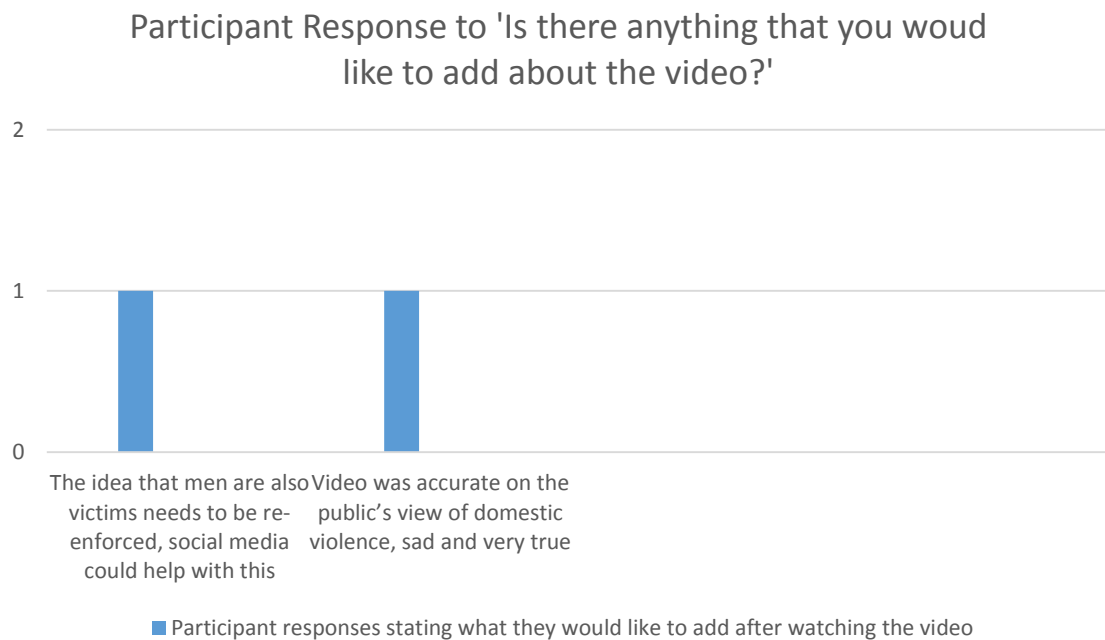
This table indicates that the participants all felt negatively toward the behaviour exerted by the passer-byes.

Figure 13.



This table provides a mixed response to the question about views of domestic violence after the video, with the majority stating they had become more aware.

Figure 14.



This table indicates that two participants added their comments to the end of the questionnaire.



## Discussion

### Fol Request Data

It can be seen from the Fol data that there is a sizeable gap in the number of incidents of female-male DV cases being reported to the police. The numbers of crimes committed by female perpetrators can be seen in the tables on *page 25*. For the years 2015 and the first six months of 2016, there were a total of 1,265 DV incidents which resulted in arrest of the female, however a fraction of this number were faced with any form of action. A total of 415 of these cases faced action (such as a charge, caution, no further action) with as little as 18 being summonsed to court for the offence and a further 105 receiving a simple adult caution. This data suggests that whilst men do under-report DV crimes, there is still a disproportionate amount of female perpetrator cases which are not being treated with the same severity than if the male was the perpetrator. An explanation for this was offered by McCarrick (2016) whom found that men are often arrested under false accusations, with Stets and Straus (1992) and Dutton and Nichols (2005) both stating that women are 10 times as likely to call the police following an incident.

The treatment by the police is questionable, when examining the custodial sentences that male and female perpetrators received in 2015 and first six months of 2016. A total of 34 perpetrators faced a custodial sentence where the male was the victim, compared to 239 where the perpetrator was male. Further to this, the arrest data alone is enough to question why the numbers differ so greatly, with 5,989 males being arrested compared to the 1,265 cases where the perpetrator was female. It must be taken into account why the male arrest rate is so high compared to the female arrest rate, with research arguably demonstrating that arrest procedures are often biased and unfair, particularly where the male may have contacted the police first for help. This is something which is echoed by Brown (2004), whom found that 81% of women were likely to report abuse, whereas only 19% of men were likely to report. Based on the Fol data, it can be argued that the figures do not represent the reasoning behind the disproportionate numbers of incidents against males, however Brown (2004) did suggest that males were removed from situations in 25% of cases regardless of whom the primary aggressor was.

## Questionnaires

The data from questions 1-4 generated the main demographic data, *see figures 1-4*. The sample consisted of mainly females, with 75% being female. However, it would have been preferred to have a balanced mix of gender, with original plans to carry out research with gendered groups and a mixed group. The age varied from participants in their 20's to participants in their 40's and one in their 50's. As this is a small sample the data may not be representative of the wider population. However, as the participants had different backgrounds, with their parents working within mostly white collar jobs, the data still provided some interesting points to examine. Admittedly, the data from their knowledge of the available DV services leant toward the female side, which could be because of familial values learnt within their households. As Manning (2011) and Fiebert and Gonzalez (1997) stated, men especially are socialised within their families and wider society, not to hit a female, so this could provide an example as to why mainly female services came to mind for the participants. Although, this does not explain the female responses. The female responses could have been generated because of the role which secondary socialisation has upon the development of morals and societal views, such as the impact of feminism, which victimises women in relation to DV, which Bell (2015) stated is infiltrating British classrooms. Both of these arguably contribute to the dismissiveness of the notion of males being victims of DV.

The question based on the participant's self-defined knowledge of DV reaffirms that knowledge is a personal phenomenon, with knowledge being experience based. The data generated through the question which asked of their knowledge created a mean of 6.5, which indicates that their knowledge was close to, but above average. In spite of this result, the answers given to the awareness of services question was a 72% majority. This suggests that although the participants had self-defined their knowledge on a Likert scale of 1-10, their knowledge of services, which arguably is beyond general knowledge, was greater. Perhaps this is due to the societal influences and subconscious learning, which Hine (2017) discussed. There is also the possibility that certain services have been given a platform to create awareness whereas other services may not have the same opportunity. The MIC interview also referred to this in relation to the police and creating awareness that males can be victims when going in to DV situations. He stated that (*see Appendix 5*):

“They have to make a pro-active arrest, and we agree with that, so we don’t have a problem, but it’s whether their default is to, is whether for some police officers they’re going into a situation with a preconceived view that it’s the man that’s going to be the one that’s guilty”

It is interesting to note however, that amongst the 7 services identified by participants only 2 of these were for use by male and female victims of DV, whereas zero services were identified which helped purely male victims. This is despite that fact that there are 2 national male services within the UK, Mankind Initiative and Respect. This in turn could be an issue due to the lack of awareness being created by the Government by having gender biased legislation, VAWG, which encompasses male victims within the data. It seems as though the participants have underestimated their knowledge, when in fact many arguably, had some kind of sub-conscious knowledge based on the fact that the majority were able to name the services.

