

Dissertation:
Female-on-male domestic abuse:
Treatment by public services and help available to male
victims

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Introduction

This dissertation will discuss the issue and occurrence of female-on-male domestic abuse. The aim of the study is to discover whether male victims feel they have been treated fairly and adequately by the public services such as the police and social services. Research suggests that services available to male victims are lopsided and this will also be considered. The study will aim to discover whether male victims feel that there are enough services available for them and if there is enough publicity surrounding the issue.

The dissertation will firstly look at other pieces of literature and any academic research which has been conducted in this area, and the study itself will aim to replicate the findings. Some theories of domestic abuse will briefly be discussed in order to gain an idea as to why women abuse their male partners. The study will be conducted using self-completion questionnaires and the results from these will then be compared with the literature already conducted on female-on-male domestic abuse to see if they are supportive of one another.

The dissertation will conclude with some recommendations for further improvement of the public services and how they treat male victims of abuse. The recommendations will be from both the researcher and the respondents of the research.

Literature Review

Literature Review Introduction

The literature review section of the dissertation will look at some different themes which were discovered within the literature. The first of which is the stereotype of domestic abuse. This will focus mainly on the study conducted by Ann Grady (2002) *female-on-male domestic abuse: uncommon or ignored?* The following section will discuss the occurrence of domestic abuse against men, by looking at facts and figures found within the literature. The third section will look at the reasons behind female violence and will focus on Dr. Martin S. Fiebert's work of women who initiate assaults on their partners. The final two sections are most relevant to the study and look at the help available for male victims and the support they receive from public services.

Domestic Abuse Stereotype

From researching domestic abuse it is evident that the stereotypes of victims are that of women being abused by their male partners. This is apparent from the websites available showing support services for victims of domestic abuse. There are only two charities in England and Wales which are for men specifically who help with male victims of domestic abuse. As the stereotype is that of female victims, there is not much academic research specifically aimed at male victims, and for this reason, this piece of research will focus on the male victims of domestic abuse.

It is first necessary to look at the reasons that women and not men are considered the victims of domestic abuse. The best place to start is the research conducted by Ann Grady; this is the only piece of academic research the researcher found which focuses solely on male victims of domestic abuse. Grady discusses in great detail the reasons why feminism has resulted in the stereotype of the domestic violence victim being female. She discusses the basic principles of the feminist study as regarding the gendered structure of society as the cause of female oppression, and states:

“It is thus evident that core feminist principles are seen to have specific application to domestic violence research. Feminists view the gendered structure of society as an instrumental facilitator of

violence against women. Men are the holders of public and private power, which creates a subordinate underclass of women. By holding this power they exercise 'social control' over women, which at its extreme is expressed using violence, especially within the home."

(Grady, A. cited in Hoyle, C. & Young, R. 2002: 79)

As the feminist perspective on domestic abuse has been so strong in recent years this has therefore meant that male victims have subsequently been deselected from any sample groups and "accordingly, one can assert that the feminist analysis of domestic violence is gender-biased, and its findings will reflect such a bias." (Ibid, 80) Grady discusses other writers research which has left out the occurrence of the male victim, she states that many researchers do this due to past research which shows women are the majority of victims but she also says that "Some writers do not even bother to justify their subject group, clearly implying they see domestic violence to be a female issue." (Ibid, 81) Grady, however does say that there is an exception to this and that is the research of analysed police records, as these are measured in a more quantitative fashion, it shows a more rounded picture of the extent of domestic violence. However one problem with this is that many male victims don't report their abuse to police due to the stigma attached. Although this will be discussed in more detail further on, it implies that police records may not be as reliable as originally thought due to the lack of reporting by male victims. Grady concludes her criticisms of the feminist method by stating:

"This stereotype perpetuates a social perception of domestic violence as an offence committed by men against women. The application of this stereotype is at its greatest within domestic violence response agencies, as they have been most directly informed by the feminist analyses of domestic violence. Indeed, the majority, such as refuges and help lines, have been established as a direct result of the need to support 'battered women' identified within research."

(Ibid, 81-82)

Similarly to Grady, the researcher has also found that in academic textbooks and research, the male victim is not mentioned at all. For example in the text book *Criminology* by Stephen Jones, there is a chapter about violent and aggressive offences, in which there is a sub-chapter about spouse or partner abuse. From the title 'spouse or partner abuse' it would seem that the content would be gender neutral but it is not, and discusses the feminist view briefly.

"In Britain, violence in the home is generally referred to as domestic violence; although some feminist writers argue that the term 'domestic' is misleading, as it implies that the private nature of the abuse is more important than its gendered nature."

(Jones, S. 2006: 435)

This suggests that Jones agrees with the stereotype of domestic abuse to be about gender and this is supported by the fact that he doesn't discuss male victims in his chapter on violent offences.

The article by David Hughes found on the 'Manorma' website, also supports the view of Grady where

feminism has played a part in the stereotypical view of the domestic violence victim. Hughes discusses the case of Erin Pizzey the feminist who opened the first women's refuge in 1971. Pizzey wrote a book *Prone to Violence*, which was censored in England for over 20 years due to the opinions expressed in it. In Pizzey's book she claimed,

"Of the first 100 women who entered the refuge, 64 of them were as violent, or more violent, than the men they were allegedly running away from."

(Hughes, D)

As Pizzey was a feminist herself, she faced problems from fellow feminists for discussing the equal culpability between men and women with the issue of domestic abuse, and this was not well received by other feminists, hence the censorship of *Prone to Violence*.

The stereotype of domestic violence victims being female is also exacerbated by media influences. The media will often run stories about female victims, and campaigns such as the recent campaign by women's aid, will only focus on female victims. The recent campaign uses "famous female faces, made up to show the physical effects of domestic violence"

This is a very effective campaign because it dramatically shows the physical marks domestic abuse can cause, and it is depicted on celebrity faces that the public like and can relate to. The problem is, it only depicts women, and this will encourage the public to still consider the stereotypical view that women are the only victims of domestic abuse.

Such charities, which help female victims of domestic abuse, also dominate the awareness of domestic abuse. Not only do they launch television campaigns such as the one mentioned above, but they also provide help for female victims, and these to be very widely publicised. There are posters and leaflets in police stations and other public places such as libraries, in which there are few to raise awareness of male victims of domestic abuse. The researcher found a leaflet; in a local library which was publicising "Wirral's only dedicated domestic abuse drop-in centre" (Zero Centre Leaflet) through reading the leaflet, the researcher found that it gave a definition of domestic abuse. It states:

"Domestic Abuse refers to the physical, emotional, sexual, financial or social abuse of one person by someone they know."

(Zero Centre Leaflet)

The researcher thought this was a good and relevant definition, as it didn't discriminate against gender. However reading on it says:

"It can affect anyone regardless of age, class, social stats, education, ethnicity, or sexual orientation."

(Zero Centre Leaflet)

This seems to include anyone except different sexes; it doesn't state that men also can be the victims of domestic abuse. As there are few leaflets such as this one to help male victims of domestic abuse, it

can leave them feeling more alone and like they have no one to turn to for support and assistance. Many male victims of domestic abuse don't realise they are victims again due to the stereotype as they also believe that women are the only victims of this form of abuse.

