



The communications union

Don't Hide Abuse

get help

not flowers



Women's Advisory Committee

working for you on Domestic Violence

Women's Advisory Committee working for you on the issue of Domestic Abuse.

Annmarie McCall WAC Member

Helen Ogilvie WAC Member

Kate Hudson WAC Member

Kath Kelly WAC Member

Vera Kelsey WAC Member

Vicky Tuner WAC Member

Linda Roy Equality Officer

At our first meeting in July we made a working plan for the year with several different projects. One of them we decided on is Domestic Abuse. We have done a lot of research over the months and have now put it into a booklet. We do hope this will signpost people to advice.

Facts about Domestic Abuse

- Domestic abuse can occur in any relationship, regardless of sexual orientation.
- Domestic abuse occurs when one person is clearly the victim. Mutual fighting is not domestic abuse.
- Even though the perpetrator may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when abuse occurs, drugs and alcohol do not 'cause' the domestic abuse.
- 1 in 3 women will be assaulted by an intimate partner in her lifetime (30-50% of all women).
- 30% of LGBT couples experience domestic abuse.
- 3 out of 4 women murdered are killed by their partners.
- Six million women are beaten each year. Four thousand of them are killed.
- 11 women die every day as a result of domestic abuse.

True or false?

- Incidents of domestic abuse are often a one-off. FALSE
- Domestic abuse can affect anyone. TRUE
- Domestic abuse is caused by alcohol misuse. FALSE.
- Children and their mothers are at greatest risk of abuse when leaving the relationship. True.
- On average a women is assaulted 35 times before contacting the police. TRUE.
- Forced marriage is a form of domestic abuse. True.
- 75% of cases of domestic abuse result in physical injury or mental health consequences to women. TRUE.

Domestic Violence: not just male on female

Clare Nicholls, 28, her brother Simon, 24, and her ex partner Steven Martin 44, have been convicted of murder for what can only be described as a barbaric crime. Andrew Gardner's body was found by paramedics in his living room of the house he shared with the 3 murderers. In court the prosecution QC said that Andrew had suffered extensive injuries over the weeks of torture.

A post-mortem examination showed that he had 21 fractured ribs, it was said that these sort of injuries are what would normally be seen in a serious car crash or a fall from considerable height.

Simon Nicholls, the brother, phoned 999 claiming that Andrew had returned home with the injuries saying he had been attacked. When paramedics arrived they found Andrew on the living room floor wearing only his shorts, remember this was in March, he was not breathing had no pulse and his body was stiff, indicating that he had been dead for some time. Simon Nicholls claimed he had only been there for 30 minutes.

All three denied murder but at long last justice took its toll, as Clare Nicholls was sentenced to murder with a minimum of 32 years. Her brother was sentenced to life with a minimum of 25 years.

This case, once it has been published in its entirety, will hopefully make other victims come forward before, as it was for Andrew, it becomes too late and they become yet another statistic on the court lists. Trade unions, such as the CWU need to be active in highlighting this sort of sadistic behaviour and do everythin, we can to assist in bringing this heinous crime to the attention of the "powers that be" in order that we can assure it will not be tolerated. As mentioned above we need trained individuals who can look for the signs within workplaces, homes or in everyday life before some poor victim's name appears in the obituary list in the local paper.

Kath Kelly

Source of Information

Newcastle Evening Chronicle



The dominator is his name, controlling women is his game



The Sexual Controller

- Rapes you.
- Won't accept no for an answer.
- Keeps you pregnant OR
- Rejects your advances.



The Bully

- Glares.
- Shouts.
- Smashes things.
- Sulks.



King of the Castle

- Treats you as a servant/slave.
- Says women are for sex, cooking and housework.
- Expects sex on demand.
- Controls all the money.



The Jailer

- Stops you from working and seeing friends.
- Tells you what to wear.
- Keeps you in the house.
- Seduces your friends/family.