The answers to the question asking participants to state their mental image of a perpetrator highlights the common occurrence of a male being the first image, see *figure 8*. There were also some descriptive words used such as ‘bastard’ and ‘asshole’ which ultimately imply that these responses were intended to represent men. This can be determined for a number of reasons with the main assumption based on the accepted societal traits and associations to language and behaviour that men and women exert, which makes it highly likely that ‘bastard’ and ‘asshole’ were referring to men. Question 9 also followed this pattern, with similar responses which focused around society’s sub-conscious norms, see *figure 9*. It can be argued that this means that participants answered according to what they learn from around them, with Brannon (2004) also stating that men and women have certain traits which individuals learn and become accustomed to, these are also referred to as ‘schemas’. This question did however have one response which stated that ‘anybody’ can be a victim of DV, whereas question 8 did not. Again, the descriptive words inferred that the participants meant women, with description such as ‘vulnerable, weak, small and cowered’. These types of labels are not representative of how society would describe men, with Katz (2003) arguing that society gauge a man’s masculinity with their level of physical strength and aggressive interests such as high intensity sports and interest in action films. Ultimately the participant

responses to both the perpetrator and victim question fell into the same stereotypical views of society when it comes to gender roles and stereotypes.

The participant's responses in regard to their feelings after watching the video were all negative, *see figure 10*. Contrary to the 'empathy gap' (*see appendix 5*.) which the MIC suggested during the telephone interview, all of the participants gave an emotional response, *see appendix 5*. However, the MIC did in fact state that although there is an empathy gap, organisations such as women's aid, refuge and respect are enforcing the empathy gap, which ultimately can be argued as being completely damaging for the societal image of male victims, with increasingly high numbers which do not come forward for help already. The MIC stated (*see appendix 5*.):

“especially women's aid, their chief executive, you know, whenever there's an issue or focus on male victims all she wants, she argues about it, and says 'oh yeah? It's all about women and also they continually pull out misleading statistics”

However, in relation to the participant responses, it must also be discussed that the implications in carrying out a group activity amongst others may influence the responses given, this was noted by Sedgwick (2013) however this was in relation to questionnaires, although it could apply to this particular activity. In addition to this, as the activity was carried out by participants which were known to the researcher, this may have contributed to any potential bias as the participants all know the researcher on a personal level. This was due to having issues with the ethical approval form which led to the increased pressure of having to find participants at short notice.

From the data gathered for question 11, it can be seen that the participants were all surprised by something in the video, *see figure 11*. It is interesting to note however that the two male responses related to how they viewed the gender roles of the public in the video. For example, both responses state how they did not expect women to be the first to intervene and help the female victim. This suggests that through socialisation and gender stereotyping, the male participants felt an ingrained sense of the sub-conscious notion to carry out the stereotypical male provide, and more importantly, protect role. This implies that their views on who should help a

woman in need is primarily that a male should step in when confronted with violence. Something which was noted by Farrell (1993) in relation to the self-sacrificial nature of men. This also links back to the statement made by MIC in the telephone interview whereby he stated that men have to play a provider and protector role in society, see *appendix 5*.

It can be suggested that question 12 made the participants feel mostly shocked, with four responses stating that they were shocked and what happened was unacceptable and unfair, see *figure 12*. The data indicates that all of the participants felt negatively about the behaviour of the passers-by. However, this particular question makes it difficult to gauge whether or not the participants answered genuinely, or proceeded to make 'socially acceptable' responses, just as potentially in question 10. With the majority of participants being female, this does not merge well with the video in question's findings, which found that female members of the public were simply laughing at the male. This means that although the responses state that they felt negatively, this is not reliable as the sample size and area of study could have skewed this in terms of answering with socially acceptable answers (Sedgwick, 2013). However, in the responses to question 13 and 14 (see *figures 13 and 14*) most of the participants did state that they are now more aware of the fact that males can be victims of DV. This can only be presumed to be a positive, as the MIC stated in the telephone interview (see *appendix 5*), the awareness for male DV victims is around 20 years behind female victims, which means that anything which can be done to create awareness is essential. Further to this, question 14 asked whether there was anything that the participants would like to add, one response stated that there needs to be more done in society to reinforce that men can also be victims, this was suggested with the use of social media as the tool which could raise awareness. In relation to raising awareness MIC stated that the awareness aspect for male victims still has a long way to go despite it going in the right direction for now, see *appendix 5*.

## Reliability, Validity, Generalisability and Limitations

It can be suggested that this study was somewhat poorly designed. For example, the data generated from the questions was not entirely what was required to answer the intended research question, this was due to the timescale in which the researcher set aside for the design of the questions. This combined with issues with too few questions and perhaps the wording of some questions all contributed to the end result. The data was limited because different questions needed to be asked in order to gain a bigger picture, therefore the researcher suggests that this study is not wholly reliable in so far as determining the public's view of DV. In order to achieve the sorts of answers which answer the main research question, it can be suggested that the questions be re-designed, perhaps with help from professionals within the DV field to ensure that they are as sensitive as possible. In addition, the researcher had aimed to ensure that confirmation bias was eliminated by contacting charities to interview which were representatives of both female and male victims to allow both sides to be heard. However, as the only charity that replied was ManKind, this somewhat could be argued that the research does contain some confirmation bias as the comments from the professional, reinforce the male side of the argument.

Factored in with issues surrounding the choice of sample and short period of time, it can be seen that this study has some substantial flaws. In relation to time, there were some drawbacks with the initial ethical approval form, which took longer than anticipated to resolve. This along with not putting aside enough time, both contributed to the choice of sample. It was first decided that the researcher would find college students on different courses, to ensure the responses were mixed. However, the sample ultimately ended up consisting of students from the same course as the researcher, which could have contributed to bias within the responses, thus essentially skewing the data. Having said that, the study could be repeated, although it is suggested that the person carrying out the research does so with participants who are not known to them in any capacity, this should eliminate potential response bias which should result in more balanced data production. Furthermore, this study requires several changes before it should be considered fit to repeat, with maybe including male victims within the sample to provide a more representative insight into the issues, and resolutions to these issues, within the male DV sector.