The researcher did find one leaflet which is specifically designed for male victims of domestic abuse; however this was taken from the Men's Aid website and not found in a public place like the previous one. It gives good advice to men who are suffering effects of domestic abuse, including some practical advice and the Men's Aid help line number. This leaflet would provide very useful for men who are victims of domestic abuse; however it would be more useful if the leaflet was more widely available in public places such as police stations and doctor's surgery's etc.

Many of the news articles used for this research also support the view that domestic violence is a crime of men against women, not the other way around. For example two articles began by giving information about the domestic abuse, which was suffered. They then later continued to state that the abused was in fact a man. One of the articles was written by a male victim of domestic abuse, Daniel Hoste (Daniel Hoste is a pseudonym). Hoste Creates a picture of the abuse suffered, describing being punched and strangled, for the simple reason of leaving a door open. Then Hoste asks the reader to imagine that the attacker was not a stranger but in fact someone who you love. In the second paragraph Hoste says:

“The emotional abuse was much worse: the physical marks have healed; my mental scars will never go away. The other thing worth mentioning is that I'm a man.”

(Hoste, D. 2002)

This is done by the writer to shock the reader, by playing up to the stereotype that domestic abuse only happens to women. It begins by getting the emotions of the reader aroused and then shocks them by announcing his sex. This seems to make the article seem much worse as the language and descriptions are graphic, as a reader you picture a woman writing it and experiencing it.

Similarly to the article by Hoste, another article found on the Canada.com website starts describing the abuse before naming the victim as a man.

“Terry is like any other spouse who has suffered physical abuse at a partner's hands. The shame, the stigma, the sticking it out in the hopes that things will change – all of these are part of Terry's experience...Terry is not his real name. Yes, you just read a masculine pronoun.”

(Hatherly, J: 2006)

Again this has been done to shock the reader, as the stereotypical view is that the woman is the victim of domestic abuse.

Not only is there a stereotype that women are the victims of domestic abuse, not men. There is also a

stereotype that male victims are small, weedy men who are unable to protect themselves. However from the research conducted, this is not necessarily the case, in a lot of cases this is in fact the opposite. A lot of physically strong men, that society wouldn't expect to be victims, in fact are. A news article from BBC London, discusses the case of one man, George Rolph, who was on the receiving end of domestic abuse. The article begins by describing George as "6ft 4in. He weighs in at 14 stone and is a trained karate instructor." (bbc.co.uk) this shows that the common misconception that male victims are weak is untrue, however as it is a news article; this could just be used to grab the public's attention. Although this isn't the only article where the physical attributes of both partners are discussed. For example, the article discussed previously written by Daniel Hoste describes how he is 6ft 1" and his abuser was a petite 5ft 4". The physical attributes of those involved are also found in the article from New! Magazine. This article is from the perspective of a female abuser, and is about a woman Sarah Jordan, who abused two of her husbands. In this article, Jordan states, "Both my first and third husbands were over 6ft tall, and towered over my 5ft-5in frame." (Jordan, S. 2006: 60)

The study conducted by Grady fits in well with the perception that male victims are seen as small 'weedy men. In her study, Grady interviewed police officers about domestic violence incidents. Grady used non-gendered language, when discussing incidents, to see what the police officers would interpret the situation to be about.

"The purpose of the interviews was to identify, first, any explicit reliance upon a male-on-female stereotype."

(Grady, A. 2002: 85)

Grady found from her research that the police rely upon the male-on-female stereotype of domestic violence. As Grady found that most police officers rely on the male-on-female stereotype, she called into question the validity of police statistics as many of them were not going into occurrences open-minded. However, when officers were asked if they had encountered female-on-male domestic abuse, Grady found that:

"Ten of the 17 appeared to operate upon a stereotype of female-on-male abuse...For instance P14 assumed that 'a small stature man, very thin and about seven stone, wet through, is your typical male victim...A surprising aspect of this part of the interview was the humour that some officers attached to the concept of female-on-male abuse. The immediate reaction of two officers to being asked about male victims was to laugh."

(Ibid 90-91)

Some of the comments Grady's participants said were completely the opposite of what the researcher found. Many of the victims the researcher read about were not small men, but in fact larger and physically stronger than the female who was abusing them. Grady's comments on stereotypes of domestic abuse seem apt to describe the stereotypes the researcher has come across whilst researching

domestic violence.

“It appears that a domestic violence stereotype exists in two forms: the stereotype of male-on-female abuse...and the disbelieving comedic stereotype of female-on-male violence.”

(Ibid 91)

Occurrence of domestic abuse against men

There are conflicting facts and figures about the occurrence of domestic abuse against men, but it has come to be known more recently that men and women are equally capable of being the victims of violence at the hands of a partner. For example an interview with Sarah Jordan, as mentioned previously, conducted on ITV's *This Morning* programme; the presenter says that their own *This Morning* survey found that 1 in 6 men are the victims of domestic abuse, and that also 30 men die a year as a result of domestic abuse. This is supported by an article printed in The Independent which states that “1 in 6 men are victims of domestic violence” (Verkaik, R. 2003: 9) However, the article in New! Magazine states that “according to the 2004 British Crime Survey, a fifth of all reported domestic violence is against men.” (Jordan, S. 2006: 60) The facts in the different articles are often conflicting and can be confusing in knowing the true extend of female-on-male domestic abuse. However this could be due to the lack of academic research in this area.

The television documentary ‘*Hidden Lives: Battered Men*’ which was screened on channel 5, 30th October 2006, used some statistics from the British Crime Survey to support the extent of violence committed by females against their male partners. This documentary stated that 22 per cent of domestic violence victims are men and that only 19 per cent of these report the abuse they have suffered. Although this documentary gives some facts from a reliable source it doesn't give the full details of where the facts were taken from, such as the date.

A different article by the Daily Mail claims that men are “at greatest risk of domestic violence” (McCullagh, A. 2006: 17) and that more men report domestic violence to their doctor. However dissimilarly to other articles, this one states where the source has come from. The information in this article was taken from a study conducted by Trinity College in Dublin, where they found that “52 per cent of men and 43 per cent of women attending their family doctors have experienced domestic violence.” (Ibid)

Probably the most reliable source of information, which discusses the occurrence of domestic violence, is study 191 conducted by the Home Office in 1999. This study has been used for examples of violence in both the domestic abuse leaflet provided by *Men's aid* and in David Hughes' article. This study

looks at the findings from the British Crime survey. Its main findings were that:

“4.2% of women and 4.2% of men said they had been physically assaulted by a current or former partner in the past year.”

(Mirrlees-Black, C. 1999: vii)

This would seem most accurate as the British crime survey includes crimes, which haven't been reported or recorded, and many domestic crimes often go unreported. It also shows that the crime of domestic violence doesn't discriminate against gender.

Reasons for female violence

Some of the research found discusses reasons why women commit domestic violence. As Grady mentioned in her research, feminism and feminist research has provided the foundation for domestic violence study, and it is argued that this is the reason why the stereotype of domestic violence stands as it does today.

“The only conclusion to be reached by a feminist analysis of domestic violence is that men are aggressors. Even when it is accepted that women are violent, this is explained by arguments of self-defence.”