The Badfather

- Says you are a bad mother.
- Turns the children against you.
- Uses access to harass you.
- Threatens to take the children away.
- Persuades you to have 'his' baby, and then refuses to help you care for it.



The Liar

- Denies any abuse.
- Says it was 'only' a slap
- Blames drink, drugs, stress, over-work, unemployment etc.



The Persuader

- Threatens to hurt or kill you or your children.
- Cries.
- Says he loves you.
- Threatens to kill himself.
- Threatens to report you to Social Services, DSS etc.



The Headworker

- Puts you down.
- Tells you you're too fat, too thin, ugly, stupid, useless etc.

Not a saint that we are seeing, just a decent human being



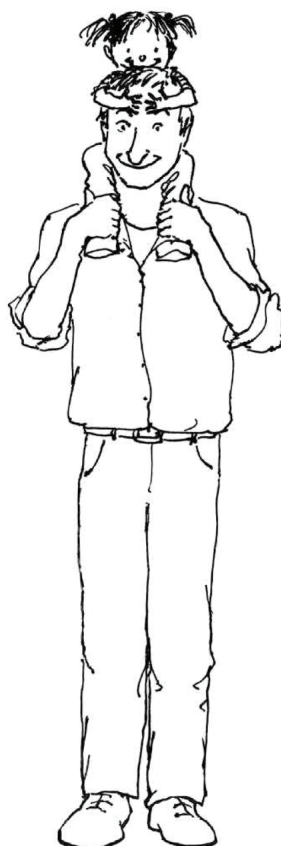
The Lover

- Shows you physical affection without assuming it will lead to sex.
- Accepts your right to say no to sex.
- Shares responsibility for contraception etc.



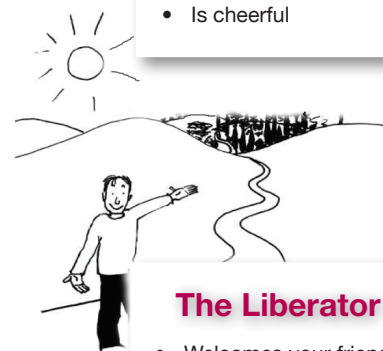
The Friend

- Talks to you.
- Listens to you.
- Is a companion.
- Has a sense of humour.
- Is cheerful



The Partner

- Does his share of the housework.
- Shares financial responsibility.
- Treats you as an equal.



The Liberator

- Welcomes your friends and family.
- Encourages you to have outside interests.
- Encourages you to develop your skills at work or at college.



The Goodfather

- Is a responsible parent.
- Is an equal parent.
- Supports your dealings with the children.



The Truthteller

- Accepts responsibility.
- Admits to being wrong.



