

Justice for Men & Boys:¹ Commentary on the first 48 pages of the Consultation Response in relation to the Domestic Abuse Bill

The page numbers are those in the online PDF titled, “Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse Consultation Response and Draft Bill, January 2019”²

Page(s)	Document extracts	Our commentary
1,2	<p><u>Foreword by Sajid Javid MP (Home Secretary) and David Gauke MP (Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice)</u></p> <p>In March 2018, we set out our legislative proposals for this landmark bill, alongside a package of practical action. We consulted on these, seeking views from victims and survivors, support organisations and frontline professionals, to harness their knowledge and expertise.</p> <p>We are also dedicated to ending all forms of violence against women, [our emphasis] and our Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016–2020 sets out our ambition to protect women and girls [our emphasis] from violence, support victims and provide leadership at a national and international level on ending these forms of abuse.</p> <p>We have also committed to improve support for all victims through our Victims Strategy, which was published in September 2018 and sets out our commitment to improve support for all victims of crime by giving victims the certainty that they will be understood, protected and supported throughout their journey. In addition, we know that nearly 60% of female offenders have experience of domestic abuse, so through our Female Offender Strategy we have also committed to investing £5 million in community provision for female offenders and women at risk of offending, which includes £2 million of funding for women who have experienced domestic abuse.</p>	<p>In common with a major Home Office consultation exercise on this area in 2014, the views of academics working in the field have not been sought. The explanation is simple. Academics have been reporting for decades that domestic abuse is not a gendered problem, but a generational one. For decades government responses to domestic abuse have been based on the lie that domestic abuse IS a gendered problem.</p> <p>Not even a pretence is made that the government wishes to end violence against men and boys.</p> <p>As later in the report, female offenders are viewed through the lens of being victims. Female offenders are considered in sub-section 2.4.2, in the section “Supporting victims with specific or complex needs”. There is no equivalent sub-section on male offenders, no “Male Offender Strategy”, no investment in community provision for male offenders,</p>

¹ <https://j4mb.org.uk>

² <https://tinyurl.com/DABill2019>

		or for men at risk of offending, or for men who have experienced domestic abuse.
3,4	<p><u>Executive Summary</u></p> <p>The majority of those who responded to the consultation agreed with the proposals within it.</p> <p>The response also provided important insight into the lived experience of domestic abuse as well as useful examples of what can be effective in tackling it.</p>	<p><i>Of course the majority agreed with the proposals.</i> The Bill is based on premises which are <i>demonstrably</i> false e.g. that domestic abuse is a gendered phenomenon. A huge industry has been built around such lies, and we know the Home Office is strongly influenced by organizations such as Women’s Aid and Refuge, who promulgate the lies. The majority of those who responded to such consultations are feminist women, although we know from a poll conducted for the Fawcett Society (a feminist charity) in 2016, that only 9 percent of British women identify as feminists, and 4 percent of men.³</p> <p>Organizations such as us have learned from previous submissions to consultation exercises on domestic abuse, that they are exercises in utter futility for those wishing to have the government respond to issues on the basis of evidence and rational arguments which challenge or disprove feminist narratives. We submitted a 118-page report to a consultation exercise run by the Home Office in 2014, and had no response. It was titled, “Partner violence against men in England & Wales, and the institutional anti-male bias of public bodies”.⁴ It was accompanied by a letter to Theresa May, Home Secretary at the time.⁵ Our submission to three other parliamentary consultation exercises – details on request – were similarly ignored.</p> <p>“Lived experience” is feminist shorthand for personal anecdotes which may, or may not, be based upon reality. Such anecdotes should not be used to formulate policy. The reported “lived experiences” of men are never given the slightest credence.</p>