(Grady, A. 2002: 80)

Although it may be true that some women resort to acts of violence in self-defence, there is little to support this theory. Dr. Martin S. Fiebert is a professor in America and has done research into the reasons women commit acts of domestic abuse. Fiebert claims that:

“There is no support in the present data for the hypothesis that women use violence only in self defence. Three common reasons women give for male abuse is: to resolve the argument; to respond to family crisis; and to *stop him bothering me.*”

(Corry, C. E., Fiebert, M. S., Pizzey, E. 2002)

One of the reasons that are given for any form of abuse is that the person has a history of abusive relationships. On the *Hidden Lives* documentary there was a psychologist who commented on the reasons why women sometimes abuse their male partners. She said that “violent women have a history of violent abuse and they act like this because of a sense of insecurity and a lack of control.” (Hidden Lives, 2006) However this explanation is not limited to female abuse and can be used to describe abuse committed by males and females.

Many of the news articles researched did not go into much detail about domestic abuse and only one gave any sort of reason for the woman's abuse. This is the article by David Hughes who doesn't have any positive proof as to the reasons why his girlfriend abused him but he suspected that she had been in

an abusive relationship in the past.

“I’m still working out what happened for her to have such rage: genes, ex-boyfriends, an abusive care-giver or a combination of these?”

(Hughes, D. 2002)

As a result of his abuse, Hughes has visited counsellors, to which one asked him, “I wonder who she was punching when she hit you?” (Ibid). The interesting thing with this article is that, when Hughes began reading about abusive relationships, after his own, he found that many abusers have personality disorders, particularly borderline personality disorders (BPD).

“When I looked at the checklist of nine characteristics of BPD, of which five have to be present for the condition to be diagnosed, I emphatically ticked eight.”

(Ibid)

The interview with Sarah Jordan conducted on *This Morning* also touches on the reasons why she, herself committed acts of domestic abuse. Jordan claims that she was bullied as a child and she used to have emotional outbursts when she was young, as she didn’t know how to express her emotions in the correct manner. Jordan thought that when she was abusing her husbands she thought it was all part of having a row, and she believed this was just a part of married life.

There has been some research conducted by Dr. Martin S. Fiebert and Denis, M. Gonzalez, which looks at the reasons why women abuse their male partners. A review of Fiebert’s work by Hoff, B., H. which appears on the battered men website states that:

“In a lot of the literature, we read that women committing domestic violence are acting in self-defence, against physical assault or against verbal abusiveness. Men, we are told, use domestic violence to control the relationship. Fiebert and Gonzalez’ data seem to refute that notion.”

(Hoff, B., H. 1999)

In his research Fiebert found that the reasons for initiating assaults on their male partners were rarely because they were being abusive. The results found that 46% of women gave the reason that their partner wasn’t being sensitive to their needs, 44% did it to gain their partners attention, and 43% did it because their partner was not listening to them. These figures would suggest that women, similarly to men, abuse their partners in order to control the relationship.

Fiebert also looked at the deeper reasons that women abused their male partners, and found the most common beliefs by the respondents was that they believed men can readily protect themselves and that they did not fear retaliation because most men are trained not to hit a woman. This research supports the view of Sarah Jordan, as she didn’t believe she was hurting her husbands when she was being abusive towards them.

There has also been another study conducted by Fiebert, called *controlling domestic violence against*

men. In this, Fiebert again looks at the reasons why women abuse their male partners. This research again refutes the notion that women assault their male partners for reasons of self-defence. As well as looking at the previous research conducted by Fiebert and Gonzales, this research looks at others, which also try to explain the reasons behind female domestic abuse. Firstly they look at two Australian studies by Sarantakos (1998. 1999), which show:

“The three most common reasons women gave for abuse of their male partners were: To resolve the argument; to respond to family crisis; and *to stop him bothering me!*”
(Sarantakos (198. 1999) cited in Corry, C., E., Fiebert, M., S., Pizzey, E. 2002: 2)

This study also looks at results from an English study conducted by Carrado et al in 1996. This study suggested that 80% of assaults by wives on their husbands were for reasons other than self-defence.

These results all confirm that the typical view that women act violent in self-defence simply isn't true. They also confirm what Erin Pizzey wrote about in her book *Prone to Violence* in 1971, that women are just as violent as men. This research by Corry, Fiebert and Pizzey also looks at dangerous behaviour patterns which they claim are female archetypes which predict their violent behaviour. The first of which is Pizzey's notion of violent prone women. They state that;

“A violence prone woman is a woman who, while complaining that she is the innocent victim of the malice and aggression of all other relationships in her life, is in fact a victim of her own violence and aggression.”

(Ibid: 3)

Other forms of dangerous behaviour patterns, which Fiebert et al discuss, are being abused as a child, which has been mentioned previously as having been in abusive relationships in the past. Other reasons could be that the women have drug or alcohol problems, eating disorders or borderline personality disorder (BPD), which has also been mentioned previously.

Ultimately all the research that has been found tends to show that self-defence is not the main reason for women abusing their male partners. This would therefore show that the feminist theory of domestic violence is incorrect.

Help available for male victims of domestic abuse

From the research conducted for this study it has been found that there is not much help available for male victims of domestic abuse. This has been shown from the amount of websites devoted to male victims of abuse and the amount of advertisements which shows the effects of the abuse, as noted

above. When Erin Pizzey set up the first hostel for female victims of domestic abuse she also wanted to set up hostel places for men, because she realised at that time there was a problem for both sexes' not just women. However at this time this objective was not supported.

“Erin says: ‘As soon as I opened the first refuge for women in Chiswick I said I need a home for men. But I couldn’t raise a penny for men.’”

(Pizzey, E. cited in bbc.co.uk)

Even now, 36 years later there are “only about six or seven hostel places for them in the whole of England and Wales.” (Carson, E. 2007: bbc.co.uk)

Due to the lack of services for male victims of domestic abuse, this could be another reason as to why it is not reported or publicised as much. As women’s refuges opened over 30 years ago, this is where men’s refuges are now starting, and effectively they are 30 years behind. In this article by Emma Carson there is a quote from a Men’s Aid representative who states:

“I’m trying to find places for men and it’s almost an impossibility – I’ve had men sleeping in their cars, on their relations’ floors, staying with friends because there’s nowhere to go.”

(Ibid)

In the article written by Daniel Hoste, he also claims to have slept in his car due to the abuse he suffered from his girlfriend.

Hatherly recognises that there is not much difference between the occurrences of domestic abuse regardless of gender. However, she also recognises that the services available are lacking equality.

“While the ratio of male-to-female victims is much closer than commonly believed, the availability of support services is lopsided.”

(Hatherly, J. 2006: Canada.com)

Although this is a Canadian, it shows that the issue is world wide not just in the UK.

In a survey conducted by the charity *Mankind* they found that there was little help available from male victims of domestic abuse. One participant of the survey said that they had rung women’s aid but they wouldn’t help as he was a man and they could also not recommend anyone else for him to talk to. This survey looks briefly at the effects the Safety and Justice White paper has on male victims and it finds:

“The absence of refuges or safe house means that the father and children suffer in silence until the inevitable break up of the family when an abusive mother will be given custody of the children.”

