



National Conference on Men's Issues

7 June, 2020

Domestic abuse is a Men's Issue, Too



Background

We're delighted to announce the first in a series of annual National Conferences on Men's Issues (NCMIs). The event was originally going to be held in a premier venue in Manchester but travelling and meeting restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 virus pandemic made that impossible. A decision was taken to hold an online conference instead, with videos being published on YouTube at the same times the talks would have been started in Manchester. The timetable is provided on the last page of this document.

Speakers (surname alphabetical order)



Mike Buchanan Introduction

Mike is the chairman of the political party [Justice for Men & Boys \(and the women who love them\)](#) – J4MB. Launched by Mike in 2013, it remains the only party in the English-speaking world which (a) campaigns for the human rights of men and boys on many fronts, and (b) is avowedly anti-feminist. His website profile is [here](#).

After stepping down as party leader in May 2020, when Elizabeth Hobson took on the role, and becoming party chairman, Mike launched a new website, [Laughing at Feminists](#).



William Collins “Families Need Fathers – Both Parents Matter Cymru survey of male victims of domestic abuse”

William, a retired engineer, blogs on men's issues on [The Illustrated Empathy Gap](#) and is the author of the book *The Empathy Gap: Male Disadvantages and the Mechanisms of Their Neglect* (2018). He volunteers with the Welsh charity FNF-Both Parents Matter Cymru and will be talking about some of the charity's work.



David Eggins, Temper Domestic Violence



Denise Knowles, Temper Domestic Violence

David and Denise will jointly be giving a talk, “Perpetrator Programmes – How Children, Families and Society can be Better Served – not the Current Game: ‘Find the Lady!’ ” From their [website](#):

Temper is a registered charity focused mainly on working with people whose behaviour in their intimate relationships is a cause for concern. We work closely with violent, aggressive, abusive people to help them understand why they behave in such ways and to help them bring about changes in their behaviours.

Temper was devised in 1994/5 and improvements are continuously being made to the programme in the light of the experience of more than 1,000 clients who have completed the work, both men and women, and the availability of much greater research into what works and what doesn't. This has also brought about an explosion of knowledge through neuroscience.

We work on the basis that in the vast majority of relationships emotions drive behaviour, not a desire for “power and control”.



Professor Nicola Graham-Kevan “The impact of adversity and trauma on males”

(Regrettably, there was a technical problem with Nicola's video, and it will have to be re-shot. As soon as a technically acceptable video is available, we'll publish it.)

Nicola's work in relation to domestic abuse is well-known to many supporters of [Justice for Men & Boys \(and the women who love them\)](#) (J4MB). She is the Professor of Criminal Justice Psychology at the University of Central Lancashire, her profile page is [here](#). The start of her profile:

Nicola is an active researcher in the field of criminal justice and wellbeing and is a member of the [Quality of Life Research Group](#). She is UCLan's lead for Aggression Research within the [Criminal Justice Partnership](#). Nicola has led a number of externally funded research projects and evaluations. She is internationally recognised as an expert on domestic violence and coercive control and is frequently asked to deliver presentations and training nationally and internationally.

Her research interests include the impact of psychological trauma, violence perpetration and victimisation, behaviour change programmes, sexual offending, emotion dysregulation, and adverse childhood experiences.



Elizabeth Hobson “The Links Between Domestic Abuse and Other Men’s Issues”

Elizabeth became the leader of the political party [Justice for Men & Boys \(and the women who love them\)](#), the hosts of this event, on 26 May, 2020, when Mike Buchanan stepped down from the position and became the party chairman. Her website profile is [here](#).

In May 2018 Justice for Men & Boys were delighted to announce Elizabeth’s appointment as Director of Communications. She was already a well-known and highly respected Men’s Rights Activist.