³ <http://tinyurl.com/fawcett9>

⁴ <https://tinyurl.com/2014J4MBHomeOfficeConsultation>

⁵ <https://tinyurl.com/2016TheresaMayLetter>

	<p>The response to the consultation identifies nine measures that require primary legislation to implement. These will now be taken forward in a draft Domestic Abuse Bill, which is annexed to this document (Annex D), together with the explanatory notes for the draft Bill (Annex E). These nine measures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide for a statutory definition of domestic abuse • establish the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner’s functions and powers • provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and DAPO • prohibit perpetrators of domestic and other forms of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts (and prevent victims from having to cross-examine their abusers) and give the court discretion to prevent cross-examination in person where it would diminish the quality of the witness’s evidence or cause the witness significant distress <p>Through the measures set out in both the draft Domestic Abuse Bill and the practical package of action outlined in this document, we seek to transform the government’s response to domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Here, as elsewhere, <i>alleged</i> perpetrators are referred to as “perpetrators” i.e. they’re assumed to be guilty, and needing to prove their innocence (which will generally be impossible, given the nature of domestic abuse). Conversely, <i>alleged</i> victims are referred to as “victims”. The vast majority of alleged perpetrators cannot afford the cost of legal representation, so this point denies them natural justice. In practice, it gives women <i>carte blanche</i> to ruin men’s lives by making false allegations against them, whilst not being held accountable (through cross-examination) by the <i>genuine</i> victims in such situations.</p> <p>The government is seeking to continue and extend its assaults on the human rights of men, in order to privilege women yet further.</p>
5	<p>Section 1: Promoting awareness</p> <p><u>1.1 Introducing a new statutory definition of domestic abuse</u> We want to ensure that all domestic abuse is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across statutory agencies and in public attitudes.</p>	<p>No British government has <i>ever</i> “ensured that all domestic abuse is properly understood”. All of them have perpetuated feminist lies and myths about domestic abuse, most notably that it is a gendered issue, when decades of academic research tell us it is not.</p>
7	<p><u>1.1 Introducing a new statutory definition of domestic abuse (cont’d)</u> In the statutory guidance that will accompany the definition, we will expand further on the different types of abuse and the forms they can take. This will include types of abuse which are experienced by</p>	

	specific communities or groups, such as migrant women [our emphasis] or ethnic minorities and also teenage relationship abuse. This will also recognise that victims of domestic abuse are predominantly female.	<p>Why are migrant <i>men</i> not deemed worthy of mention?</p> <p>It is debatable whether the victims of domestic abuse are predominantly female, given men's well-documented under-reporting of being victims. But even if it <i>were</i> true, why should the statutory guidance "recognise" it, other than if the intention is to marginalise male victims (which it clearly is)? In the UK, the victims of domestic abuse are predominantly white, should the statutory guidance recognise that, too?</p>
14	<p><u>1.4 Raising public awareness of domestic abuse</u></p> <p>You said:</p> <p>"A lot of what happens is behind closed doors, I know in my circumstances he looked amazing to everyone looking in."</p>	<p>This is unattributed (and probably invented) anti-male propaganda, and should have no place in such a report. We cannot find one instance in the report, where "You said" refers to a male victim, or a female perpetrator.</p>
15	<p><u>1.4 Raising public awareness of domestic abuse (cont'd)</u></p> <p>We will work to tackle harmful gender norms, in recognition that all forms of violence against women and girls are both a cause and a consequence of wider gender inequality.</p> <p>Through the refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, we are embarking on an ambitious programme to tackle restrictive and harmful gender norms, with a focus on working with the advertising industry, on body image, and through working with men and boys to challenge harmful attitudes.</p>	<p>This is pure feminist propaganda. At least there's an admission that the concern is limited to violence against women and girls only.</p> <p>More feminist propaganda.</p> <p>There's no need to work with women and girls "to challenge harmful attitudes"?</p>
19	<p>2.2 Resources</p> <p><u>2.2.1 Funding</u></p> <p>In the Victims Strategy, we addressed funding for domestic abuse victims in three critical areas. Many victims of domestic abuse also experience sexual violence and seek assistance from sexual violence</p>	<p>There is no recognition here of the sexual abuse of men by women, nor an intention to "advise, support and counsel" those male victims. In our 2015 general election manifesto,⁶ (pp.31-4) we referenced a</p>