The Negotiator

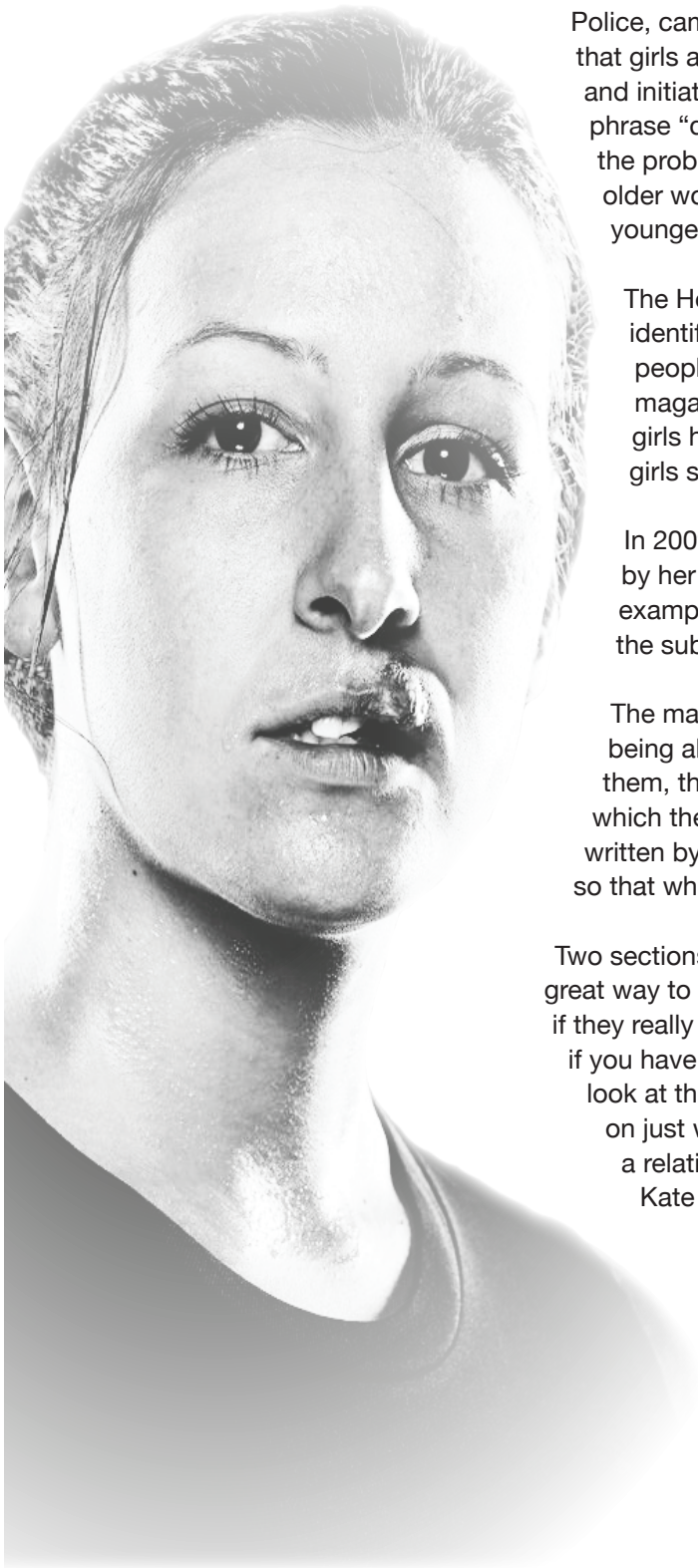
- Takes responsibility for his own well-being and happiness.
- Behaves like a reasonable human being.



The Confidence Booster

- Says you look good.
- Values your opinions.
- Supports your ambitions.
- Says you are competent.
- Values you.

Domestic Violence: against young women and girls



Police, campaigners and MPs are increasingly concerned that girls and young women are being missed by campaigns and initiatives on domestic violence. Some believe that the phrase “domestic violence” may be misleading, suggesting the problem is confined to violence in the home against older women and taking attention away from abuse against younger women outside the home.

The Home Affairs committee in the House of Commons has identified an emerging picture of violence between young people in intimate relationships. A teen survey by Sugar magazine and the NSPCC found that one in five teenage girls have been hit by a boyfriend and one third of teenage girls say that cheating justifies violence.

In 2009 the 20 year old pop singer Rihanna was assaulted by her boyfriend, This was regarded by some as an example of “modern” domestic violence the case brought the subject to the forefront for a lot of young people.

The main problem is that young girls or women who are being abused may not understand what is happening to them, they can feel as if they are in a confusing mess for which they are to blame. The Freedom Programme which was written by Pat Craven puts different behaviours into categories so that when we are faced with abuse we can recognise it.

Two sections look at THE DOMINATOR and the FRIEND it is a great way to open up the subject with younger people and to see if they really know the different faces of abuse. One suggestion, if you have teenagers around the house, is to recommend they look at the two sections – it may bring with it some surprises on just what is and isn’t seen as acceptable behaviour within a relationship by the younger generation.