(The Mankind Initiative, 2003: 3)

The Mankind initiative has helped to set up hostel places for male victims of domestic abuse, however these hostel places are only in the south west of England and Wales and means that there is no help for people living in the north of England. Again the two main charities which have been set up to help male victims of domestic abuse, Mankind and Men’s Aid are based in Somerset and Milton Keynes,

respectively. Although they do both offer national help lines, which can give advice to male victims all over England. Men's Aid also run a drop in centre, but unfortunately this is only in Milton Keynes and would be more beneficial to other victims if they were in cities nationally. Although this problem is due to lack of funding and awareness, which the charities are aiming to combat to achieve change.

Support from public services

From the research conducted so far, it is evident that the support male victims receive from public services is inadequate and lopsided. Many men found that police who didn't believe them to be the victims of domestic abuse had laughed at them. This could be due to the fact that the stereotype is that the men are the aggressors and the women are the victims. There has been some research into the support male victims have received from public services but firstly, the researcher will look at the evidence of lack of support from news articles and personal accounts. The documentary, Hidden Lives, included interviews with victims of domestic abuse and they all had the common view that the police and social services didn't do much to help them. One victim was told by the police was that there was no proof of the abuse so they could do nothing to help. This particular victim then resorted to secretly recording the attacks on his mobile phone.

In Emma Carson's article for BBC news, she looked at the way men were treated by public services, such as the police. Carson found that the police did, not believe one man she interviewed, they didn't interview him and this led him to doubt himself about the abuse. When another man Carson spoke to, named Robin, reported the abuse to the police. Their response to him was:

“She threw a cup at you – why don't you just learn to duck?”

(Carson, E. 2007: bbc.co.uk)

Robin also faced problems from his workplace and at hospital. During his stay at hospital due to his injuries he was labelled a battered husband on his hospital notes this left him feeling humiliated, and when Robin reported his abuse to a management colleague, he was told not to tell anyone else at work or else he faced losing his job.

The domestic abuse leaflet provided by the Men's Aid charity acknowledges that the public services do little to help, and this is shown by the practical advice given. In this section of the leaflet, the advice to victims is to:

“Keep a diary of all events including times and dates. Report any injuries to your doctor and give details of how you came by them. Get photos of any injury, close up and full body.”

(Men’s Aid)

Although the charity doesn’t admit that the public services are un-willing to help, this advice shows that it is necessary for victims to gain proof of the attacks so that they have the evidence if they need it.

The research conducted by The Mankind Initiative, there are a lot of views and opinions by victims about the help, or lack there of, they received from the public services. In the first section of this research there is a question asking why they didn’t report the incidents of domestic abuse to the public services. Some of the responses included

“I have reported it in the past to police etc. but never taken seriously. Once told ‘you’re a man – take it like a man’.”

(Mankind, 2003: 7)

This shows that the police don’t believe the male victims and even if they do, they are not willing to take them seriously and think men should just put up with the abuse because that is what man is meant to do.

The second part of this research by The Mankind Initiative is a survey, which was conducted as part of a dissertation. The questions ask what help the victims had received from the police domestic violence unit. Some answers state that they had been laughed at when they reported the abuse. Another victim claimed that when he reported the abuse on one occasion it was him who was removed from the house. Another question in this research asked what other agencies the victims sought help from. Two of the victims stated that they had sought help from their GP but they had not believed them. One victim also claimed that they had reported the abuse to the social services and they had only believed the woman’s version of events.

The other research, which has looked into stereotypes of domestic violence, is that by Ann Grady mentioned above. In this research, Grady found that police officers often assumed that it was the female who was the victim in the assaults. In this research Grady:

“Conducted an assessment of over 6,000 domestic incidents reported to three divisional domestic violence units in a large metropolitan Police force. [She] also interviewed both uniformed officers, and officers in the domestic violence units...the interview took the officers through the process of dealing with a domestic incident...non-gendered language was used in the questions when asking about victims or offenders.”

(Grady, A. 2002: 85)

Grady found that the data recorded of the attack, when it is called in, does not necessarily equip the officers to act upon a stereotypical perception of the incidents they are dealing with. Many officers

interviewed commented that updates entered by the communications officer were inaccurate and this therefore led them to assuming the stereotypical view of events. Grady found that the officers interviewed had a comedy image of male victims. As mentioned previously, when discussing female-on-male domestic abuse in her interviews, two of the officers' immediate response was to laugh. If this is the response Grady found, it is likely that men often face this response when reporting the abuse. To face this reaction when reporting abuse could lead to them doubting themselves and reluctant to report the abuse again. This therefore means that any figures we may receive from police statistics will be unrealistic due to the lack of reporting because of the response male victim's fear. Grady also found that eleven of 17 officers would remove the male from the premises because they presumed the woman should care for the children and that a man was more likely to pose a greater future threat. Grady discusses the effect this has on the male stating:

“It is quite clear that if the male is arrested, albeit for breach of the peace, or ‘voluntarily’ leaves the premises, the domestic violence officers will identify him as the offender and the female as the victim...Consequently, a domestic dispute that involved no obvious violence and had no obvious victim is likely to be defined as male-on-female abuse. Moreover, there is the possibility that the male is in fact a victim, but because it is more practical for him to leave, he is labelled as the offender.”

(Ibid: 94)

Grady's study has shown that the responses from the police are likely to affect whether men report the abuse or not and the “reliance by the police upon a male-on-female stereotype of domestic violence call[s] into question the validity of police statistics” (Ibid: 95) Grady also mentions the British crime survey in her conclusion, as the reasons men don't report the violence is because they didn't believe the matter to be serious enough or they didn't think they would be taken seriously by the police.

Ultimately there appears to be a stigma surrounding male victims of domestic abuse. The reason for this could be due to the social stereotype. Men are not willing to admit to the fact they were abused by their female partners. This could be due to society's perception that men should be the strong ones while women should be the opposite. Men may not want to admit that this is not the case, this could be due to male ego or because the rest of society also believe this, and the view they may then have upon the male 'victim'. This was shown in the documentary, *Hidden Lives*, because many of the men interviewed had their faces blocked out, and their voices distorted so they were not recognisable. This was also the case on the *This Morning* interview, as they had a male caller who discussed his abuse but didn't give his name and had his voice distorted.

Similarly the article for the guardian, which is written by a victim of domestic abuse, has a pseudonym presumably because he doesn't want to be recognised as a victim of domestic abuse. In other news

articles, such as the ones written by Emma Carson and Joanne Hatherly, the men are only named by their first names.

In the article which is written by Sarah Jordan, who abused two of her husbands, there are pictures of her with her husbands, yet the men's faces are distorted and their names are also changed.

Literature Review Conclusion

Although the literature review has found some common themes and interesting occurrences which have influenced this research, it is necessary to note that much of the literature is from unreliable resources such as newspapers and magazines. Although these are not as reliable as academic research, they prove that there is not much research conducted in this field and that more should be done to tackle the social issue of domestic abuse.

