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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)

2 July 2020

Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Dear Member of Parliament

Re: Women supporting male victims of domestic abuse (Domestic Abuse Bill)

We are writing to you regarding male victims of domestic abuse to ensure that their voices are heard in the Domestic Abuse Bill and its Statutory Guidance. This is also part of a new campaign run by the charity called Stand With Him.

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 abuse (1.6 million women and 786,000 men were victims of domestic abuse in 2018/19)

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 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. AH, Carmarthenshire, brother (*he was a victim for 17 years, which ultimately resulted in him taking his own life*)
2. Alexandra, Birmingham, step sister (*my step brother was murdered*)
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. Barbara Lavelle, Wirral, mother (*my son was murdered by his partner*)
9. Becky, Bristol, daughter (*my father was a victim for 18 years*)
10. Brenda, Hertfordshire, mother (*my son has been scarred for life because of his ex*)
11. Caroline, Birmingham, ex-partner (*my ex-partner was murdered*)
12. Cath, Bolton, mother (*my son was subjected to violence*)
13. Diana, Edinburgh, mother (*my son has been a victim*)
14. Diana, Cheshire, ex-wife (*my ex-husband suffered domestic abuse that he hid from his daughters*)
15. Debbie Livesley, Chorley, ex-partner (*my ex-partner was murdered by his wife*)
16. Eileen, York, mother (*my son suffered mental trauma even after the relationship ended*)
17. Elizabeth, Norwich (*I have friends and a colleague who were victims*)
18. Fiona, Worcestershire, friend (*my friend's brother was murdered by his partner 2019*)
19. Hannah, London, daughter (*my father was a victim for 18 years*)
20. Hannah, Birmingham, friend (*my friend's brother was murdered by his partner 2019*)
21. Jackie, Carmarthenshire, mother (*my son was a victim*)
22. Janet, Sussex, mother
23. JW, Cheshire, mother (*my son has full parental responsibility but his ex is still causing trouble for the family*)
24. Jo, South Wales, daughter (*my elderly father's new wife physically and financially abused him*)
25. J, North West, fiancée (*my partner suffered at the hands of his ex-wife*)
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 Brown, Birmingham, brother (*he was killed by his partner*)
31. Kelly, sister (*my brother and a friend suffered, the latter committed suicide*)
32. KR, friend & now partner of one survivor,
33. Jenny, Birmingham, friend (*my friend's brother was murdered by his partner 2019*)
34. Laraine, Birmingham, mother (*my daughter lost her ex partner to domestic abuse*)
35. Louise, Glasgow, sister (*people laughed at my brother*)
36. Louise Cunningham, Birmingham, mother (*son was murdered by his partner 2019*) –
37. Margaret, Birmingham, ex-husband (*my ex husband abused by his partner*)
38. Natalia, wife (*my husband was subjected to awful abuse by previous partner*)
39. Olivia, London, friend (*my friend was murdered by his girlfriend*)
40. Rosie, Worcestershire, sister
41. Ruth, Birmingham, friend (*my friend's brother was murdered by his partner 2019*)
42. Sara Westle, Leicestershire, mother (*my son was murdered by his girlfriend*)
43. Sharon, Bromley, girlfriend (*my boyfriend was in an abusive relationship for several years*)
44. SW, Essex, sister (*brother was murdered by partner*)

45. Tamsin Hutchinson, Chorley, friend (*my friend was murdered by his wife*)
46. Tracey, mother (*my son is going through mental abuse*)
47. Vicki, Leicester, mother
48. V. M. A, mother
49. Zoe, Birmingham, cousin (*cousin was murdered by his partner*)
50. Anonymous mother, Wales, mother (*my son took his own life*)
51. Anonymous mother, YM, Armagh, mother
52. Anonymous, Manchester, mother
53. Anonymous, London, mother (*my son considered suicide*)
54. Anonymous, Gloucestershire, mother
55. Anonymous, Midlands, sister (*my brother was a victim and took his own life*)
56. Anonymous, Warwickshire, sister (*my brother was a victim and took his own life*)

* Note: These testimonies have been sent freely to the charity over the past month 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.