⁶ <http://tinyurl.com/v10manifesto>

	<p>services. We are responding to increasing demand for sexual violence services. We increased funding for rape and sexual abuse support services across England and Wales – offering £24 million over three years to provide advice, support and counselling for women (our emphasis) affected by rape and sexual abuse. This funding will increase the resilience of the wider sector supporting victims of sexual violence, including those who experience domestic abuse, to provide timely, wrap-around support.</p>	<p>major study which showed that of the sex offences committed by men and women on the opposite sex, over 25 percent are committed by women.</p>
20	<p><u>2.2.1 Funding (cont'd)</u></p> <p>The government has already pledged over £100 million of funding to tackle violence against women and girls (our emphasis) from 2016 to 2020. Over £80 million of this total has been allocated for the provision of victims' services, including over £40 million for safe accommodation-based services and around £5 million for national helplines.</p> <p>At the launch of the consultation, we announced that £12 million of the remaining £20 million would support children affected by domestic abuse, female offenders who have experienced domestic abuse and a health pathfinder project designed to identify best practice in healthcare settings. With the remaining £8 million we will support a wide range of individuals who are affected by domestic abuse including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the LGBT+ community • elderly victims • male victims • disabled victims • those affected by adolescent to parent abuse • victims of economic abuse 	<p>"Female offenders who have experienced domestic abuse" will be supported, while male offenders who've experienced domestic abuse will not be.</p> <p>£92+ million will be spent to tackle violence against women and girls from 2016 to 2020. Just £8 million will be spent across six categories of people, "male victims" being one, although they probably represent at least 50 percent of the victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>So 92+ percent of funding will be directed specifically to women and girls, who will also enjoy much of the remaining 8 percent by virtue of being LGBT and/or elderly and/or disabled and/or affected by adolescent to parent abuse and/or victims of economic abuse. This leaves virtually nothing for victims who are male and deserve support simply on the basis of being victims of domestic abuse.</p>

21	<p><u>2.2.2 Accommodation-based services including refuges</u></p> <p>We know how important it is that victims of domestic abuse have access to safe accommodation. We believe that the best way to assess need and provide safe accommodation is through local authorities working in partnership with other agencies.</p>	<p>“Victims” here means “female victims”, in practice. There is virtually no provision of safe accommodation for male victims of domestic abuse, and none for them with their children. This stark fact is not acknowledged in this report. Around 90% of the street homeless are men, and street homelessness robs people of around 30 years of life expectancy.</p>
22	<p><u>2.2.2 Accommodation-based services including refuges (cont’d)</u></p> <p>MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) will continue to invest in the Women’s Aid ‘Routes to Support’ project, subject to the outcome of the Spending Review. The funding contributes to a database and staff to support victims (J4MB: female victims) who need to access refuges and enables detailed monitoring and analysis of the availability of bed spaces and other violence against women and girls services. The funding also supports the ‘No Woman Turned Away’ project, which offers caseworker support to victims who may have faced difficulties accessing refuge. Since 2016, 668 victims have been supported.</p>	<p>No such investment in projects to support male victims, nor any intention to work with or fund (cash-starved) potential providers to develop such support.</p>
25	<p>2.3 Working together: a proactive and reactive multi-agency response</p> <p><u>2.3.1 Domestic Abuse Protection Order</u></p> <p>We want to introduce a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DAPN) and Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO). These will combine the strongest elements of the various existing orders and provide a flexible pathway for victims and practitioner.</p>	<p>Throughout the report, as here, reference is made to “victims” when the term “alleged victims” should be used. The practical consequence of treating alleged victims as victims is that it gives malicious people the ability to assault the rights of other people, for personal advantage.</p>
31,32	<p><u>2.3.1 Domestic Abuse Protection Order (cont’d)</u></p> <p>An example of an effective multi-agency approach is the Troubled Families programme, which is aimed at creating safe and nurturing environments for children. Just under a quarter of troubled families on the programme had a family member affected by an incident of domestic abuse or violence in the year before the intervention. That is</p>	