## Conclusion

It is difficult to determine whether or not the responses from this study were accurate or honest. This is due to the potential bias which may have occurred during the activity because of the participants' relationship with the researcher. However, in answering the research question, the public's views suggest that male victims of DV still do not have anywhere near enough awareness, with issues of stereotypical, societally held views of behaviour still evidently dominating people's minds when they think of DV. The answers to visualising the perpetrator and victim both suggest that the public still become socialised to these deeply ingrained archetypes, with answers from different age groups being the same. This alongside the ideology of feminism portraying women as being exempt from criticism in DV situations, has all had an impact on the way male victims are treated in society, not only by the public but also by institutions such as the Government and the police.

In order to challenge people's perceptions of DV, firstly basic issues such as the legislation must be addressed by the Government. This would allow a separate piece of legislation purely for men and boys, which ultimately would help charities in their applications to obtain funding, with accurate statistics and figures available. Without this legislation, the issues being faced by male victims are simply dismissed by wider society. This is also an issue amongst other DV charities in particular, such as Women's Aid, whom simply do not want to recognise female-male DV as an issue which requires coverage. Further to this, there is the damning problem of the treatment of victims by the police, whereby male victims are being arrested first in DV situations when in fact they had made the initial call. All of these factors make it incredibly difficult for men to come forward. The emasculation male victims face has gone past the point of being problematic, it is catastrophic. This needs to change. Equality should mean equality for all, not equality for some. This study has only scratched the surface when examining the public's views of male victims of DV, with a lot more work needing to be done to challenge and change perceptions.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1.

#### Ethical approval



Research Project Ethical Approval Form



1. Research details	
Student Name/s: Abby James	Supervisor: Gillian Rowe
Programme title: BSc Applied Social Science	Module Title: Dissertation
Project Title: Examining the issues surrounding attitudes and inequality of provision in relation to Male Domestic Violence victims.	

Please complete this form along with Form A, B or C depending upon the subject of your research. Failure to give sufficient information under each section will delay the approval process. Any additional information may be provided on additional sheets of paper.

2. Aims and objectives
<p><b>To discuss and review the stance taken by the public and organisations which deal with domestic violence and question the importance of recognising men and women as victims of abuse, not solely women. The aim is also to address the inequality towards men, whilst discussing the media discourse carried out historically and recently.</b></p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. To gain an understanding of the perceptions and attitudes surrounding male domestic violence victims.</b></li> <li><b>2. To recruit three groups which are defined by gender.</b></li> <li><b>3. Determine the reasons for the inequality of provision.</b></li> </ol>
3. Design
<p><b>1. The questionnaires will gather before and after qualitative data which will allow for an examination of perceptions. The research participants will complete a short survey, watch a short YouTube which shows a staged video about male DV, and they complete another short survey, in order to determine if gaining knowledge can change perceptions. The proposed social experiment will also aim to gather qualitative data based on observations and interpretations of the outcomes.</b></p>

**2. To carry out semi-structured interviews by email with representatives of domestic violence charities.**

#### **4. Summary of methodology (including participants and procedures)**

In the first instance it would be preferable to hand out questionnaires to male and female domestic violence charities to gain their insight into the scale of the issues, with the potential to request statistics via a FOI from Devon and Cornwall Police. Another method that is being considered is the process of a social activity at the college (Truro Campus) potentially involving students in which a video will be shown and a questionnaire offered before and after, this aims to gauge the attitudes and beliefs held.

1. To recruit students from three mixed gender groups and hand out a questionnaire before and after a video is shown, to determine if attitudes had changed afterwards.

2. Semi-structured email interviews.

3. Data triangulation will be carried out with the data that is generated.

The participants will be recruited via a poster that will contain my email address in which they can put their name forward for the activity. The room number and date will be on the poster along with information about the study. The disclaimer will act as a form of screening, allowing potential participants the choice if they wish to put their name forward for the activity with prior warning of the subject. The participants will also be informed that they have the right to withdraw at any time during or after the activity.

#### **5. Higher level clearance**

Please identify whether your research intends to include any of the following aspects:

	Yes	No
• Active research with children	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
• Ingestion	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
• Invasive studies (ie. blood samples)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
• Active research with vertebrates	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
• Research involving non-living human participants	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

If any of these aspects are being studied please refer to the *Notes for Guidance* in order to identify what supplementary paperwork must be included.

#### **6. Signatures**



**6.a Supervisor**

I have discussed the design of this research project with the applicant.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**6.b Programme Level Ethics Review Panel Approval**

We agree that this project has been:

- referred to College Ethics Board
- approved at Programme Level and the research may continue
- approved at Programme Level and the research may continue subject to completion of the agreed action points and/or clarification\*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Programme/Module Leader

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Critical friend

**6.c College Ethics Board Approval**

We agree that this project has been:

- approved at the College Ethics Board and the research may continue
- approved at the College Ethics Board and the research may continue subject to completion of the agreed action points\*
- declined at the College Ethics Board. Review of methodology recommended.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethics Board Chair or nominee

Date of Board: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Attach agreed action points to the signed form

## Form A – Use of Human Participants

### **Ethical procedures**

Please indicate how you will ensure that your research conforms with each clause of the University of Plymouth's *Ethical Principles for Research Involving Human Participants*.

### **Informed consent**

Participants that are given questionnaires will be offered informed consent in writing on a cover letter to the questionnaire, this will ensure that they fully understand what their involvement will be to the study. This also applies to the focus groups and the email participants.

### **Openness and honesty**

Participants will have the full background of the study prior to any active participation. Participants will also be given my email address, either on the questionnaire or by email, should they wish to contact me at any point.

The recruitment poster will contain a disclaimer that states that the activity will be based around domestic violence.

### **Right to withdraw**

It is important to note that all participants, including both questionnaire respondents and the email participants will be given the right to withdraw in writing.

Participants will be given a raffle ticket which will allow their questionnaire to be identifiable in the case of a request for withdrawal from the participant.

Email participants will have my email address, and will be able to withdraw their contribution if they wish.

