



HM Government

# Supporting Male Victims of Abuse

Easy read version of the Position Statement  
on Male Victims of Crimes  
considered in the cross-Government  
Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy  
and the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan

March 2022

Easy read version



## What the words mean

The words in **green bold** are explained here

The words in **blue bold** are a link to another report

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### **Conversion therapy**

Therapy which tries to change or 'cure' a gay, lesbian, bi or trans person to make them straight.

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### **Domestic abuse**

Controlling, bullying and violence including sexual violence, by a partner or ex-partner. Women are usually the victims and men are the ones who do it. But men can also be victims. The people doing the abuse can also be family members or carers.

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### **Forced marriage**

When someone is made to marry someone else.

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### **Honour based abuse**

When a person is violent and abuses someone else and says they are doing it because the family or community will get more respect. Sometimes it is a punishment for breaking the rules of the family or community. It can be physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.

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### **Perpetrator**

Someone who commits a crime, like domestic or sexual abuse.

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### **Rape**

When a person forces someone else to have sex. It can be with physical force or by frightening them.

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**Sexual assault**

When someone touches, hurts or attacks another person in a sexual way without their agreement (consent).

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**Sexual abuse**

When someone is forced or tricked into taking part in any kind of sexual activity with another person, without their agreement (consent).

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**Sexual harassment**

Any unwanted sexual behaviour that makes someone feel upset, scared, offended or humiliated, or is meant to make them feel that way.

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**Stalking**

Being followed, watched or harassed by another person. It can be in real life or online.

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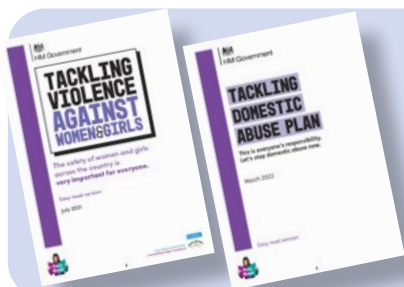
## About this paper



This is how the Government will support men and boys who are victims of **domestic abuse**.



It will help everyone to work together to help stop **domestic abuse** happening and support victims – including men and boys.



The Government's 2 plans '[Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#)' and the '[Domestic Abuse Plan](#)' both include support for male victims.

## What we know about male victims of abuse



The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 says that if a child sees, hears or experiences the effects of **domestic abuse**, they are also victims.



The Government is supporting teachers to teach their students about good relationships and sex at school.



The Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy says the Government will give the best support to victims and survivors of child **sexual abuse**. This includes when the abuse happened a long time ago.



The Government understands it can be harder for some men and boys to get support for lots of reasons.



Boys and men can be victims of **domestic abuse**, sexual assaults and stalking.



They can also be victims of **honour based abuse**, including **forced marriage**.



Men and boys can also be victims of **sexual harassment**, including at work.



Gay and bisexual men are more likely to be a victim of these crimes than straight men.



Gay, bisexual and transgender men may also be victims of '**conversion therapy**'.



Men from black and minority ethnic communities, including migrants also report more **domestic abuse**.



Men with disabilities are also more likely to report **domestic abuse**.

## Reporting domestic abuse



Some men find it hard to report abuse. There are many reasons, for example:

- They may think it's only women who are victims.
- They don't recognise they are a victim.
- They think they won't be believed.
- They are embarrassed or feel guilty
- Threats from their abuser
- Not sure how to report the abuse

## Getting support



All victims of domestic abuse need good support right away.



The Ministry of Justice has given extra funding for **rape** victims until March 2023.



The Government has given money to other services which support male victims, such as for the Men's Advice Line run by Respect.





Male victims in prison may find it harder to get support. When prisons are overcrowded there can be more sexual assaults.



Support services must:

- Be clear about who they are supporting
- Meet the needs of the victims
- Understand the many reasons why it can be hard for men to get support

## Bringing cases to court



The Government knows it can be hard for men and boys to report crimes. But it wants them to do this so that the abusers can be punished, and so the victim can get help and support.



It is important that the police have the right skills to support victims. The police are improving how they respond to safeguarding. And there are going to be 20,000 more police officers.



Maggie Blyth will lead the police's national work on violence against women and girls in the police.



The Crime Prosecution Service (CPS) also wants to support male victims of abuse.

## What the government promises to do to support male victims



These are some of the things.  
The full list is in the [main report](#)



Keep talking to men's groups about violence against women and girls.



Remember there are also male victims of domestic abuse.



Fund the Male Rape Fund which supports men.



Fund Safeline's national male helpline and SurvivorsUK's webchat



Introduce a victim's law as soon as possible.



Increase Ministry of Justice funding for victim witness support, and community services including male victims.



Fund the world's first victim support service for victims of conversion therapy. This will support victims including a helpline and counselling.