Kate Hudson

Domestic Violence: in LGBT relationships

Domestic abuse happens in same-sex relationships. Surveys suggest there is domestic abuse in 1 out of 4 same-sex relationships.

Domestic Abuse in Gay Relationships

Gay and bi men who are experiencing domestic abuse may decide not to seek help or support for a variety of reasons.

- They feel that no-one will understand or believe them, no help available.
- They will be treated with contempt, the abuse is their fault, they're to blame.
- They hope their partner will change, they have said sorry and will never do it again.

Once someone starts using abuse the abuse is likely to escalate and get worse. The abuser makes a promise to change and stop the abuse, sometimes even with the best intention, abusers choose not to change.

Different ways men experience and are affected by domestic abuse

- Threatening to 'out you' or to stay closeted if they aren't out or harm themselves if you leave.
- Verbally abusing you about your HIV or sexually transmitted infection status.
- Threatening to infect you (by not practicing safe sex) if they have HIV or sexually transmitted infections.
- Violating your boundaries, pressuring you into having sex with other men or to take drugs or alcohol to get into the 'mood' for sex.

Domestic Abuse in Lesbian Relationships

The typical image of a battered woman is a heterosexual woman attempting to hide a black eye but domestic abuse does not just happen to straight couples. Domestic abuse statistics show that abuse is just as prevalent in LGBT relationships as it is in heterosexual couples. In fact, 30% of couples struggle with domestic abuse of some sort.

Myths of Domestic Abuse for Lesbians

- Lesbian relationships can't have domestic abuse, they are both women.
- Only the "butch" partner can be abusive.
- It must be "mutually abusive" or "fighting" if both partners are of the same sex.
- A physically smaller partner cannot abuse a larger partner.
- Drugs or alcohol are to blame for the abuse if the aggressor only attacks when under the influence.
- There is no place for lesbian victims of domestic abuse to get help.
- It's not abuse because she only threatens and puts me down. She has never hit me.

Concerned about your relationship?

- Are you afraid of your partner, have they hit you, thrown things at you, threatened to harm you or your family?
Does your partner try to control what you do and who you see?
- Have you ever been forced to have sex or unprotected sex?
- Does your partner threaten to "out" you?

If you answered "yes" – even once – your partner may be abusive.

What you can do: Talk with somebody you trust - a friend, relative, someone from work, your house of worship, or a health care practitioner. Remember everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Don't let your partner control or mistreat you. Help is available.

Vicky Turner

Men's Advice Line Monday

0808 801 0327 Friday 10am-1pm & 2pm – 5pm

Email info@mensadviceline.org.uk

or visit the website www.mensadviceline.org.uk

MCC Independent Domestic Violence Advisors

(IDVA – for women and men) **01612345393** Sanctuary Scheme – if women or men is no longer in relationship with the perpetrator but feels unsafe in their home. Security measures can be added to their home, contact IDVA'S above for more info.

**Women's National 24 hour
Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 200 0247**

www.womensaid.org.uk

link to domestic abuse information in 12 languages.

Samaritans: 08457 90 90 90

www.samaritans.org

Mind 08457 660163

www.mind.org.uk

NSPCC 0808 800 500

www.nspcc.org.uk

ChildLine 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

Broken Rainbow

(for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender victims):

0300 999 5428

English National Domestic Violence:

0808 2000 247

Northern Ireland Women's Aid:

0800 917 1414

Scottish Domestic Abuse:

0800 027 1234

Wales Domestic Abuse:

0808 80 10 800

Male Advice & Enquiry:

0808 801 0327

Dyn Wales/Dyn Cymru:

0808 801 0321

Forced Marriages Unit:

0207 088 0151

Respect (for domestic violence perpetrators):

0845 122 8609

www.sigmaresearch.org.uk

www.stonewall.or.uk

www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

www.lambda.org

Linda Roy

National Equality Officer

April 2010

Don't Hide Abuse

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