

Petitioner submission of 24 October 2023

PE1887/N: Create an Unborn Victims of Violence Act

Last year I did a freedom of information request with Police Scotland regarding Domestic Abuse in pregnancy and their recorded figures.

This showed that since I lost my son Brodie in 2017, 4 women in Scotland per day are abused whilst pregnant. This totals 7,310 recorded incidents. This is a horrific figure given we know that domestic abuse is under reported by around 30-40%.

Here are the responses and figures obtained: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/vsvdsdo5/22-1213-response.pdf>

Furthermore, here is press coverage of the FOI and my story.

https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotlands-domestic-violence-crisis-shocking-number-of-attacks-on-pregnant-women-demands-a-change-in-the-law-susan-dalgety-3778931?fbclid=IwAR28lBffiw0tu0U3EcHzOaEs2tMfGxP0MPhnWnEIZkq_eXlSanmCleY-O0_aem_AaWlrfSwPVBI7Ax2d1aqWtWUiBiz2AVODDqiyi5Z7gKek_aKhdhAbOzudXEj-G2mrzs#mamx3s5fcvg

[The Devastating Scale of Pregnancy Loss Linked to Domestic Abuse – Byline Times](#)

I urge the Scottish Government to take action for those women, and those 4 per day ongoing.

I firmly believe that an amendment to the current Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 will enable the judicial system to work more effectively for those women, as currently it is very obvious things are simply not working as they should and empty words of faux sympathy do little to change our plight.

I am steadfast in my belief that within domestic abuse law is the natural home for this amendment and that the wording by Dr Mary Neal leaves no room for misinterpretation and unintended consequences for women.

The amendment would in fact reinforce reproductive autonomy.