



Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT
Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893
Honorary Patrons – Lord Cotter, John Penrose MP, Ann Goodchild, Sara Westle, Erin Pizzey, Paul Chivers and Clive Lever
Chair: Mark Brooks OBE – chairman@mankind.org.uk (07834 452357)

31 May 2020

House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Dear MP

RE: Women supporting male victims of domestic abuse (Domestic Abuse Bill and Statutory Guidance)

We are writing to you regarding the Domestic Abuse Bill and its Statutory Guidance, given you are a member of the Public Bill Committee.

We are a group of women who have been personally affected by the experience of an individual male victim of domestic abuse we know. Whether that be as mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, colleagues or new partners of a man who has been in this situation.

We are writing on behalf of all male victims of domestic abuse to ensure their voices are heard alongside the voices of their daughters and sons. As the Government recognises, they make up one in three of all victims of domestic abuse¹.

In both the Domestic Abuse Bill and the Statutory Guidance, it is vital they have equal recognition with female victims, their barriers to seek help are fully understood and that they are fully supported. They should no longer be marginalised and ignored and any attempt to do so places them and their children at higher risk.

We believe all individual victims, whether female or male, deserve the same levels of support and that the law should not only apply to all equally, it must be applied equally to all.

Male victims of domestic abuse often fear they are not believed and will not be supported or understood if and when they do come forward. There are not enough awareness campaigns to encourage them to do so, not enough funding to support them and not enough recognition within many statutory agencies. We also need society to change its

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/domesticabuseinenglandandwales>: 1.6 million women and 786,000 men were victims of domestic abuse in 2018/19.

attitude towards them. It is vital this Bill and Guidance addresses this and does not make their situation even worse by marginalising them further.

Please ensure the voices of those who we love, care for and share friendships with are not silenced, marginalised or forgotten. We urge you to ensure the Bill and Guidance fully supports and equally recognises male victims of domestic abuse and their children. We all Stand With Him – the male victim we know.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us through* the ManKind Initiative charity as above.

Yours sincerely

1. Abby, Sheffield, partner (*my partner is still emotionally abused by a controlling ex*)
2. AH, Carmarthenshire, sister (*my brother was a victim for 17 years*)
3. Alison, Edinburgh, friend (*he was a victim for over 30 years*)
4. Ann G, Southampton, mother (*my son took his own life*)
5. Anna, Southampton, sister (*my brother took his own life*)
6. Anne, Somerset, sister (*my brother was a victim for 18 years*)
7. Anne-Marie H, Lincolnshire, friend (*my friend had nowhere to go for help*)
8. Becky, Bristol, daughter (*my father was a victim for 18 years*)
9. Brenda, Hertfordshire, mother (*my son has been scarred for life because of his ex*)
10. Cath, Bolton, mother (*my son was subjected to violence*)
11. Chloe, Lancashire, friend (*my cousin's uncle was murdered by his wife*)
12. Christina Johnson (pseudonym), Hertfordshire, partner (*my partner is a victim of parental alienation and false allegations*)
13. Debbie Livesley, Chorley, ex-partner (*my ex-partner was murdered by his wife*)
14. Diana, Cheshire, ex-wife (*my ex-husband suffered domestic abuse that he hid from his daughters*)
15. Eileen, York, mother (*my son suffered mental trauma even after the relationship ended*)
16. Elizabeth, Norwich (*I have friends and a colleague who were victims*)
17. Hannah, London, daughter (*my father was a victim for 18 years*)
18. Jackie, Carmarthenshire, mother (*my son was a victim*)
19. Jane, Bristol, mother (*my son was a sufferer for many years*)
20. Janet, Sussex, mother
21. JW, West Midlands, mother
22. JB, South Wales, daughter (*my father's new wife physically and financially abused him*)
23. Jo, Kent, mother (*my son suffered PTSD because of his ex-wife's abuse*)
24. J, North West, fiancée (*my partner suffered at the hands of his ex-wife*)

25. Jenn, South Wales, friend (*my friend wasn't believed and ultimately this cost him his job*)
26. JLW, Cheshire, sister (*my brother suffered for five years*)
27. Kate, Herefordshire, partner (*my current suffered coercion, control and physical violence from his ex*)
28. Kathleen, Greater London, close relative of male victim
29. Kathryn, Hertfordshire, partner (*my partner suffered for 15 years due to his ex*)
30. Katie, Hertfordshire, wife (*my husband's ex was abusive and still remains so*)
31. Kelly, sister (*my brother and a friend suffered, the latter committed suicide*)
32. Louise, Glasgow, sister (*people laughed at my brother*)
33. L.W, London, daughter (*my father was a victim for 30 years*)
34. Olivia, London, friend (*my friend was murdered by his girlfriend*)
35. Rhiannon, Carmarthenshire, sister
36. Rosie, Worcestershire, sister
37. Sara Westle, Leicestershire, mother (*my son was murdered by his girlfriend*)
38. SLW, Cheshire, mother (*my son suffered for five years*)
39. Sharon, Bromley, girlfriend (*my boyfriend was in an abusive relationship for several years*)
40. S Smith, Hertfordshire, sister (*my brother was never believed even when he had injuries*)
41. Mrs S, Cornwall, partner (*my partner has been alienated from his children by his ex*)
42. Tamsin Hutchinson, Chorley, friend (*my friend was murdered by his wife*)
43. Vicki, Leicester, mother
44. V. M. A, mother
45. YM, Armagh, mother
46. Anonymous mother, Wales, mother (*my son took his own life*)
47. Anonymous, Manchester, mother
48. Anonymous, London, mother (*my son considered suicide*)
49. Anonymous, Gloucestershire, mother
50. Anonymous, Midlands, mother/sister (*both my son and brother have been victims*)
51. Anonymous, Warwickshire, sister (*my brother took his own life*)

* Note: These testimonies have been sent freely to the charity over the past two weeks and have been anonymised where necessary and where requested. All signatories have a direct connection to a male victim as described. Some signatories do not wish to be contacted by anyone bar the charity.