Theories

Feminist Perspectives

Female Emancipation

It has been suggested by some theoretical writers that the increase of involvement of women in crime is due to the female 'emancipation' which has been taking place over the past thirty to forty years. It has been argued that as women have now become more free and equal in society, and are less controlled, they have become able to act more like men and this therefore explains why female crime rates have increased. Freda Alder has discussed this issue in her book, *Sisters in Crime* (1975) (Jones, S. 2006: 323)

“Alder suggested that differences in rates of male and female crime were formerly attributable to the different roles each sex had to play. With the breakdown of those distinctions, women started to allow their competitive instincts to surface and began to commit crimes that used to be associated with men, such as assaults and robbery.”

(Ibid: 324)

The theory of female emancipation could be valid to explain the crime of domestic abuse. If, because women are now more socially 'free' then they may start to act how they believe men act, and therefore this can result in them being violent and aggressive. However it doesn't explain this for women who don't abuse their male partners. It also puts men into a stereotype that all men are aggressive and

violent when this clearly isn't the case.

“If these views are valid, the female crime rate should have been rising since the 1960s, when the women's movement started to become more influential.”

(Ibid)

It doesn't explain female crime, which occurred previous to the 1960s. It is possible that women have been abusing their male partners for as long as men have been to women; it is just that abuse from females hasn't become more recognised until recent years due to the small amount of research in this area, and the few brave men who have talked about their abuse in recent years.

Learning Theories

Learning theories have been attempting to explain criminal behaviour for some time, although originally used for explaining male behaviour they can also be used to explain female behaviour. The first theorist in this field was Edwin Sutherland with *The Professional Thief* (1937) (Burke, R. H. 2005: 86) although this research was based on robbery and not domestic abuse, Sutherland found that thieves were restricted in their physical and social contacts to association with like-minded others. (Ibid) It was here that Sutherland coined the term 'differential association' When Sutherland returned to his theory in 1947, he argued that:

“Criminal behaviour occurs when individuals acquire sufficient sentiments in favour of law violation to outweigh their association with non-criminal tendencies. Those associations or contacts that have the greatest impact are those that are frequent, early in point of origin or the most intense.”

(Ibid)

What this means is that people who commit crime learn from other people who they have most contact with, such as family or friends. The longer time they spend with criminal people, the more they will learn their behaviour.

Learning theories have been applied to violent crime, and crimes of domestic abuse. Although they have mainly been applied to male perpetrators, they can also be applied to females. This is also supported by research conducted by Fiebert as mentioned above, that women have been involved in abusive relationships in the past and this is therefore why they act abusive in further relationships.

Methodology

Methodology Introduction

The methodology section of the research will aim to tell the reader how the study will be conducted. It is first necessary to discuss the research design to show where the idea for the research has come from. The second section will discuss how the sample population will be selected and then the method of the study will be proposed. The strengths and weaknesses of the study will be discussed so that provisions can be put in place to make the research as valid as possible. Finally the ethical issues involved in the study will be discussed, to ensure protection of the participants.

Research Design

This research will take form, similarly to the survey conducted by The Mankind Initiative. The questions focused mainly on the provisions available to male victims of domestic abuse. This research will aim to discover what the victims' treatment was from the public services and their views of the provisions available. As much of the literature review has found, there aren't many provisions for men and they are often treated inadequately by the public services, especially the police. This research proposes that male victims do not receive satisfactory aid from the public services and this is what the research hopes to prove true. Similarly to the Mankind survey, this piece of research will consist of both qualitative and quantitative data.

Due to the nature of the research and the time scale and funding available to the researcher, the research will be conducted using solely questionnaires. This is because it will be quick and easy to gain a response, and as interviews can be time consuming, participants may be more inclined to answer questions in the form of a questionnaire. Also, as the nature of the research is sensitive, many

participants would benefit from a questionnaire as it can give them full anonymity. The research will be conducted via e-mail through the Men's Aid website.

Design Sampling

The sampling method that will be used in the research is snowballing. This is mainly due to the way in which the research will be conducted, via email or websites. The reason for this is because it is the easiest, most effective way to gain a study population, and as the research topic is sensitive, snowballing is an ideal sampling method.

“Snowball sampling is a form of convenience sample...with this approach to sampling; the researcher makes initial contact with a small group of people who are relevant to the research topic and then uses these to establish contacts with others.”

(Bryman, A. 2001: 100)

If the researcher were to use random sampling by asking passers by in the street, it is unlikely that many would agree to participate or even to answer the questions honestly. To start the sample population, the researcher will email some of the website members to ask if they would be willing to participate. This will be done randomly to members of the websites. Once the researcher has gained the first participants of the sample, it will then be possible to ask if they would be willing to introduce more people to the research. As the participants already involved are a member of a website relating to the research, it is likely that they will know people from similar situations who would also be willing to participate. There are, however, some problems with snowball sampling “It is very unlikely that the sample will be representative of the population... [and this] may be problematic in some circumstances.” (Ibid: 102) However, as this research is aimed specifically at male victims of domestic abuse, snowballing is the ideal sampling method for this research.

Method

To conduct this research the questionnaire will be designed specifically for male victims of domestic abuse. Due to the information gathered from other sources it has been found that many male victims do not get treated fairly by the public services. The questions will aim to discover how male victims were treated by the public services, specifically the police, and if there are enough provisions, such as hostels, for male victims of domestic abuse.

The questionnaires will self-completion questionnaires and will be sent to participants via the charity website Men's Aid, this is a civil rights organisation charity for men which also helps male victims of domestic abuse.

Strengths

The strengths of this research method are that it is quick and inexpensive to administer. Interviewing can be expensive and using questionnaires would benefit this research as the research sample may be geographically widely dispersed. Many self-completion questionnaires are conducted via post, but due to some of this research being conducted using the Internet, it is possible to use email instead. Email is very cost effective as they are free to send, the only expense is Internet line rental, and as a university student this can be sent totally free of charge. Using emails is also quicker as they can be sent to the relevant person instantly.

Using self-completion questionnaires is also useful as there will be an absence of interviewer effects. This is a positive aspect with this particular research as the topic is sensitive.

“There is a tendency for respondents to under-report activities that induce anxiety or about which they are sensitive. Research summarized by Tourangeau and Smith (1996) strongly suggests that respondents tend to report more drug use and alcohol consumption and a higher number of sexual partners and of abortions in self-completion questionnaires than in structured interviews.”

(Ibid: 134)

Self-completion questionnaires are also more convenient for respondents because they can complete

them at their own leisure.

Weaknesses

As the questionnaires will be conducted via email there is a possibility that the researcher may not gain any responses or fewer than expected. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, many participants may not want to take part in the research. Some may not wish to disclose any information for fear their identity could be revealed. There are some disadvantages with using self-completion questionnaires. Using self-completion questionnaires means that the interviewer cannot prompt or probe respondents to elaborate on an answer. Questionnaires can also be read as a whole and this therefore means that the researcher cannot be sure that the questions have been answered in the correct order.

Using self-completion questionnaires can also mean that respondents are likely to become tired of answering questions. This therefore means that it would be ideal for the questions not to be too long and to be direct and to the point.

Finally self-completion questionnaires can also mean there could be lower response rates. This could be tackled by using emails as this method is quicker and easier than postal questionnaires. Also, the researcher will contact the participants initially to gain a population before the questionnaires are sent; this may confirm that more participants will respond.