### **Protection from harm**

The questionnaires will be designed to ask questions based on the participant's knowledge and understanding of the topic area. The questions will not be personal and participants will be given the option of not answering any of the questions which they do not feel comfortable in answering.

The covering letter on the questionnaire will contain information that will signpost the participants if they become distressed during the activity. This will include contact details for the Truro and Penwith Student Services, Outlook Southwest and accessing their own GP.

**Debriefing**

Participants will receive a full explanation of the purpose of the study and any questions will be answered. Participants will also be notified that they can request a copy of the completed research.

**Confidentiality**

All participants of the study will be protected by confidentiality.

No names will be asked for or used in the study.

All hard copies of data, such as questionnaires, will be kept securely in a locked cupboard.

All emails will be kept securely by a password protected computer.

Participants will only be recognised by number, this will ensure that any personal disclosures and data will be protected at all times.

These procedures adhere to the University of Plymouth/BERA ethical conventions.

**Other professional bodies**

I am not aware of any other professional body which governs this field of research.

Appendix 2.

Blank Questionnaire and Email Questions

Questionnaire 1: Before the video clip

Age: .....

Gender: .....

Area of study:.....

Occupation of Mother:.....

Occupation of Father:.....

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how knowledgeable are you about domestic violence?

(1 least – 10 most) Please tick:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2. Are you aware of any services available in which victims of domestic violence can seek help?

Please Circle:            Yes            No

2a. If yes, please name any that you can think of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What comes to mind when you visualise a **perpetrator** of domestic violence?

4. What comes to mind when you visualise a **victim** of domestic violence?

Questionnaire 2: After the video clip

5. How did you feel watching the video clip?
6. Was there anything in the video which surprised you?
7. How do you feel about the way that passers-by behaved differently to the different scenarios? Please explain...
8. Do you feel as though your views/awareness of domestic violence have changed? If so, in what ways?
9. Is there anything else you would like to add about the video?

**Questions for DV Charities**

1. Based on statistics, why do you believe that there is an unequal provision of services available to help male victims of domestic violence?
2. Do you feel that there is an existing stigma surrounding male victims of domestic violence, which in turn prevents them from accessing services? If so, please explain...
3. To your knowledge is there any legislation or policy which favours women in relation to domestic violence? If so, please state which...
4. Do you think that there is a media bias toward the representation of male victims of domestic violence? If so, please explain...
5. What do you believe needs to change to enable the perceptions of male victims of domestic violence to be challenged?

Appendix 3.

FoI Devon and Cornwall Police



**Devon & Cornwall Police**  
Building safer communities together

Ms J  
6 C R  
Cornwall

Freedom of Information Unit  
Force Headquarters  
Middlemoor  
EXETER  
EX2 7HQ

20 February 2017

**Our Ref: 0504/17**

Tel: 01392 226770

Dear Ms J

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by this office on 02/02/2017

Following receipt of your request I can confirm that Devon & Cornwall Police hold the information you have requested.

To locate the information relevant to your request searches were conducted within the Performance and Analysis Department.

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please find the attached document Record 1.

Should you have any further inquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

SH  
Freedom of Information Officer

**Complaints**

If you are not satisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision you should write to

the Head of Information Management, Information Management Department, Devon & Cornwall Police, Middlemoor, Exeter, EX2 7HQ, Devon.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your Force complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner at Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545700.

Appendix 4.

Fol Data

## Devon & Cornwall Police

Record 1

### Freedom of Information Act Request No: 0504/17

For 2015 and 2016 separately:

- The number of domestic violence offences where the victim is male and the offender is female
- The outcomes of the offences (i.e. charge, caution, no further action etc.)

The Performance and Analysis Department have provided the following information:

**Data Source:**

Force crime recording system – Unifi

**Data Processing:**

Qlikview People (5FY) report

Entered date between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2016

All offence groups including non-notifiable

CE Domestic abuse flag

'Person/org type 'crime victim' and victim sex 'male'

'Person/org type 'crime offender' and victim sex 'female'

**Data:**

The table below shows all domestic abuse offences recorded between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2016, victim sex male and offender sex female, by year and outcome.



Outcome	2015	2016
Charged	113	90
Summonsed	18	6
Adult Simple Caution	105	66
Adult Conditional Caution	0	1



Youth Simple Caution	2	1
Youth Conditional Caution	1	0
Community Resolution	6	4
Penalty Notice For Disorder	0	1
Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Victim Not Supporting Action	0	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>170</b>

## Devon & Cornwall Police

### Record

1

### Freedom of Information Act Request No: 3430/16

1. Please could you provide the number of male domestic violence reports you have received in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016? If possible, please provide an ethnic breakdown.

2. Please could you provide the number of female domestic violence reports you have received in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016? If possible, please provide an ethnic breakdown.

3. Of those male domestic violence reports, how many resulted in an arrest in those years?

4. Of those female domestic violence reports, how many resulted in an arrest in those years?

5. Of those male domestic violence reports that were arrested in those years, did any receive a prison sentence?

6. Of those female domestic violence reports that were arrested in those years, did any receive a prison sentence?

The Performance & Analysis Department have provided the following information:

#### Data source:

- Force crime recording system - UNIFI

#### Data processing:

Qlikview People (5FY) report

- Entered date between 01/01/12 and 30/06/16
- CE Domestic Abuse flag
- Person/Org type 'Crime victim'
- Person gender 'Male', 'Female'
- Non-notifiable offences are included



**Data limitations:**

- Records where no victim gender is recorded are excluded
- Victim data is only recorded for offences on UNIFI. It is not recorded for incidents/enquiries
- Arrest figures can change as offenders and suspects are identified
- Prosecution data for 2016 is only available to March 2016.
- Prosecution figures will change as more crimes are dealt with and as the data becomes available.

**Note:**

- More than one victim can be recorded against an offence. Figures for ethnicity show the number of victims.
- Figures for arrests and prosecutions show the number of offences.

