



Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT
Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893
Honorary Patrons – Lord Cotter, John Penrose MP, Ann Goodchild, Paul Chivers and Sara Westle

Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 Summary Briefing: A 21st Century and inclusive approach to supporting ALL victims – including male and LGBTQ+ victims of domestic abuse

About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative Charity (formed in 2001) was the first charity in Great Britain to support male victims of domestic abuse. Our aim is to ensure all male victims, and their children, are supported to enable them to escape from their situation. We take a modern 21st century inclusive and equality-based view of domestic abuse. The Charity thus strives to ensure that all victims, including males, females, LGBTQ+, and their children, receive the support they need.

Our core services include a national helpline, a popular website, a training programme, and consultancy, as well as an annual national conference. We provide specialist training to police forces and other statutory and non-statutory agencies throughout England and Wales, and are currently delivering a project to the Armed Forces to enable them to enhance their response to domestic abuse. The charity has also worked in partnership with both the CPS¹ and the Home Office² on their respective statements regarding male victims of VAWG crimes.

Statistics:

10 Core Statistics on Male Victims of Domestic Abuse can be found in Appendix 1

Summary

The charity is supportive of the Domestic Abuse Bill but we feel there are significant areas that can be improved to better support all victims – including male and LGBTQ+ victims, alongside female victims and their children.

This summary briefing sets out the areas we support, areas for change, and related issues such as strategies to better support male victims of domestic abuse more widely. In effect, alongside the Domestic Abuse Bill/Act, a whole system change in support and recognition of male victims of domestic abuse is needed.

A fuller briefing is available on the charity's website at <https://www.mankind.org.uk/media-and-policy/public-policy-and-research/>

For further information, please contact Mark Brooks OBE, Chair on 07834 452357 or chairman@mankind.org.uk

¹ CPS Public statement on male victims for crimes covered by the CPS VAWG Strategy <https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/cps-public-statement-male-victims-crimes-covered-cps-vawg-strategy>

² Position statement on male victims of crimes considered in the cross-Government strategy on ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/783996/Male_Victims_Position_Paper_Web_Accessible.pdf

Domestic Abuse Bill

Support

1. We support Statutory Definition of Domestic Abuse being gender neutral to ensure equality of the law for all victims/perpetrators of domestic abuse in line with the British Constitution
2. We agree that Economic Abuse should be included in the statutory definition of domestic abuse.

Changes

3. 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.
4. We believe that Parental Alienation should be included in the statutory definition as a type of domestic abuse.
5. There should be alignment with Scotland on their definition of Coercive and Controlling behaviour thereby changing the ‘household test’.
6. 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.
7. There should be statutory improvements in the accountability and transparency of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
8. 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

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Ensure there is a gender-inclusive narrative in Relationships and Sex Education.
12. 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.
13. Increase the level of appropriate and inclusive service provision for male victims of domestic abuse based on risk and need.
14. Creating proactive national/local awareness campaigns targeted at male and LGBT+ victims.

15. 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.
16. Improve support for female and LGBTQ+ perpetrators of domestic abuse.
17. Review and reform the legal definition of rape to include male and LGBTQ+ victims who are raped by women.

01 March 2020

For further information, please contact Mark Brooks OBE, Chair on 07834 452357 or chairman@mankind.org.uk

Appendix 1

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.³
- 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 victims³.
- In 2017/18, 11% of male victims (7.2% women) have considered taking their life due to partner abuse.⁴
- 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).⁵
- 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)⁴.
- In 2018/19 - 16 men (80 women) were killed at the hands of their current or ex-partner.⁶

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 Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales: year ending March 2019: Report - <https://bit.ly/38f7GWh> and Data - <https://bit.ly/3ajXVrm>

⁴ Partner abuse in detail, England and Wales: year ending March 2018: Report - <https://bit.ly/38epe4X> and Data - <https://bit.ly/38faSRL>

⁵ ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2018 <https://bit.ly/2FY8UYc>

⁶ Homicide in England and Wales: <https://bit.ly/2VM3aw3>