	<p>why violence against women and girls (our emphasis) is one of the six headline criteria under which families are eligible for support in the programme.</p>	<p>Violence against men and boys isn't deemed to be of concern, and isn't "one of the six headline criteria".</p>
34	<p><u>2.3.2 Multi-agency working</u></p> <p>The Female Offender Strategy, published in June 2018, set out the government's aims to improve outcomes for female offenders. More detail is provided in Section 2.4.2. It is important for local agencies to take a joined-up approach to addressing the complex needs of this cohort of women and we are investing £1 million (as part of a bigger £5 million fund) to develop whole-system approach models to female offenders in local areas. Women's centres are often at the heart of these models, helping to provide the holistic, wrap-around and trauma-informed response that these women need to improve their lives and reduce reoffending.</p>	<p>Not the slightest recognition that male offenders might have complex needs. No need for any investment in them, just punishment. No need for a "holistic, wrap-around and trauma-informed response... to improve their lives and reduce reoffending".</p>
35-9	<p>2.4 Supporting victims with specific or complex needs</p> <p><u>2.4.1 Specialist needs</u></p> <p>Domestic abuse affects a wide and disparate group and a 'one size fits all' approach is not appropriate to support all victims, especially those with specific needs and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>We will improve capacity within the women's sector by providing £250,000 to improve the response to disabled victims.</p> <p>We will provide £250,000 to fund kits for refuges and other domestic abuse services to make them accessible to deaf victims, as well as investing in greater advocacy support for deaf victims and increasing the accessibility of information, advice and support for deaf users.</p> <p>We will provide £100,000 to upskill domestic abuse organisations to respond to elder abuse and develop a number of primary support services to extend their reach and capability.</p>	<p>Male victims are not recognized as having specific needs and vulnerabilities, although they clearly are – for one thing, there is virtually no support available for them, because there is virtually no funding for them.</p> <p>No money for improving the response to disabled <i>male</i> victims.</p> <p>There are very few refuge places for male victims of domestic abuse, and none for male victims with their children. "Refuges and other domestic abuse services" are overwhelmingly concerned with female victims only.</p> <p>"Domestic abuse organizations" are overwhelmingly concerned with female victims only, and won't support elderly abused men.</p>

<p><u>2.4.2 Female offenders</u></p> <p>The majority of female offenders have experienced domestic abuse and it is often linked to their offending, with 6 in 10 female offenders indicating that they currently are or have been victims.</p> <p>In summer 2018 we launched the government’s Female Offender Strategy, which recognises that female offenders can often have multiple and complex needs. The Strategy outlines a programme of work driven by our vision to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fewer women coming into the criminal justice system; • fewer women in custody, especially on short-term sentences, and a greater proportion of women managed in the community successfully; • better conditions for those in custody. <p>The Strategy moves the focus from custodial to community provision for women and, as part of this, we will invest £2 million into community provision for women with experience of domestic abuse. This is part of a £5 million fund that will enhance and expand community provision and the development of whole-system approaches to female offenders. We will give grants to local</p>	<p>The refusal to recognize female offenders as bearing any responsibility for their actions is so strong, they are presented here in the section concerning “victims with specific or complex needs”. <i>Two full pages are devoted to them in this regard.</i> Most of the points made are also true of male offenders – in some areas, far more so – but there is not one sentence devoted to them in this regard. Unlike female offenders, they are not deemed worthy of attention or support, punishment is the only appropriate response.</p> <p>In most couples, each partner is at various times the perpetrator, at other times the victim. In heterosexual couples where violence is one-way, the perpetrator is more than twice as likely to be the woman, rather than the man.</p> <p>Why are the sentiments expressed about female offenders (left) not expressed about male offenders? Why are there no such programmes for them? Why does the government not have a Male Offender Strategy, with “a programme of work driven by the vision to see” the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fewer men coming into the criminal justice system; • fewer men in custody, especially on short-term sentences, and a greater proportion of men managed in the community successfully; • better conditions for those in custody.
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	<p>communities to focus on issues such as health, finance and accommodation.</p> <p>We will develop a National Concordat on Female Offenders to improve outcomes for female offenders. The Concordat will also work at a local level to support joined-up working from statutory agencies and third sector organisations.</p> <p>Alongside our strategy, we are working with the NPCC to publish guidance on working with vulnerable women, supporting the identification of abuse at every stage of a woman's journey through the criminal justice system.</p> <p>We are also supporting the rollout of trauma-informed training for probation and prison staff, so that they can appropriately support female offenders with an experience of domestic abuse.</p> <p><u>2.4.3 Substance misuse</u></p> <p>You made it clear that women with experience of extensive physical and sexual violence are more likely to be substance-dependent and experience disadvantage in other areas of their lives. Women experiencing abuse are therefore likely to require multi-agency support. You told us that successfully addressing complex needs requires sustained funding and can have significant social and financial benefits in the long term. Many of you commented that staff in substance misuse services and domestic abuse services should be better trained in how to use referral pathways to each other's services effectively.</p> <p>We will learn from a recent roundtable on women's substance misuse about the importance of multi-agency women-only provision that is commissioned collaboratively, and the need to address women's specific needs in drug and alcohol policies.</p>	<p>The text in bold highlights that the respondents to the consultation exercise were primarily women and/or the prime concern of the report writers is women. As in so many places in this report, the word "women" could (and should) be replaced with "people".</p> <p>There is no need to address men's specific needs in drug and alcohol policies?</p>
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39-43	<p>2.5 Types of abuse</p> <p><u>2.5.1 Economic abuse</u></p> <p>You said: “My ex-partner took full control over the finances, I was not even allowed to use my own bank card ... I was not allowed to buy essentials and had to ask for permission to buy things for my children, whilst he spent money daily on alcohol. He would hide bank statements, and even remove my card from my purse whilst I wasn’t aware.”</p> <p><u>2.5.2 Online abuse</u></p> <p>You said: “Teaching teenagers about online abuse as part of tackling bullying and domestic violence. I think this should be brought in from the age of 11/12 (i.e. Year 7) and it should be tackled as ‘abuse’ e.g. where a boyfriend is insisting his girlfriend gives him her Facebook password.”</p>	<p>As everywhere else in this report, where an alleged statement shows a victim and a perpetrator, the victim is female, the perpetrator male.</p> <p>See above.</p>
46	<p>2.6 Victims’ rights</p> <p><u>2.6.2 The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme</u></p> <p>You said: “I did not know my ex-partner had a history of domestic violence. I found out about Clare’s Law after I was assaulted by him. If I had known about Clare’s Law and his history of domestic violence I would never have been in that situation.”</p>	<p>See above.</p>
46-8	<p><u>2.7 Male victims</u></p> <p>The government has always recognised domestic abuse as a gendered crime and included it within its Violence Against Women</p>	<p>It is surely no accident that male victims are the last group of people to be considered in the section titled, “Protect and support victims”. Indeed, female offenders get priority over male victims, being considered at length in section 2.4.2.</p> <p>This is <i>outrageous</i>. Even in this section on male victims, mention is made that there are (allegedly) more female victims than male victims</p>

