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Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893  
Honorary Patrons – Lord Cotter, John Penrose MP, Ann Goodchild, Paul Chivers, Clive Lever, Sara Westle and Erin Pizzey

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## Press Release

10 June 2020

### ManKind Initiative delighted to coordinate Train to Safety scheme run by Rail Delivery Group

<https://www.mankind.org.uk/for-professionals/train-to-safety/>

Since the start of lockdown, there has been a massive increase in demand for domestic abuse services across the country including a 35% increase in calls to our helpline and more than the double the number of visitors to our website.

We have held discussions with Rail Delivery Group in relation to helping male victims receive free travel to refuges and safe houses during lockdown. We are now pleased to be able to coordinate this for men accessing refuges and safe houses during the pandemic.

This brilliant scheme means that victims / survivors with a refuge space can travel for free across England, Scotland and Wales, with train companies and Network Rail, through the Rail Delivery Group covering the cost of travel.

**Rail Delivery Group**, said: “Together, rail companies are offering free travel for people fleeing domestic abuse during lockdown. This now includes referrals from the ManKind Initiative so that more men, women and children can travel by train to safety”

**Mark Brooks, Chair of the ManKind Initiative**, said: “We are delighted with this announcement from the Rail Delivery Group - it shows a real commitment from the railway industry to ensure all victims of domestic abuse can travel by train to safety.”

This scheme is similar to the Rail to Refuge scheme run by Women’s Aid.

ENDS

#### Notes to Editors:

- (1) 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) Key facts about male victims of domestic abuse can be found at:

<https://www.mankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/50-Key-Facts-about-Male-Victims-of-Domestic-Abuse-and-Partner-Abuse-March-2020-final.pdf>

(3) Media Enquiries

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357  
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