Ethical Issues

Confidentiality

Due to the sensitive nature of the research the participants may be sceptical about revealing any information. The researcher may also discover some disturbing information. In which case it is vital that the participants are made aware that any private details such as their name, alias or email address will not be disclosed in the research findings, or to any other person. Due to the sensitive nature of the research, the questionnaire will not ask any personal details such as name, address, age, etc. The participants will be made aware that the research is for dissertation purposes and they must also be

made aware that any information they do disclose will be for statistical purposes only. All participants will also be entitled to a copy of the research dissertation to enable them to see what they have taken part in. None of the participants will be identifiable in any way in the research.

Researchers Status

The participants may call into question the researchers status and the reasons behind the questionnaire. This may make participants reluctant to answer any questions. To tackle this, when asking participants to take part in the research it is necessary to inform them that the research is for dissertation purposes and to inform them of the university the researcher is studying at, in order for the participants to check, if they feel necessary. It will also benefit, to offer the participants a copy of the final research so that they know the research conducted is genuine.

Hypothesis and Study

The study will aim to discover how male victims of domestic abuse were treated by the public services when they reported their abuse. The study will also aim to discover if the respondents believe there to be enough services available to them and enough publicity about the extent of female-on-male domestic abuse.

The hypothesis of the study is that male victims of domestic abuse are not treated fairly by the public services, and that there are not enough provisions available for male victims of domestic abuse.

The study is conducted using a questionnaire of 19 questions. Thirteen of which are closed questions and the remaining six are open-ended. The first four questions are to gain an image of the type of abuse each respondent suffered while the remaining 15 aim to discover the way the men were treated by the public services. The questionnaires were sent to the respondents via email. The initial respondents were contacted via the Men's Aid website, those willing to participate in the research then introduced others to participate.

The questionnaire was sent to 15 participants of which all responded. This could be because the

researcher gained acceptance to participate before the questionnaires were sent out.

Findings

Findings Introduction

The findings will discuss the results from the questionnaire and will look specifically at the questions which were most relevant to the aims of the study. References to the Appendices will be included as all the results from the study can be referred to.

Findings

The results of the questionnaire find what has been predicted. That male victim's are not treated adequately by the public services, and that there are not enough provisions available to them

Question 5 asked, 'Who did you report the abuse to?' the participants marked more than one box showing that they reported the abuse to multiple people/agencies. All the participants reported the abuse to either friends or family with 66.67% (n=10) reporting the abuse to friends, and 73.33% (n=11) reporting the abuse to family. However, the largest amount of people reported the abuse to the police giving 80% (n=12) of the population. 40% (n=6) of the population reported the abuse to the social services. (See Appendix 5)

Question 6 asked 'If you reported the abuse to the police or social services, did they believe you?' two of the participants didn't answer, as they had not reported the abuse to either agency. This therefore makes the population of people who reported the abuse to either agency, 86.67% (n=13). Of these thirteen only 1 man (7.69%) was believed by the public services, however this man did state further on that he had been accused of being the perpetrator by the police. The remaining 92.3% (n=12) were either not believed by the police or social services or unsure as to whether they were believed or not. Remarkably 61.5% (n=8) of the 13 were not believed by the police or public services. (See Appendix 6)

Question 9 asked, 'Where you satisfied with the action taken?' again this was not applicable to two of the respondents. This left again 86.67% (n=13) who answered this question, and only one of these was satisfied with the action taken. This therefore meant that 92.3% (n=12) were dissatisfied with the action taken by the police or social services. (See Appendix 7)

Question 10 asked respondents if they were ever assumed by the police or social services to be the perpetrator. Again this question was not applicable to two of the respondents, however only one of the 13 was not assumed by the police or social services to be the perpetrator. The remaining 92.3% (n=12) were either believed to be the perpetrator or unsure as to whether the police or social services believed them to be the perpetrator. (See Appendix 8)

Question 11 asked respondents if they had to leave the family home, to which three of 15 didn't have to leave the family home and the remaining 80% (n=120) did have to leave the family home (See Appendix 9). The next closed question, number 14, asked if the men had any help from social services or a charity to find a hostel to stay in. This question was not applicable to three people, however from the remaining 12; all didn't receive any help to find a hostel.

The remaining two questions, numbers 17 and 18 ask if the respondents think there are enough services and publicity for male victims of domestic abuse. Question 17 asks if the respondents think there are enough services available to male victims of domestic abuse and this question was not answered by one person, so from the remaining 14 only one person thought there was. This meant that 92.86% (n=13) believe that there aren't enough services available to male victims of domestic abuse (See Appendix 10). The final closed question, number 18, asks if the respondents think there is enough publicity about the occurrence of domestic abuse against men. 26.67% (n=4) believed there was and 73.33% (n=11) believed there wasn't enough publicity. (See Appendix 11)

The questionnaire also included some closed questions which aimed to discover from the respondents more information following some of the closed questions. All of the answers are included in the appendix but some of which were very interesting. The first open-ended question which asked how the respondents were treated by the police or social services showed that the men were not treated well at all. One respondent said that he was treated with ridicule. The police asked "Why don't you learn to duck? – What are you a man or a mouse – squeak up! – What did YOU do to HER?"

The next open-ended question asked if the police or social services took action upon the perpetrator, of the participants this question was relevant to, none responded that action was taken upon the perpetrator.

Of the respondents who had children with the perpetrator, nearly all answered question 12 as the woman had sole custody of the children. There was only one who had joint custody.

The final open-ended question asks the participants what more could be done to increase publicity about the issue of domestic abuse against men. Answers included "there should be a nationwide campaign."

"Make it common knowledge what constitutes domestic violence, take the stigma out of men reporting cases of domestic violence, and treat men and women equally." "Remove the thought that women automatically go with the mother and make shared parenting the norm, so the children benefit from both parents."

“TV and radio DA/DV programmes are high jacked by female and child victim issues, there should be equal media attention given to male victims and children victims of female perpetrators. The same goes for newspapers. But the silence (re; male victims and child) is deafening.”

“Equal support/protection/duty of care to all victims of DA/DV /False allegations. This is a victim issue – not a gender issue.”

One respondent claimed that the police are only interested in the ‘poor, weak woman’ and the man is rarely believed, or thought to have brought the abuse on himself.

Another respondent said that he did not believe in feeding the gender wars by having male/ female services. He states “police and social services are not permitted to discriminate on grounds of gender therefore these services should be sufficient.”

Findings Conclusion

The findings show that the study conducted has supported the information found in the literature review, and therefore the hypothesis is correct. Male victims of domestic abuse do not receive adequate treatment from the public services and there is a lack of help such as hostels and drop in centres available.

Analysis

Analysis Introduction

The analysis aims to compare the findings from this study with the findings from the literature review and therefore support the hypothesis that male victims do not get treated fairly and adequately by the public services, and that there are not enough services available to them.

Analysis

Question 5 asked respondents who they reported the abuse to. Of the 15 who answered, 80% (n=12) reported the abuse to the police. Question 9 asked respondents if they were satisfied with the action taken. Of all the people who reported the abuse to the police 100% (n=12) were not satisfied with the action taken. This is shown in appendix 12. This result supports the research from the literature review

which is that the public services do not give the help and support to male victims that they need. This research supports the information found in Emma Carson's article for BBC news. She found that the police didn't believe the male victims she interviewed and that they were not satisfied with the action taken as the police's response led them to doubt themselves.