<p>and Girls work. Evidence supports this stance. For instance, according to the 2016/17 Crime Survey for England and Wales, an estimated 1.2 million women experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2017, compared with an estimated 713,000 men.</p> <p>However, as is evident from these figures, men and boys are also victims of domestic abuse and responses show that some people both find it hard to identify themselves as a victim and find that they face barriers to reporting these crimes and accessing appropriate support services. At a consultation event focusing on this issue, you highlighted homelessness, unemployment and suicide as consequences of domestic abuse; the complexities of having children with the perpetrator; and the need for services that understand the particular experiences of male victims and can respond to their needs effectively. Since 2005, we have funded the Men’s Advice Line, a confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic abuse. We also fund the National LGBT+ Domestic Violence Helpline, which provides information, advice and support to gay, bisexual and trans men (as well as lesbian, bisexual and trans women) who are affected by domestic abuse.</p> <p>We want to bolster support to male victims nationwide, ensuring all victims are sufficiently captured and no victim is inadvertently excluded from protection or access to services, and to provide a more comprehensive package of supportive measures.</p>	<p>– though this is probably not true, given men’s under-reporting as victims. “Evidence supports this stance.” No, it does not. <i>Domestic abuse is not a gendered crime. Academics working in the field have been publishing papers demonstrating that, for decades.</i></p> <p>“Men and boys are also victims of domestic abuse”. They are victims <i>in considerable numbers</i>. Men find it hard to identify themselves as victims in large part because the government does next to nothing to help them do so. Men have trouble accessing appropriate support services because very few such support services exist, largely because the government will not fund them.</p> <p>“We want to bolster support to male victims nationwide...”. Untrue. If you wanted to do so, you would provide the necessary funding. Men are not “inadvertently” excluded from protection or access to services, they are <i>adventently</i> excluded from them.</p>
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