

Petitioner submission of 12 April 2022

PE1909/H – Remove the “gender-based crime” domestic abuse narrative and make it gender neutral and equal

Expected Outcome: Males Charged

Michael Matheson MSP stated to me during a call that the Scottish Government have the “*expected outcome*” that more men will be charged for domestic abuse in Scotland.

I feel this is a predetermined and unethical outcome. (*I called as a constituent*)

VAWG/GBV narrative: detriment on male victims

“Milligan (2019) identified similar issues in her U.S. sample of male victims and Walker et al. (2019) in their Australian sample. The dominant narrative of men as perpetrators and women as victims appears to have created myopia whereby individuals who do not fit the standard narrative are discredited (Gold, 2019; Hogan, 2020; Walker et al., 2019).”

VAWG: detriment on male victims

Research by Mankind Initiative (2021) concluded,

“Given the invisibility of male victims within the ‘system’ and society at large, and the lack of responses/support for them, it is clear that this is compounded by defining their victimhood and experiences as being a victim of “Violence Against Women and Girls“ (VAWG)” (1)

GBV Narrative: Trafficking

Public Health Scotland claims 'trafficking' is a gender-based violence crime, e.g. affects women more than men ([7](#))

However, Home Office stats, Jan to March 2021 show more men (71%) and boys (78%) are trafficked in the UK ([8](#))

Exaggeration/Miscommunication: Female Domestic Homicides

UNODC Global Study on Homicide, 2019, stats are used to exaggerate the problem in Scotland.

Of 50,000 female homicides, 3,000 were in Europe (6% of all female homicides) ([2](#))

In Scotland, Scottish Government data shows 10 female homicides 2020-21 ([3](#))

Communication Offences

COPFS data shows higher conviction rates for females for Section 127, 'persistent unwanted contact' crime, replacing female perpetrated stalking behaviour and domestic abuse offences. (*COPFS FOI*)

My female perpetrator's conduct was regarded by police as domestic abuse and stalking (evidenced in writing), yet she was arrested for Section 127.

False allegations Convictions

In 2019-20, Scottish Government FOI data shows that 100% of all convictions for false allegations were female. (*Scot Gov FOI*)

I reported my female abuser for false allegations and the police did not investigate it (PIRC CHR 2021 supports this)

Female perpetrated abuse

Online Abuse/Misogyny

“Looking at this data set of thousands of pieces of misogynistic abuse, and looking at the people the perpetrators of this abuse...The algorithm suggested 50% were women” ([4](#))

Gaslighting

“For example...here we see almost 3 out of 5 men had been threatened with disclosure of damaging/embarrassing information by their partner, evidencing that men and women are similar in their exposure to ‘gaslighting’” ([5](#))

Economic Abuse

“Although traditionally framed as a female issue, the participants reported experiencing economic abuse. Half of male victims had their earnings controlled as a pattern of abuse which in some cases led to men not being able to purchase food or clothing.” ([6](#))

Female Victims are Perpetrators

Research in 2018 concluded,

“The researchers concluded that a significant proportion of females seeking help for victimisation are also perpetrators of intimate partner violence” ([10](#))

Female perpetrated domestic abuse programmes

There are 0 programmes for female perpetrators in Scotland.

Yet Scottish Government have the Caledonian Programme for male perpetrators only ([11](#))

Male Experiences Research (2019)

Lancaster University Law School found:

*“Participants most frequently reported that **the perpetrator was their female partner or ex-partner**, and that their forced-to-penetrate*

experiences were one element of domestic abuse and/or postseparation abuse that they experienced” (9)

“Specialist male sexual and domestic violence services are important and had a positive impact on those participants who accessed them. **However, not all participants were aware of their existence, or were able to access them.**” (9)

Like I experienced with ASSIST, CEA Falkirk, Victim Support Scotland.

“There were numerous barriers to men disclosing and engaging with organisations and services. These included: fear of not being believed; feelings of shame, guilt, and self-blame; **lack of knowledge about, and availability of, specialist male sexual and domestic violence support services**; and gender expectations around masculinity.” (9)

“The majority of participants did not report to the police. **Of those that did report the vast majority had negative experiences with the police.**” (9)

“Participants had overwhelmingly negative perceptions of the police, criminal justice system, and the law. Concerns were raised around: **bias against men; disbelief they can be victims of female perpetrated sexual and domestic violence; and inequality of treatment as victims under sexual offences law**” (9)

I believe there are a number of problems with ASSIST:

- ASSIST is police referral only.
- ASSIST refused to help me as I outside of the West of Scotland. No support.
- ASSIST cannot claim to be a good representation of male domestic abuse in Scotland, as they only cover some of Scotland.
- ASSIST does not have an open referral system, and only receives them via Police Scotland, who have biased training, guidance, policies and practices towards men.

- ASSIST has given a very ideological view of domestic abuse, which differs substantially from the reality in Scotland

Can I ask that the Committee please contact the following organisations for additional evidence:

- Abused Men in Scotland
- Mankind Initiative
- Paul Levelle Foundation
- Men's Aid Ireland