

Hard to Reach Groups

Domestic Violence and Men

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THE MANY HARD TO REACH GROUPS

REFUGEES (118,995)

GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS (58,000)

PROSTITUTES (72,800)

MODERN SLAVES(13,000 in 2013)

CULTS(500)

MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE(713,000)

To name just a few!

(Redcross.org.uk, 2016; Ons.gov.uk, 2011; Publications.parliament.uk, 2016; Gov.uk, 2017; Cultinformation.org.uk, 2018)

What is domestic violence?

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling , coercive , threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. It can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional“

This gender neutral definition was not put in place until 2004.

Drijber et al (2012) stated it is ‘a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship’

Who is affected by domestic violence?

There can be no doubt that victims of domestic violence are not the only people affected by domestic violence

CHILDREN



PERPETRATORS



FAMILY

FRIENDS

They may be too frightened themselves to become involved
And fear for their safety

STATISTICS

The Office for National Statistics report :-

An estimated that 1.9 million adults aged 16 to 59 years experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2017.

1.2 million women
713,000 men

(Office of National Statistics, 2017)

STATISTICS CRITICISMS

- Mihret Yemshaw v Hounslow London Borough Council
The burden of proof
- Non-reporting of domestic violence
Various reasons for not reporting
- The report only deals with those from the ages of 16 – 59
With an ageing population Nelson argues that the elderly are neglected and are often victims of domestic violence

(Creanor, 2011; Office for National Statistics, 2017; Felson, 2005; Balloch *et al*, 2007; Mann, 2001; Nelson, 2002; Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2002)

MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A HARD TO REACH GROUP

Reasons for not reporting

- Feeling that the matter is trivial
- Feeling the matter is private
- No action taken by the authorities/police
- They do not wish to admit to being victims of domestic violence
- Fear of ridicule and fear of what others may say
- Fear of appearing weak

Police response to domestic abuse (n=100)	
	Percentage of male victims
Threatened with arrest	47
Ignored by the police	35
Arrested	21
Reported that the violent female partner had been arrested	3
(George and Yarwood 2004)	

(Straus, 1980; Felson, 2005; Drijber *et al*, 2012; Lawrence, 2003; Leonard, 2003 *cited in* Barber 2008; Babette *et al* 2012; George & Yarwood, 2004 *cited in* Djriber *et al*, 2012; Dewar, 2008 *cited in* Barber 2008; Hines, 2002;)

LEGISLATION

Criminal

Civil

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997

Family Law Act 1996 (as amended)

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004

Serious Crimes Act 2015

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015!

(Legislation.gov.uk, undated; National Assembly for Wales, 2016)

SHORTFALLS IN EXTERNAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR MEN WHO EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Men are less likely to receive support from friends and family due to their reluctance to speak about domestic violence within the home for fear of 'ridicule, social isolation and humiliation' Lawrence (2003)

The police response to domestic violence

Even when domestic violence has been identified men do not get the same support as women

Screening tools used by health professionals focuses on women and children

(Drijber *et al*, 2012; Leonard, 2003; Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2002)

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE

Resources and support networks for male victims of domestic violence

- ▶ Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327
 - ▶ UK National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
 - ▶ Male Advice and Enquiry Line: 0845 064 6800
 - ▶ Hidden Hurt: www.hiddenhurt.co.uk/
 - ▶ BBC website Hitting Home: www.bbc.co.uk/relationships/domestic_violence/menhh_index.shtml
 - ▶ Men Cry Too: <http://mencrytoo.homestead.com>
 - ▶ MPower: www.male-rape.org.uk/
- (Information correct at time of going to press)

(Barber, 2008)

Mankind Initiative set up in 2001

Victim Support – now supports men

Refuge - now supports men

(Mankind, 2018; Victim Support, undated; Refuge, undated; Doward, 2003; Mankind, 2016)

VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF HOW MEN ARE OVERLOOKED

For women and children.
Against domestic violence.

GET HELP OUR WORK GET INVOLVED OUR STORY DONATE 🔍



Support for women

At Refuge we understand how difficult it can be if you are experiencing domestic violence or...

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

- Keeping safe
- Planning to leave
- What about my children?
- Will he change?
- Money worries
- Support for disabled women
- « Get help

Against domestic violence.

GET HELP OUR WORK GET INVOLVED OUR STORY DONATE 🔍



Support for men

SUPPORT FOR MEN

- I am being abused
- I am an abuser
- « Get help



Buy a Refuge parcel

(Refuge, undated)

CONCLUSION

Despite there being studies that domestic violence can be seen as ‘a public health problem’ and ‘can lead to an increased risk of poor health, depressive symptoms, substance use and a development of a chronic disease such as chronic mental illness and injury’ little is being done to combat domestic violence against men who I consider to be a particularly hard to reach group given the evidence in this seminar.

(Cocker et al cited in Drijber et al, 2013)

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