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ManKind Initiative charity for male victims of domestic abuse launches online services directory on 20th anniversary

<https://www.mankind.org.uk/help-for-victims/directory/>

The ManKind Initiative, the national specialist and expert charity for male victims of domestic abuse has launched an online services directory (Oak Book) on its 20th anniversary since becoming a registered charity.

This directory hosted on its website is complementary to the charity's helpline which also signposts men to the local services in their community that will support them. It allows male victims as well as others like their mothers, sisters and friends seeking local support for their son, brother and mate, to find the information when it is convenient for them.

The directory, kindly funded by donations made by the public, is continually being updated including when new services are created or existing ones change.

The charity was created by women and men over 20 years ago in Taunton, where it is still based and became a registered charity on 28 November 2001. It was the first domestic abuse charity in Great Britain for male victims at that time. The charity receives over 2,000 calls per year from male victims or those on behalf of them. The charity's aims are that:

- all male victims of domestic abuse (and their children) are supported to enable them to escape from the situation they are in, and,
- recognition and support for male victims is fully integrated and mainstreamed in society's view of domestic abuse and in the statutory and non-statutory delivery of domestic abuse services (gender inclusive/gender informed).

The charity meets these aims through:

- providing direct services for male victims
- driving the growth of support for male victims in their community
- supporting improvements in professional practice especially in public bodies
- supporting research and academia
- giving male victims a voice with government and related bodies.

Recently, this has led to the:

- Creation of National Standards for services supporting male victims (<https://mdan.org.uk/service-standards>).
- Created of a Practitioners' Network - Male Domestic Abuse Network (<https://mdan.org.uk/>).
- Delivery of comprehensive accredited training packages and support for public bodies, professionals and employers to enable them to better support and understand male victims (www.mankind.org.uk/midass).
- Growth of local community-based services in every city and county including holding local councils to account.
- Support for academia with projects and research on male victims.
- Provision of a voice for male victims of domestic abuse and their children with government and other public bodies including on the Domestic abuse Act, Statutory Guidance and Male Victims' Position Statement.

Mark Brooks OBE, chair of the ManKind Initiative, said: "Men suffering from domestic abuse should be able to easily find information about their local services when they want. We also know from our 20 years' experience in supporting them, that providing information online helps them to start their journey to escape anonymously if that is what they want. Taking a gender-informed approach is vital in tailoring support based on what men need and want, not on what people think they need or should want.

"We would like to thank all of our survivors who have been on the 20 year journey with us, including those who kindly make donations which help maintain our helpline and created this directory. Our current and previous members of staff alongside our trustees past and present have also really helped our work. Together, they have helped us to directly help men escape from this terrible crime, ensure public services improve their support and making sure the voices of men and their children are heard in the corridors of power. Thank you to you all."

Dr Elizabeth Bates, Principal Lecturer in Psychology and Psychological Therapies (University of Cumbria), Chair of the Chair of the Male Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society, said: This 20 year anniversary is a milestone and one worthy of celebration, for the whole of this time the charity has been changing men's lives. Through the helpline, the advocacy and their tireless efforts, they have impacted not only male victims/survivors but also their families, policy and practice. Men who have shared their stories with me have included many references to the impact that the helpline and their support had. I am so proud to work with them as a trustee."

If you know of a domestic abuse service that supports male victims and is not included, please contact admin@mankind.org.uk with details.

Thank you to We Are Jam (brand and digital agency) for their support in creating this online directory.

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(1) About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (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.

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