Question 6 asked the respondents if they were believed by the police and this too is supported by other research found in the literature review. The male victims, interviewed in the documentary *Hidden Lives: Battered Men*, held the common view that they weren't believed by the police when they reported the abuse. The leaflet about domestic abuse for male victims, provided by Men's Aid also suggests that the police and public services don't believe male victims as it gives advice to record incidents and take photographs of injuries as proof of the abuse. In other research conducted by The Mankind Initiative, there are a lot of views about the way the victims were treated by the police, very similarly to this research. One victim in the mankind research was told by the police "You're a man – take it like a man." (The Mankind Initiative, 2003: 7) this is similar to this research as one participant answered that the police told him "What did YOU do to HER?" This response from the police shows that they do not believe the male victim complaining about his abuse from a female partner.

This research found that 53.85% (n=7/13) were assumed to be the perpetrator (See Appendix 8). Again this result is echoed in the results found by The Mankind Initiative where one respondent reported the abuse to the social services, but they had only believed the woman. "Social services listened to her lies and recommended I leave the house. They refused to believe me." (Ibid: 15) This quote from The Mankind research also supports the research findings that 80% of the respondents had to leave the family home. The research conducted also found that of those respondents who had children with their partner they resided with her. The Mankind Initiative states the reason for this is because of the absence of refuges.

"The absence of refuges or safe house means that the father and children suffer in silence until the inevitable break up of the family when an abusive mother will be given custody of the children."

(The Mankind Initiative, 2003: 3)

The final two questions asked respondents if they believed there to be enough help available to male victims of domestic abuse and enough publicity about female-on-male domestic abuse. The research found 92.86% thought there weren't enough services for male victims (See Appendix 10). This is supported by the amount of hostel places available for male victims, as mentioned above there are "only about six or seven hostel places for them in the whole of England and Wales." (Carson, E. 2007: bbb.co.uk) In Carson's article there is also a quote from a Men's Aid representative who says

"I'm trying to find places for men and it's almost an impossibility – I've had men sleeping in their cars, on their relations' floors, staying with friends because there's nowhere to go."

(Ibid)

The literature review discusses the services available to male victims of domestic abuse set up by charities Men's Aid and Mankind. It mentions that the services provided such as hostels and drop in centres are situated in the south of Wales and south west of England which proves there are not enough services for men elsewhere.

The final question which asks about the amount of publicity for female-on-male domestic abuse found that 73.33% (n=11) respondents didn't believe there to be enough publicity (See Appendix 11). This is

supported by Grady's research which finds that police rely heavily upon the male-on-female stereotype, and Grady acknowledges that this is from feminist theories. The article by David Hughes claims that the stereotype of domestic violence is due to brainwashing by the media and this also supports the research findings that publicity focuses on female victims as opposed to males. However this article is not a very reliable source as it doesn't come from a reputable website. Although much of the statistics and information used is correct and the Hughes has evidently done a lot of research on the topic; it is however a very subjective article.

The open-ended questions which have been mentioned above and are included in the appendix provide similar answers to the research conducted by the Mankind Initiative. Many respondents from both pieces of research agree that they were not treated fairly by the public services. However there are two respondents in this research which don't believe there should be separate services for men and women but that there should be equality between the two. However they recognise that this isn't the case at the present moment in time. One of the respondents stated "I cannot in anyway countenance separate services for men in this manner which Men's Aid and Mankind are trying to do and simply will promulgate the problems and not b of genuine benefit to the public and society." Some respondents recognise that domestic abuse is a social issue as opposed to a gender issue.

The open ended questions also provided an opportunity for the respondents to comment on some recommendations for how the criminal justice system can be improved regarding domestic abuse. The majority of respondents thought it would be beneficial for there to be equal disparity between the services available. One respondent said that cases should be "investigated the same way as if it was a female victim." Another participant suggested that "Along with police investigations and other state agencies an allegation should always be treated as such and therefore evidence sought." This respondent also suggested that the state needed to "get independent and impartial research on the causes of DV, and then work out a strategy for dealing with genuine cases rather than promulgating gender wars, and empire building...Only when more is properly known on cause can any strategy and help be offered in any useful way"

One participant suggested that charities which spread non-truthful statements and statistics should be prosecuted and this should be used to fund men's help lines and refuges. This seems like a god idea as it would prevent the statistics being divulged is being too biased, although statistics can be manipulated to show something different. The same participant also suggested that shared parenting should be the norm and the thought that the children should stay with the mother should be removed. This also would be beneficial as many of the respondents who answered where their children resided, stated that the

children stayed with the violent mother. To remove the children from full custody of the perpetrator of domestic abuse would be beneficial because the children pick up actions from parents and can result in a cycle of abuse. One of the participants stated that the children stayed with her although they “were the cause of much of the hostility.” This could show that the children pick up actions from the mother.

The research used in the literature review could be deemed un-reliable as much of it comes from news articles and television documentaries. However, this was the only information available to the researcher due to the lack of academic research in this area. Nevertheless the research conducted in this study was supported heavily by the other pieces of research used as many comment on the lack of help available to victims by the public services.

Analysis Conclusion

The analysis has shown that the research conducted is supported by the research used in the literature review. However it is necessary to note that much of the literature does not come from reliable sources as there is not much academic research on this subject area. Although the research does support one another and indicates that there should be some more thorough research done in this area to improve knowledge and actions in this area.

Conclusion

In conclusion it is possible to state that there is a lack of support available to male victims of domestic abuse from the public services, and this therefore proves the hypothesis correct. The lack of support would seem to be due to the lack of knowledge on domestic abuse as a whole. As one participant noted, domestic abuse “is a victim issue – not a gender issue”.

It is necessary for the public services to be aware that anybody can be a victim of domestic abuse, not just a woman. When the public services, the police in particular, are more aware they will be better equip to deal with victims of domestic abuse more efficiently.

There should also be more publicity about the occurrence of domestic abuse. Although much of the literature used was from news articles, they were all relatively small and appeared on later pages of the

newspapers, indicating that they were not given much importance.

The study also found that there were not enough services available to male victims of domestic abuse, and the results showed that male victims require more. The majority of the victims only wished for male and female victims to be treated equally and not to have the services available to them lopsided.

Recommendations

- For there to be equal services available to male and female victims of domestic abuse. Including hostels and safe houses drop in centres and national campaigns.
- For the public services, especially the police, to be trained and educated to the full extent of domestic abuse.
- For equal treatment of victims by the public services and for victims to be treated with respect and dignity.
- For custody of children to be dependent on the perpetrator of domestic abuse, not on the traditional 'mother as care giver' role.
- Education of children on domestic abuse so they learn from a young age that it can occur to anyone regardless of sex.

Other recommendations are suggested by the participants of the research in Appendix 1.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Example questionnaire and answers. (Not all open-ended answers have been included, the ones which have been used as deemed by the researcher to be most relevant)

1) Have you ever been the victim of domestic abuse?

15 Yes No

2) Was this abuse (please mark boxes relevant)

12 Physical Mental Financial Sexual Other
 15 7 8 3

3) Was the perpetrator your female partner?

15 Yes No

4) How long did the abuse last for?

