



Press Release
7th March 2019

Charity supports landmark Government statement on male victims of domestic abuse and related intimate violence crimes

Following the publication of the Government's Position Statement on male victims of crimes considered 'Violence Against Women and Girls' crimes such as domestic abuse, sexual violence/abuse/exploitation, stalking, and so-called 'honour based' violence/abuse (HBV/A), including forced marriage **Mark Brooks OBE, Chairman of the ManKind Initiative, a national domestic abuse charity for male victims, said:**

"This first-ever Government statement is a huge leap forward in ensuring there will at last be full and equal recognition that men are victims of these terrible crimes. We are proud to have worked with the Government and other charities to have produced this clear and inclusive message.

"We are confident it will encourage more men to come forward, ensure better professional support when they do and also give fresh impetus in changing society's attitude towards male victims.

"For far too long men suffering from these crimes have felt they are invisible, they are somehow to blame and that no one will believe them. This statement should give them more confidence in reaching out for the support they need and rightly deserve."

The ManKind Initiative has worked with the Government, amongst a range of other organisations, to produce this statement. The charity also organised a meeting with the Government in May 2018 with a range of male victims of domestic abuse to discuss the need for more support and recognition as part of

the consultation on the new Domestic Abuse Bill. The charity is currently delivering domestic abuse training to the UK Armed Forces and the recent documentary BBC Abused By My Girlfriend, featured the charity's ambassador Alex Skeel.

This statement also builds upon a statement¹ released by the Crown Prosecution Service in 2017 which set out a number of commitments to improve the support that the criminal justice system gives male victims of these crimes.

This statement is entitled a "Position statement on male victims of crimes considered in the cross-Government strategy on ending Violence against Women and Girls - VAWG)." The charity believes that there still remains a need for the government to commission an "Ending Intimate Violence Against Men and Boys Strategy" as do many others such as the Victims Commissioner. This formed part of the charity's response to the published Domestic Abuse Bill.

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Notes to Editors

1. CPS Statement:

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/cps-public-statement-male-victims-crimes-covered-cps-vawg-strategy>

2. Key Domestic Abuse Statistics:

- Domestic Abuse: 695,000 men are victims of domestic abuse per year (1.32 million women) – in effect one in three victims are male.
- Partner Abuse: 451,000 men are victims of partner abuse every year (1.04 million women) – in effect one in three victims are male.
- Male victims (49%) are nearly three times as likely than women (18%) not to tell anyone they are a victim

Source: Domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (published by the Office for National Statistics – November 2018)

- 159,000 men (482,000 women) reported to English and Welsh police forces in 2017 as victims of domestic abuse. Source FOI requests from the ManKind Initiative.

3. About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (www.mankind.org.uk), is a national charity which runs a help-line providing, practical information and emotional support for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm) which relies on public donations. It also runs an accredited training course, a national conference and a national services directory.

4. Media Enquiries

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357
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