

**DOES THE CROSS-GOVERNMENT STRATEGY ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE?**

**UNEQUAL TREATMENT WITHIN THE SYSTEM**

- Despite 500,000 men suffering from partner abuse each year and 36% of male victims living in households with children, there are only 19 organizations providing shelter or safe housing for male victims in the UK - a total of 78 places. Only 20 of which are devoted to male victims (Ons. Gov. UK, 2018)
- A study in January 2019 showed that men were traveling an average of 160 miles to access safe refuge. On at least 120 occasions in 2010, the caller decided not to accept refuge as they would have to completely uproot their lives (Mankind initiative, 2018)
- Government and local authority are not gender-inclusive enough to ensure that male victims are provided with adequate housing. It places local authorities at risk of violating the Housing Act (1996) and the Equality act (2010), sections 185 and 186.
- Women's domestic abuse charities are government funded having received £100m since March 2016, while male charities have solely relied on donations. Only in March 2019 was the first male victim position statement released detailing a funding of £24m over the following three years (Government, 2019).

**89%** of males stay in an abusive relationship out of concern for their children.

**52%** of males stay in abusive relationships because they are embarrassed.

(Ons.Gov.Uk, 2018)

**53%** of males who call mankind initiative have never spoken to anyone previously about the abuse they have suffered.

**70%** of males would not have called mankind helpline if it were not anonymous.

**59%** of males are more likely to perceive incidents not as domestic abuse.

(Mankind Initiative, 2018)

**SILENCED BY STIGMA?**

The way in which society constructs masculinity excludes weakness and assumes men to be physically dominant over one another and especially over women.

This societal view is what sociologist Paul Kivel (1999) calls the 'act like a man box' in which men are expected to be aggressive, in control and violent while suppressing their own emotions.

This toxic perception of masculinity can often prevent men from speaking out when they are the victims.

The shame, stigma and fear of not being believed can be so strong that male victims simply do not report the abuse they are experiencing (Mankind Initiative, 2018).

Extricate men and boys from the VAWG strategy and create a parallel but separate cross-government strategy on Ending Violence Against Men and Boys. This would allow male victims to campaign for the social and political change that is required.

**SPEAK OUT!  
COME FORWARD!  
LETS MAKE A CHANGE!**

It would permit survivors and their advocates to access government funding without the pressure of competing with the female sector whilst giving men the basic right to name and identify their own experiences of domestic abuse because whilst equivalent, men's experiences and needs for recovery are different to those of women (Fogg, 2019).

**WHAT APPROPRIATE CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE?**

Substantial academic research has shown that, although, improvement's are being made to better support male victims of domestic abuse (Government, 2019) Government acts and omissions prove to contradict statements made in Government policies that male and female victims are, indeed, treated equally. Charities dedicated to male victims of domestic abuse such as the Mankind Initiative need more government funding! The system needs to adapt to helping males as the experience between men and women suffering abuse will differ! Male victims need appropriate safe houses! Awareness of these issues needs to be made to STOP THE SUFFERING!

Mankind Initiative helpline - 01823 334244