

Press Release  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

## **New Domestic Abuse Bill – An Opportunity For A More Inclusive and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Approach**

*(see notes to editors for core statistics)*

The ManKind Initiative is the leading charity in the UK supporting male victims of domestic abuse. Following the measures announced by the Government on the Domestic Abuse Bill, the charity made the comments below:

### **Mark Brooks OBE, Chairman of the ManKind Initiative, said:**

“We support the Government’s proposals in principle including the increased responsibilities on local councils, the fact that the legislation will apply to all equally and the inclusion of economic abuse in the definition, albeit we would like to see parental alienation included as well.

“The key opportunity is to make sure that there is a more inclusive approach to domestic abuse. This means ensuring that the application of the law, measures and guidance meets the needs of all victims’ individual needs including male and LGBTQ+ victims.

This will ensure more male and LGBTQ+ victims receive the support they need because they are better recognised by professionals, the justice system and society as a whole. It will be reflected in more services, more awareness campaigns and ultimately more victims escaping abuse because they no longer think no one will believe them, there is no support and they are alone ”

## **Other core measures that the charity would like to see in the Domestic Abuse Bill or more widely, include:**

1. We believe the Government should be defining domestic abuse as a crime against an individual and no longer define it as a “gendered crime” which is an ideological position that marginalises male and LGBTQ+ victims.
2. We believe that Parental Alienation should be included in the statutory definition as a type of domestic abuse.
3. There should be alignment with Scotland on their definition of Coercive and Controlling behaviour thereby changing the ‘household test’.
4. There should be the proper enforcement of regular, wilful and deliberate breaches of Child Arrangement Orders and Non-Molestation Orders as this is a domestic abuse crime.
5. There should be statutory improvements in the accountability and transparency of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
6. There must be an inclusive and equal approach in the Statutory Guidance not one that skews the guidance to “classes” (and reinforces cognitive biases / stereotypes) of victims based on any of the protected characteristics, including gender.

### Additional Whole System Changes

7. The introduction of an “Ending Intimate Violence Against Men and Boys” Strategy in parallel to the successful and welcome “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls” Strategy.
8. Introducing a National Statement of Expectations on domestic abuse for men and boys alongside the current National Statement of Expectations which focusses on women and girls.
9. Ensure there is a gender-inclusive narrative in Relationships and Sex Education.
10. Create a national network of refuges and safe houses for males and LGBTQ+ victims of domestic abuse. There are currently only 169 refuge/safe house places for men across the UK run by 35 organisations (36 of places are solely for men) – there are none in London.
11. Increase the level of appropriate and inclusive service provision for male victims of domestic abuse based on risk and need.
12. Creating proactive national/local awareness campaigns targeted at male and LGBTQ+ victims.
13. Improve and provide appropriate training to the police, local councils, the health sector and justice system to raise awareness on how to better support male victims of domestic abuse.
14. Improve support for female and LGBTQ+ perpetrators of domestic abuse.

15. Review and reform the legal definition of rape to include male and LGBTQ+ victims who are raped by women.

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

#### 1. About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative ([www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)) is the leading 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.

#### 2. Core Statistics

10 Core Statistics on Male Victims of Domestic Abuse:

*The Office for National Statistics report*

- In 2018/19, 786,000 men (3.8% men) and 1.6 million women (7.5% women) and were victims of domestic abuse in 2018/19 equating to a ratio of two female victims to every one male victim.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2018/19, one in four women and one in seven men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- 576,000 men (2.5% men) and 1.2 million (4.8 women) were victims of partner abuse in 2018/19 equating to a ratio of two female victims to every one male victims<sup>6</sup>.
- In 2017/18, 11% of male victims (7.2% women) have considered taking their life due to partner abuse.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2017/18, nearly half of male victims fail to tell anyone they are a victim of domestic abuse (only 51% tell anyone). They are nearly three times less likely to tell anyone than a female victim (49% of men tell no one as opposed to 19% women). This has worsened since 2015/16 where the figures were 61% for men (88% women) in terms of telling someone.<sup>3</sup>
- Of those that suffered from partner abuse once or more in 17/18, 45.7% of male victims had suffered from force (28% of women), 2.9% of male victims had suffered from sexual assault (6.2% women) and 18.1% suffered from stalking (23.4% women)<sup>7</sup>.
- In 2018/19 - 16 men (80 women) were killed at the hands of their current or ex-partner.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales: year ending March 2019: Report - <https://bit.ly/38f7GW> and Data - <https://bit.ly/3ajXVrm>

<sup>2</sup> Partner abuse in detail, England and Wales: year ending March 2018: Report - <https://bit.ly/38epe4X> and Data - <https://bit.ly/38faSRL>

<sup>3</sup> ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 <https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>

<sup>4</sup> Homicide in England and Wales: <https://bit.ly/2VM3aw3>

### *ManKind Initiative report*

- Currently, there are 35 Organisations with 169 Spaces with only 36 of those places are dedicated for men. Many parts of the UK have no or limited places at all – for instance London has no places.
- In 2017, 159,000 men reported to English and Welsh police forces stating they were a victim of domestic abuse (73,000 in 2012) as did 480,000 women (311,000 in 2012). 23% of all victims who report to the police are male.
- 53% of the men who call the ManKind Initiative helpline have never spoken to anyone before about the abuse they are suffering and 70% would not have called if the helpline was not anonymous.

### **3. Media Enquiries**

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357  
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