The table below shows the number of domestic abuse victims recorded in the Force area for 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2016 by year, gender and self defined ethnicity

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Self defined ethnicity</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2016</b>
Female	Asian - Any Other Asian Background	25	30	29	27	14
	Asian - Bangladeshi	5	1	4	6	5
	Asian - Indian	6	3	10	9	8
	Asian - Pakistani	1	0	4	2	0
	Black - African	1	5	17	20	4
	Black - Any Other Black Background	11	13	15	16	3
	Black - Caribbean	7	3	12	0	6
	Mixed - Any Other Mixed Background	12	20	28	17	8
	Mixed - White And Asian	4	1	2	4	5
	Mixed - White And Black African	0	1	1	5	1
	Mixed - White And Black Caribbean	7	7	10	9	1
	Not Stated	1491	1616	1306	1233	574
	Other - Any Other Ethnic Group	14	7	9	25	8
	Other - Chinese	1	11	14	7	2
	White - Any Other White Background	264	284	312	320	152
	White - British	5270	6363	6503	6327	2966
White - Irish	13	12	18	12	12	
<b>Total female victims</b>		<b>7132</b>	<b>8377</b>	<b>8294</b>	<b>8039</b>	<b>3769</b>
Male	Asian - Any Other Asian Background	6	9	6	5	4
	Asian - Bangladeshi	1	1	3	2	0
	Asian - Indian	0	6	2	2	0
	Asian - Pakistani	0	1	1	1	0
	Black - African	1	5	8	9	2
	Black - Any Other Black Background	4	3	7	3	2
	Black - Caribbean	3	0	5	1	1
	Mixed - Any Other Mixed	7	7	4	12	1

Background					
Mixed - White And Asian	2	6	1	1	2
Mixed - White And Black African	2	1	1	0	0
Mixed - White And Black Caribbean	2	3	5	4	2
Not Stated	333	420	326	337	187
Other - Any Other Ethnic Group	5	4	7	3	2
Other - Chinese	0	1	1	4	0
White - Any Other White Background	71	108	112	102	53
White - British	1457	1907	1972	1877	885
White - Irish	2	5	4	9	3
<b>Total male victims</b>	<b>1896</b>	<b>2487</b>	<b>2465</b>	<b>2372</b>	<b>1144</b>

The table below shows the number of domestic abuse crimes resulting in arrest recorded in the Force area for 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2016 by year and gender

	<b>Offences resulting in arrest - period crime recorded</b>				
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2016</b>
Offences where victim is female	4168	4063	4394	4255	1734
Offences where victim is male	836	853	934	892	373

The table below shows the number of domestic abuse crimes resulting in a prison sentence recorded in the Force area for 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2016 by year and gender

	<b>Offences resulting in a custodial sentence - period crime recorded</b>				
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2016</b>
Offences where victim is female	211	235	264	214	25
Offences where victim is male	23	30	30	33	1

**Note:** Prosecution data for 2016 is only available to March 2016.

Prosecution figures are subject to change as more crimes are dealt with and as the data becomes available.

## Appendix 5.

### Telephone Interview with ManKind - Transcript

**MIC – ManKind Chairman**

**R - Researcher**

MIC: MIC (name removed) speaking

R: Good evening, hi it's (name removed) I'm the students that's been emailing you

MIC: Oh yes hi (name removed)

R: Hi, I've never done this before so you'll have to bear with me

MIC: Ahh that's alright no worries

R: Umm yeah just a few questions really to help with my dissertation, umm you are actually the only charity that has got back to me about my um questions which surprised me a little bit

MIC: Yeah, I think a lot of charities, it's because they're, I'm trying to think of the best way to put it, because they employ loads of people at press offices and stuff like that they kind of uh, they get so big that they kind of lose their voluntary ethos

R: Right

MIC: You know, they'll employ people to do this kind of stuff whereas people like me we're volunteers, you know um, I'm always off Sunday night cos in the week I'm juggling a million things

R: Yeah of course, ok are we ok to just jump straight into it then? Or is there anything?

MIC: Yep yep

R: Yeah ok

R: Um first question is based on statistics why do you believe that there is an unequal provision of services available to help male victims of domestic violence?

MIC: Well a key think here is the disparity around proportion, so um you would, if we take the board facts, there are for every three victims of domestic abuse two will be female and one would be a male and so when we wouldn't be looking at 50/50 amount of services it would really be a proportionate amount. And also, secondly you know we're not in a, the area of a competition between male and female victims and I feel that's important to get across. So we would never want any money taken away from female victims

R: No, no

MIC: We don't think there's enough there as it is, so, umm , so I think it's important to get the phrase proportionate rather than equal, but what we want to see is that for male victims umm, we want to make sure that there is an appropriate service in every local community

R: Yep

MIC: That will provide them with uhh, support, umm and, most of the time nowadays that support is actually run by women's charities or charities that were set up to help women.

R: Ok, that's interesting

MIC: but now they help men and women. We've seen a growth really from around 60 organisations to about 100-170 organisations that help male victims, and nearly all of them are now helping female and male victims.

R: Oh ok, that's really interesting

MIC: Yeah there's been a growth, mainly mainly umm, the main, the main reason is that there still isn't enough services and they're still really underfunded that the support services for male victims are really underfunded, or that part of the service is really underfunded

R: Yeah

MIC: I, there is still a real problem, but the umm, main areas, umm, in terms of the growth, are part of its due to the equality act, umm, part of it is due to the fact that male victims are starting to be referred to the services, I mean the police, also local authorities, local authorities have the duty if you like in the community to look after victims of domestic abuse, they all have a community safety duty

R: Yeah

MIC: so that's where a lot of the government funding is actually channelled through to, local councils and police and crime commissioners, they have a the duty and so, they recognised that men are coming forward, they need to be able to help them in the same way that they can help, uh women. Umm, so that's, that's mainly the equality act, more people coming forward and you know maybe blowing our charity's trumpet a little bit, umm we've been campaigning for this for 15 years and we do get a lot of media attention, we are lobbying government all the time

R: Yeah

MIC: so basically we think umm, we think that that has had an impact, umm, in terms of uh services and provision. So um services have been improving in terms of level of services, we still think they're underfunded and there are still gaps in many towns and cities. Um, so we still think that there's a problem, why that's been, well I think really your looking at 40 years of sort of criticism of a very vocal women's movement. Umm, and they problem of having a very, and they've done brilliantly, and also that they've obviously umm if it wasn't for that then there wouldn't be any services for women basically, but a lot of criticism,

R: No, I get where you're coming from

MIC: one of the unintended consequences, um, has been that uh the focus on issues like domestic violence or even sexual violence, sexual abuse, all of those, has been overly dominated by erm, a focus on female victims at the hands of um male perpetrators, and a lot of that's driven by ideology of patriarchy theory and stuff like that, which we think is a load of old nonsense.