< 3months 3 months- 1-5 yrs 5-10 yrs 10+ yrs
 1 yr
0 3 8 2 2

5) Did you report the abuse to anyone?

Friend Family Doctor Social Police
 Services
10 11 7 6 12

Samaritans Men's Aid Other please state

5

5

4

6) If you reported the police to police or social services did they believe you?

Yes

No

Unsure

1

8

4

7) If you reported the abuse to police or social services how did they treat you?

“As a joke”

“At first, no help. No apology re: police. Later the police were very considerate and did help me. I had no help from social services.”

“With ridicule – ‘why don’t you learn to duck’ – ‘what are you, a man or a mouse-squeak up?’ ‘What did YOU do to HER?’”

“Very Badly”

“Not very well”

“Was not interested at all. However I made the mistake of retaliating on one occasion after years of abuse. I called the police and I was arrested and charged.”

“The police initially were aware that she regularly changed her stories and warned me, but that was in Spain in the UK the police refused to do anything. Social services stated that they knew of the abuse but now that we no longer live together there is less risk of the children witnessing it. The judge said I must have done something to deserve it.”

8) Did the police or social services take action upon the perpetrator? (if yes give details)

“No”

“NO”

“No”

“No”

“No”

“No, only against me”

“NO”

9) Were you satisfied with the action taken?

	Yes	No	Unsure
1			

10) Were you ever assumed (by police or social services) to be the perpetrator?

	Yes	No	Unsure
7		1	5

11) Did you have to leave the family home?

	Yes	No
12		3

12) If you and your partner had children, where did they reside?

“With her, by court order”

“Shared care -70% with mother, 30% with me after splitting”

“In the family home”

“Her children in the same house, and were the cause of much of the hostility”

“With her, though she always displayed violence”

“Young children stayed with her”

“With my partner”

“The children live with the mother and I have been denied all contact since 1999”

13) If yes to q 11, where did you go? (Please state)

“My brother 2 years, then small flat”

“Into lodgings”

“Friends house – no other help available”

“Family”

“Slept in car for two weeks, until rented flat became available”

“Bed sit”

14) Was there any help from social services/ charity etc to find you a hostel?

	Yes	No
--	-----	----

15) Was your case investigated/ prosecuted? (Please give details)

“No”

“No”

“Absolutely not”

“No”

“Yes, I am currently tagged. Under new Labour laws my evidence could not be heard because it was to detriment the character of the victim. This was a breach of my human rights under article 6. My estranged wife has escaped a penalty despite a written confession of abuse against me over a period of time.”

“No, in the family court the judge refused to allow my evidence to be presented.”

16) If you didn't report the abuse could you give reasons as to why?

17) Do you think there are enough services available to male victims of domestic abuse?

Yes	No	Don't Know
-----	----	------------

13	1	0
----	---	---

18) Do you think there is enough publicity about domestic abuse against men?

Yes	No	Don't Know
-----	----	------------

19) If not, what more could be done?

“More help for men victims”

“There should be equal media attention given to male victims & children victims of female perpetrators. The same goes for newspapers. But the silence (re: male victims & child) is deafening.”

“At least give equality to men’s problems and provide equality of services to those made available to women”

“Nation wide campaign”

“Tell the truth about the 50-50 split in domestic abuse rates and the fact more women harm children than men.”

If you have any other comments as to your treatment by the Criminal Justice system or how it could be improved please give details below.

“Equal support / protection / duty of care to all victims of DA / DV / False allegations / PAS. This is a victim issue – not a gender issue”

“The system does not accept that women can be violent”

“To be investigated the same way as if it was a female victim”

“Make it common knowledge what constitutes domestic violence, take the stigma out of men reporting cases of domestic violence, and treat men and women equally.”

“Prosecute charities that spread non-truthful statements and statistics on domestic violence, and fund men’s help lines and refuges.

“Remove the thought that children automatically go with the mother and make shared parenting the norm, so the children benefit from both parents.”

Make divorce financial settlements fairer so if possible both parents have a chance of affording to have a home for their children.”

“Along with the police investigations and other state agencies an allegation should always be treated as such and therefore evidence sought.”

“What the state needs to do is to get independent and impartial research on the causes of DV, and then

work out a strategy for dealing with genuine cases rather than promulgating gender wars, and empire building.”

“The feminist ideology of DV being due to patriarchal society and men’s need to control is such a load of baloney someone needs to write on their assumptions being illogical and flawed.”

“Only when more is known on cause can ay strategy and help be offered in any useful way.

Thank you for taking part in my survey. All information given will be kept confidential and no names or aliases will be disclosed. The information in the questionnaire above will be solely for statistical research for the purpose of my dissertation.

Thank you again for your help.

Jennifer Dagnall

	Victim	Abuse	Perpetrator	Length	Report	Belief	Satisfied	Assumed	Leave Home	Hostel	Se
1	yes	1234	yes	1yr-5yrs	123567	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
2	yes	124	yes	5yrs-10yrs	457	no	no	unsure	yes	no	no
3	yes	1234	yes	1yr-5yrs	123456	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
4	yes	25	yes	1yr-5yrs	156	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
5	yes	12345	yes	10+yrs	13568	no	no	unsure	yes	no	no
6	yes	25	yes	3mth-1yr	128	0	0	0	no	0	no
7	yes	123	yes	3mth-1yr	15	no	no	no	yes	no	no
8	yes	123	yes	1yr-5yrs	123458	yes	no	yes	no	no	
9	yes	12	yes	10+yrs	125	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
10	yes	1234	yes	1yr-5yrs	123457	unsure	no	yes	yes	no	no
11	yes	24	yes	3mth-1yr	2456	unsure	no	unsure	no	no	no
12	yes	12	yes	1yr-5yrs	237	0	0	0	yes	0	no
13	yes	1234	yes	1yr-5yrs	25	unsure	no	unsure	yes	0	no
14	yes	12	yes	1yr-5yrs	123458	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
15	yes	124	yes	5yrs-10yrs	257	unsure	no	unsure	yes	no	no

Abuse column, numbers represent as follows: 1= physical, 2= mental, 3= financial, 4= sexual, 5= other
Report column, numbers represent as follows: 1= friend, 2= family, 3= doctor, 4= social services, 5= police, 6= Samaritans, 7= Men's Aid,
8= Other

Physical	Mental	Financial	Sexual	Other
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12	15	7	8	3
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Length	<3mnths	3mnth-1yr	1-5yrs	5-10yrs	10+yrs
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	0	3	8	2	2
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Friend	Family	Doctor	Social Services	Police	Samaritans	Men's Aid	Other
10	11	7	6	12	5	5	4



Belief	Yes	No	Unsure	N/A
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	1	8	4	2
--	---	---	---	---



Satisfied	Yes	No	Unsure	N/A
	1	12	0	2



Assumed	Yes	No	Unsure	N/A
	7	1	5	2



Leave Home	Yes	No
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	12	3
--	----	---



Services	Yes	No	Don't Know	N/A
	1	13	0	1



Publicity	Yes	No	Don't Know
	4	11	0



Reported	12
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Satisfied	0
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Not Satisfied	12
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Leaflets

Zero Centre: *Zero Centre Leaflet*

Men's Aid: *Domestic Abuse Leaflet*

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