

Written evidence submitted by Mark Tierney (DAB51)

I wish to express my support for the amendments listed below.

- 1 I work in social work but for the purpose of this submission I speak as an individual and not for the organisation I work for. I have significant experience in safeguarding, private family law matters and other areas of social work. All views are my own.
- 2 I am entirely committed to equity, equality and meaningful participation. As a care leaver I have previously been involved in children's rights groups and advocated for young people in care on advisory groups; for the Children's Society and Save the Children. I have been actively involved in service user participation research projects.
- 3 Male victims of domestic abuse should be recognised in The Domestic Abuse Bill. The Office of National Statistics report that 786,000 men experienced domestic abuse in one year. Men are 1/3 of the victims of domestic abuse and ONS figures recognise far more men (49%) than women (19%) do not disclose domestic abuse to anyone. Regardless of any other factor victims must have equal protection in law. To exclude male victims would challenge the foundations of our existing equalities legislation. I have noticed BAME men actively excluded from the narrative discourse around this domestic abuse legislation, this is evident from looking at interested organisations current media and social media output.
- 4 My experience of domestic abuse is as a small child when for a number of years I was significantly physically and emotionally abused by my stepmother, as was my brother, as was my father. My father was a victim of physical and emotional abuse for 40 years.
- 5 As an adult I have been subject to physical abuse, emotional abuse and parental alienation. There is another matter I cannot currently discuss as it is an ongoing matter.
- 9 **Summary**
If the Domestic Abuse Bill were to be gendered it would have several effects. *Firstly* it would not reflect the reality of the Government's own Office of National Statistics. *Secondly* it would further disenfranchise male victims of domestic abuse and further deter male victims to come forward. *Thirdly* it would have a disproportionate effect on BAME male victims, further compounding existing issues of disenfranchisement. *Fourthly*, in regard to parental alienation it would further exacerbate existing issues around absent parents, resulting in individual and societal impact of this form of abuse.

I am able to appear in person if that would be useful to the committee.

Mark Tierney

5 June 2020

Notices of Amendments: 1 June 2020

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Domestic Abuse Bill, *continued*

- (b) False allegations of domestic abuse by A against B, or
- (c) A deliberately preventing B having contact with their child or children
- for no good reason.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment gives specific examples of domestic abuse – parental alienation, false allegations of domestic abuse and the prevention of contact with a parent for no good reason.

Philip Davies

Bob Stewart

Liz Saville Roberts

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★ Clause 2, page 2, line 24, at end insert—

“(h) they live, or at the time of the abuse lived, in the same household.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure that victims living with an abuser in the same household, for example as a flat share, are considered to be ‘personally connected’

Philip
Davies

Bob Stewart

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Clause 6, page 4, line 3, after “the”, insert “objective”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment aims to ensure there is no bias and that pre-conceived notions do not form part of the identification of domestic abuse process.

Clause 6, page 4, line 8, after “abuse”, insert “; (e) a gender-neutral approach to domestic abuse

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Philip Davies / Bob Stewart

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would recognise explicitly that domestic violence affects everyone regardless of their sex.

Philip Davies / Bob Stewart

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Clause 11, page 7, line 7, after the first “of” insert “each of (a) male and (b) female”.

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that different people separately representing the interests of male

and female victims are appointed to the Advisory Board

Note: And other associated linked amendments re representation both locally and nationally but **not** the exclusion of health and social care.

Clause **66**, page **49**, line **44**, leave out from “that” to the end of line 45 and insert

“victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse in England and Wales are both male and female.”.

<i>Member’s</i>	<i>explanatory</i>	<i>statement</i>
	<i>This amendment removes the sex specific reference to females, to include male victims of domestic</i>	
	<i>abuse and reflect the fact that both men and women are perpetrators of domestic</i>	
	<i>abuse.</i>	

Philip Davies

Bob Stewart

To move the following Clause—

“No defence for consent to death

- (1) If a person (“A”) wounds, assaults or asphyxiates another person (“B”) to whom they are personally connected as defined in section 2 of this Act causing death, it is not a defence to a prosecution that B consented to the infliction of injury.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies whether or not the death occurred in the course of a sadomasochistic encounter.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would prevent consent of the victim from being used as a defence to a prosecution

in domestic homicides.