R: Yeah, that

MIC: Any play, ideology has no place in domestic abuse

R: Yep, no I'm with you there, that's actually an area that I'm looking at as part of my dissertation, um, as looking at the reasons why there is still a stigma around male victims which I think is important to look at.

MIC: Yeah yeah, I mean I talk a lot, ok, so, I think your probably recording it aren't you?

R: Yeah

MIC: Which is good, umm, so in society in general, ok, there is an empathy gap, when it comes to vulnerable men,

R: Yeah

MIC: men at risk compared to vulnerable, uh women, or women at risk. There's an empathy gap that society and the state, uhh, don't seem to care so much about uh vulnerable men as they do vulnerable women, and you see that no end in domestic abuse field, in sexual abuse, sexual violence. You see it a lot in other different areas, umm, probably two really spring to mind are one on rough sleeping, umm, because, nearly 90% of the people who sleep rough on our streets are men, and also the same around suicide, and you've got  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the people who commit suicide in Britain are actually men as well,

R: Yeah

MIC: Umm, so you, whenever there's any focus or debates on any of those issues, the the, they don't talk about, they don't talk about men, but we know if there are  $\frac{3}{4}$  of people who were sleeping homeless, sleeping rough were women, you'd never hear the end of it. And rightly so, it's not a criticism, but it's just that, there's a general empathy gap

R: Yeah, I have to agree with you on that, yeah I mean you see it in everyday life don't you, umm it's quite sad really.

MIC: Yeah it is, and as I said the unintended consequence is you've got some very strident, becoming more and more strident as the years go by, organisations which are pro-women organisations, and I think that they're, they really want to shut down, uhh, any discussion or empathy, uhh, between, for men. So you have an empathy gap, then you've got organisations that are actually effectively reinforcing that, umm and, you know, I mean women's equality parties for example, umm and a number of domestic abuse charities, women's aid, refuge and respect, umm are, especially women's aid, their chief executive, you know, whenever there's an issue or focus on male victims all she wants, she argues about it, and says 'oh yeah? It's all about women' and also they continually pull out misleading statistics, I mean you'll always hear the statistic 2 women a week are killed,

R: Yeah

MIC: well that figure hasn't been that figure since about uh 2008, um, but you never hear the figure 2 women are killed a week and 1 man a fortnight

R: Yeah

MIC: So anyway...

R: That's alright, thank you, umm that was leading on to my next question, I think you've probably partly answered, yeah, about the stigma surrounding male victims of domestic violence umm, what prevents them from accessing services, umm, what were your thoughts on that basically?

MIC: Say that again, sorry

R: What, um, stops male victims of domestic violence from accessing services, what do you think?

MIC: Well, I think, there, there, there's a number of issues, so, and we we've developed a model really which is about um, uhh, you see a lot about the sorts ....model of power and control model, and, what we umm, what we, what we think is some, is a particular issue, is that umm, there's 4 or 5 reasons why umm, ummm, men don't access services, 1 is about masculinity in terms of like men, men \*sigh\* not wanting to be seen as, uhh, weak or vulnerable, um, there's the male DNA or the male script, which we've worked with some psychologists on,

R: Yeah

MIC: talk about, um, \*sigh\* talk about you know, men have 3 or 4 traits, and what one of them is that they want to be in control of their own lives and uh destiny,

R: Yeah

MIC: umm, not control on other people, control on, self-control, also provider, they have a provide and protector role, whatever society actually says, it is a part of man's DNA, to actually provide and protect other people, or more so their family, friends, umm, and rightly so.

R: Yeah

MIC: And also, men are brought up to be strong, umm and again, there's nothing , nothing wrong with any of those traits, strong and resilient, and so um, the, the , the, when a man is a victim of domestic abuse, it goes against everything, everything that's in his kind of heart, and also in his mind, um, and so that stops men um, accessing services, because they find it hard to believe that they are a victim, and can be a victim, so you've got that.

R: Yeah, I see what you're saying

MIC: The second area is around societal and male belief systems, and this links to masculinity, but, men feared that they won't be believed, when they, uh, come forward. Um, uhh, they also feel fear that you know, society won't believe them and the police won't believe them, they believe that, um, they'll be laughed at, not, not treated seriously,

R: Yeah

MIC: and also, you've got um, person who runs our helpline, Laurie, she always comes up with this magical male thinking, that basically if you ignore a problem, it'll go away. Which is why men never go to the doctors generally.

R: Haha, oh right

MIC: Whenever I say that, all the women in the audience always start laughing, yeah and they're all nodding like it's some bloke they know, brother or son or husband or whatever, they always say yeah yeah we know men like that, all the time, and I'm no different, so umm,

R: Haha, right ok

MIC: you've got all of that, ah, you've also got the societal belief system, is that society generally still has a problem with around male empathy and also about, um, not believing men can be or are victims of domestic abuse, or not taking as seriously. I don't know if you've seen our video violence is violence?

R: I was about to speak to you about that actually, I'm actually using that in my dissertation, I'm umm, doing a questionnaire to participants beforehand to gain their like knowledge, of, the background of domestic violence, um I'm showing them the video then I'm giving them a questionnaire afterwards,

MIC: Ahh right ok

R: Umm, cos I yeah, think that video is brilliant way to visualise it I guess, and actually show people, yeah, what it's all about really

MIC: Yeah, yeah, exactly, so, so, umm, I can talk about that as well, the other issue is, the other 3 issues is around then, sorry the other 2 issues are around uh, public awareness campaigns, there isn't enough public awareness campaigns, men don't go to services cos they don't think they're there, umm and also, obviously there aren't enough services, so when they do come forward, there are aren't as many services and we have a real problem, and sort of like making sure that there's a refuge or safe house in every town, umm and that is, that is, a, particular issue.

R: Yeah

MIC: For us, umm, the, the, the last area is around um public policy, which is obviously government and other organisations all of their policy is uh, geared towards helping female victims, and uh,

R: I've noticed that, yeah

MIC: and basically, if, the government's overarching strategy to deal with a number of different crimes, including sexual violence, sexual abuse, stalking, forced marriage, FGM, and all of that, umm, and domestic abuse, is called 'ending violence against women and girls strategy',

R: Yeah I've read that terminology

MIC: Male victims of those crimes is actually placed, are categorised as being crimes against a woman, or a woman and a girl,



R: Right, ok

MIC: and all the policy and funding and the discussion, about those um, fall under that umbrella, they become, not only is it incorrect, and I said it on the paper, someone said 'well what's wrong with it?', I said well its incorrect because men and boys aren't women and girls.

R: Yeah course

MIC: I mean, they're saying 'what's wrong with that?' well it's incorrect for start (laughing).

R: Yeah

MIC: Umm, and, and secondly what it does it minimises uhh, awareness of male victims, and also umm, and someone put it a good, a chap called Ally Fogg, A L L Y, F O G G. He's a really good writer, he's got a blog, it's a, worth flicking through that. He talks about how it, for domestic abuse, sexual abuse victims, it's an act to reinforce their victimhood because basically uhh, it says it shows, they fear not being believed, well actually, the, the umm, police and the crown prosecution service and the government by using this strategy are what I call 'making themselves second class victims'. You know, cos the thing is, is I talk on radio a fair bit and , uhh, fair bits and stuff, and one of the things I always come out with is slightly off topic but, I always talk about those footballers who came out just before Christmas and say they're victims of sexual abuse,

R: Yeah

MIC: I said, they are categorised, classed by the government as being victims of a crime against a woman or a girl

R: Yeah, it's really odd, yeah

MIC: It's like what? I said, they are, they are, its government policy.

R: Yeah it's really strange, my next question to you actually was about um legislation and um policy and if it favours women in relation to domestic violence, but you've answered that um pretty well I think

MIC: It does completely, and I think us and a number of other charities now, including some of those in sexual abuse, sexual violence, feel that, that support mean, we kind of, you know, there's nothing official, but we talk to each other all the time

R: Yeah

MIC: One of the things that I've umm, were looking at, one of the things were arguing is that we want to see um, we want to see uh, um that all change really, umm, we want to make sure that there's separate strategy for, for, for men.

R: Yeah, definitely, yeah

MIC: Umm, so you know basically, there, there is a, um, parallel strategy really.

R: Yeah ok, uh, right, trying to think where I am now, thank you. You're really

MIC: You know there isn't focus on men, you know, \*sigh\* there's just loads of examples, I mean, even one, I mean if you go on our website, if you look at the campaign area, we've got media and campaigns, then we've got a drop down called public policy and campaigns, I mean, last week, um, the home office met the minister in the house of lords, there was a debate on, uh, domestic abuse, and basically one of the members of the house of lords called the Earl Cathcart, hereditary peer, he owns half of the county, but anyway, he said 'oh you know, what's the government doing me, cos one in three victims of domestic abuse is male' and the conservative minister, who is the, in the house of lords, said 'oooh, I don't think it's as high as that, I think it's only 8 percent,

R: WHAT?

MIC: You don't even know your own government's figures,

R: Wow

MIC: When I say 1in3, they're the government figures, you know cos I always use government figures, because you, it means that you can talk about the issues and not the statistics, and that can lead you down all sorts of blind alleys,

R: Yeah of course

MIC: But yeah, she said that, and I've written to Cathcart, umm, but you'll see the letter, I mean it's ridiculous, one thing you, if you were going to download anything, there was a brilliant radio 5 feature about three weeks ago on male victims of domestic abuse.

R: Ahh brilliant

MIC: So, umm, I would tonight or next couple of days just google it, male victims radio 5 live, um, it'll be on iPlayer, but download it because I think, you know you won't be able to download it or it goes off iPlayer after a month, yeah but if you get on, download it cos it, you know, I mean it's an hour long um, but its brilliant, it is, it's really good, anyway,

R: Lovely, thank you for that, that was really helpful, um, my next question was sort of towards the media in general, and, uh, how they represent male victims of domestic violence, or not at all in any case, but..

MIC: Well, I'll be fair, I think, I think, generally speaking, umm, the media have been very good over the last, 3 or 4 years, umm in terms of um talking about uhh, talking, talking about, doing features about male victims, about the whole issue, and also covering particular cases, um, there are still some newspapers I think, the guardian, and sometimes the BBC, uhh that whenever there is an issue about domestic abuse, they automatically talk about women. They automatically have a picture of a man hitting a woman,

R: Yeah, I've noticed that, yeah

MIC: Umm, it's almost like their default, is still on domestic abuse that it is the female victim, male perpetrator. But um, things have got better, they do include men in the text, and also they do regular features on um, um, male victims, I mean I think this week, is probably the first week this year where I haven't done any media at all

R: Oh ok

MIC: I'm quite often on the radio somewhere, still in the newspapers, um, being asked for a comment, when they're covering a story. Umm, it's got far better, it's got far better, umm, it's still a long way to go, but um if you'd asked me that question 5 years ago I would have said that there was hardly any coverage, but now it's, it's quite regular.

R: Yeah, ahh ok. Oh thank you, trying to think what else I need to ask you now, sorry.

MIC: that's alright

R: Um, my next sort of question was about um police and their arrest procedures and things, I mean, are you knowledgeable of what normally sort of happens, or are you not comfortable commenting on that sort of thing?

MIC: Well, I mean basically, it's the same as for, uh, its obviously the same for female victims, um and the kind of law is generally blind in the way that the police uh should be gender blind but, but we still do get men call us who have said that they've gone to the police and they haven't been believed, we also, know, that the, the police default mechanism is still to arrest the man, so we still know that men, uh even men that have called the police,

R: Yeah

MIC: The police basically will arrest the man, or take the man out of the situation, more than they will the female, even if it's the female who is actually the perpetrator, so we still have problems of many police officers still having a default mechanisms, that um, it's a, it's the woman is vulnerable and the man is the aggressor, again, uh its nowhere near as bad as it used to be, it literally used to be really bad.

R: Ok, yeah that's interesting, cos I've read about 'positive action' they call it when they arrest the primary aggressor but yeah, I mean I've read in other things obviously it's mainly the man that is arrested first, so it's good to hear that,

MIC: They have to make a pro-active arrest, and we agree with that, so we don't have a problem, but it's whether their default is to, is whether for some police officers they're going into a situation with a preconceived view that it's the man that's going to be the one that's guilty.

R: So do you think that um, alongside all the changes with the equality and diversity and all these changes that are being brought in, that, that needs to be looked at further then? Like more awareness of males being victims with police officers?

MIC: Yeah, Yeah, I mean absolutely, I mean the issue with equality and diversity is that, yeah it's all brilliant, yeah in principle but we still see too much that equality is only about equality for women and not equality for all.

R: Yeah, yeah, I've got to say I agree with you there, um yeah ok,

MIC: Just as a side, the most vulnerable ignored group, we believe, actually, in this whole, in this whole area, umm I think is basically, well there's 2 vulnerable groups, one is female perpetrators, so you know if you are a woman committing domestic abuse, you need some form of help,

R: Yeah

MIC: Um, and there is not help for female perpetrators at all, and second groups is actually women in same-sex relationships, um women who are victims of domestic abuse are obviously in a relationship with another woman, I mean, say they get completely ignored, because that goes, that runs counter to every, every uh, narrative that a woman could be aggressive, also a woman could be aggressive to another woman umm, you know women's aid, and others, they don't talk about women in same sex relationships,

R: That's really interesting yeah, I've got to say I've never really encountered that, yeah

MIC: But if, your gay, i.e gay woman or gay guy, you are actually far more likely to be in a abusive relationship than if you are a heterosexual woman, um or, or man. So basically, um, as a proportion, cos it's all about proportion, uh proportionately, uh, um, gay women are more likely to be a victim of domestic abuse than a woman of a heterosexual relationship or a straight woman, whatever you call it. Um, so I mean that's interesting and that's all government figures that,

R: Wow, I didn't even think to look at that area, that's

MIC: Yeah I mean that's a whole can, you know, if you went into that area, you know that's a whole other different area, I'm just making a point really.

R: Yeah, yeah, ok. Um sort of my last question is then, what do you believe needs to change, um to enable perceptions of male victims of domestic violence to be challenged? And um, changed really?

MIC: I think there's a number of high level things um and actually were putting together something for the home office, to the prime minister, made an announcement about really, what I'm really looking at, or what we're looking at, is um, A. we want a parallel strategy, which is uh ending intimate violence against men and boys, um if you said violence, you start getting into the realms of gangs, which is important but that not what kind of charities like ours really get involved with, so that needs to change. We think that there almost needs to be a change of definition, because domestic abuse, when people think about domestic abuse, they think about abuse in a relationship, but the government definition talks about inter-family abuse, so basically, if you know, son and a dad an adult have a fight, um that's actually classed as domestic abuse, it's not really what, what people, including the

government, actually think about it, uh so yeah, mother and uh sister, two women that are sisters and adults, massive row, and you know there's violence and all sorts of stuff, that would actually be classed as a domestic abuse incident,

R: Right ok, yeah that wouldn't come to mind when I think of that

MIC: Well none of us think that that, well exactly, it's a point I've been making, so um, so we need that, a service, a funded service um, in every city and town. We also want to make sure that there is also refuge or safe house in every area of the UK, or a network of them, we also want to government to take a bigger lead in actually raising awareness of male victims of these types of crimes, because the problem is the government doesn't really um, uh, doesn't really sort of talk about those issues, um, and I think they're some of the key areas that we would be looking at.

R: Ok, yeah that's really helpful, um I don't think that there is anything else, I can't think of anything else, sorry

MIC: No that's alright,

R: was there anything else you'd like to add before I um? Yeah I don't know what I'm saying now sorry

MIC: Yeah I, mean my kind of conclusion is that over the last 10 years, things have got better, for male victims, in terms of service provision and awareness, but it's still around 2 decades behind women, than it is for female victims, at the moment, but it's going in the right direction, but it's a long way to go.

R: Ok, lovely, thank you very much for your time, that was really, really helpful to me.

MIC: That's ok, if you need anything else let me know, we also make the offer that once your dissertation or project has been marked, and whatever, we do, we do put student dissertations up on our website, so once you've got permission, cos you know, you've got to get it all marked,

R: it wouldn't be til July time I think

MIC: Oh yeah, exactly, um, whenever, we do actually put dissertations up on the websites it just helps with kind of other people looking to do study

R: Yeah that's where I found inspiration to do this, looked on the website, it was really good yeah

MIC: Yeah, yeah, so we just publish everything, cos we just want as much information out there as possible

R: Sorry I've got another quick question that's popped to my mind now, haha. Um, I've been looking on a few um different websites for domestic violence and even refuge which is for both sexes is primarily pink, the website, it thought that was quite um, in your face, would put men off kind of accessing it, it was a bit in your face even for me as a female I thought it was a, a bit too much

MIC: yeah well, they basically, the women's aid and refuge only support women,

R: Oh ok, cos there is a section on refuge that said it was male as well

MIC: Yeah, well they do run a few services for male victims in certain areas

R: Right ok that'll be why then

MIC: Buy they're not really for male victims, the reason they run the odd service for male victims is because the council's contracts for, they won said they need to help male victims.

R: Ok that makes more sense then

MIC: So, they kind of support male victims in certain areas because they're forced to by the councils, but they're not really interested, well they do on the ground, to be fair, on the ground they do provide good service at a national corporate level, you will never, never, never, never, see refuge or women's aid run a campaign for male victims

R: No, no, I'm still a bit annoyed, but a bit gutted that none of them got back to me to speak like we have because I think it would have been really valuable, but none of them at all, not even via email have like agreed to have a quick chat

MIC: Well, I mean if you wanted to do, I tell you what you should do, to at least get a perception of where they're coming from when it comes to male victims, if you google Polly Neate, if you, there, there's, a number of articles, one of them will be Polly Neate, Michael Malone, just google that, if you do Polly Neate, Ian McNickel, and Polly Neate watching the action, and you'll find articles and stuff where basically its shown where, she has deliberately um, gone out to minimise issues around male victims, Michael Malone he's an author, he published a novel, he published a novel at the end of last yeah, it's like a proper author, he published a novel about a male victim, she criticised him, cos he was obviously, she said that oh it's all about women, um and he was quite alarmed, you know he's not into this, he's an author, he was like 'why am I getting this?' Why is this CEO of a charity attacking me? It's really odd, but I don't find it odd, it happens all the time to me, Nichols is a survivor, she wrote an article like attacked it, in a nice way, and Ally Fogg he did a piece, because she slagged off our violence is violence video.

R: Really?

MIC: Yeah yeah, exactly, so watching the reactions he has a whole kind of piece about why she is attacking the video, they're worth having a look at, so you'll get that perspective.

R: thank you very much for that. Lovely well thank you very much for agreeing to have a chat with me. You are very knowledgeable

MIC: That's ok, yeah too knowledgeable (laughs), but like I say if you need anything else just drop me a line, it may take a while to get back to you but drop me a line give me a call.

R: Thank you very much, take care bye bye

MIC: Bye, bye