She is a mother of two boys and calls herself an anti-feminist Gender Equality Activist. She’s worked with [Trigger Warning](#), [The Liberty Belles](#) and [Ladies for Philip Davies](#). She co-hosted the highly successful Messages for Men conferences in London (2017-19). Video playlists for the conferences are [here](#). She is now solely responsible for future conferences, the next will be held in London on 14 November, 2020.

Her areas of particular interest include the family and fathers’ rights, domestic abuse, MGM, feminism and freedom. She wants to end the Sex War – artificially constructed by feminists – and pursue a more just society based on classical liberal values such as liberty, equality and meritocracy.

She co-hosts the *Gender Matters* series, along with [Mike Buchanan](#). Guests so far have included Paul Elam, Professor Janice Fiamengo, Professor Gerard Casey and Tom Golden. The video playlist of the series is [here](#).



Ian McNicholl “Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Are Not Gendered Issues: A Male Survivor’s Perspective”

In just 14 months, Ian McNicholl migrated from being a picture of health, a homeowner, a successful businessman and financially comfortable to become permanently scarred, registered disabled, homeless, a Benefits claimant, and on the verge of bankruptcy. Following criminal proceedings, his partner Michelle received a custodial sentence of seven years for Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent.

In 2018 Ian was a member of the Thematic Group that met with officials from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice to ensure the voice of male victims are heard as part of the Government consultation “Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse.”

Ian attended the All-Party Parliamentary Group (“APPG”) to ensure male victims of domestic abuse are recognised as a vulnerable group.

Ian acted as a consultant to *Coronation Street* on their male victim of domestic abuse storyline (Tyrone).

Ian has presented at numerous conferences including the [International Conference on Men’s Issues \(2018\)](#). His talk title was [My Journey from Victim to Survivor](#). He presented at the Rotherham Safeguarding Focus on Male Abuse, attended by 750 delegates, St John’s Ambulance National Safeguarding Conference and the UNISON National Conference, whilst also appearing on television including *Sky News*, *Channel 4 News*, *Good Morning Britain* and *Loose Women* to raise awareness of male victims of domestic abuse.

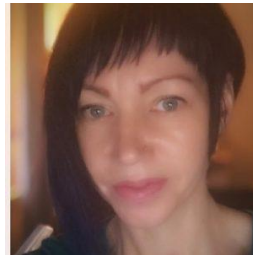
In 2016 Ian was nominated for the John Latham Award for “those who have made an exceptional contribution to improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse.”



Andrew Pain “Domestic Abuse and Parental Alienation: A Very Common Partnership”

Andrew is a blogger, campaigner, performance coach, TEDx speaker and father of five children. His recent TEDx talk, [Domestic Abuse – Not a Gender Issue](#) is the first TEDx talk to be given by a male survivor of female-perpetrated violence. Andrew is also passionate about tackling parental alienation and family court injustice following his own experiences in the family courts, first as a non-resident parent, and then later, as primary carer.

Andrew is currently co-leading a pilot project to support male victims of domestic abuse and professionally, he is a performance coach for business leaders, supporting organisations including; the NHS, The Institute of Leadership and Management, The Association of Project Managers and The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, as well as mid-sized businesses, lone entrepreneurs, schools and colleges. <https://www.andrewpain.co.uk/>



Deborah Powney “Controversy, Idea Laundering & Wozzles: How the Gendered Paradigm Hides Male Victims of Domestic Abuse”

Deborah is a PhD psychology researcher who specializes in domestic violence from a non-gendered perspective. Her head of department at the University of Central Lancashire is Professor Nicola Graham-Kevan. She is the driving force behind [Walking to Recovery: A study for male survivors](#).

Deborah is the party spokeswoman at [Justice for Men & Boys \(and the women who love them\)](#) on matters relating to Domestic Abuse and Inter-Personal Violence.

Timetable

N.B. There was a technical problem with the video supplied by Professor Nicola Graham-Kevan, we'll publish a technically acceptable video as soon as it's made available to us.

10:00 Mike Buchanan – Introduction

10:15 Ian McNicholl – “Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Are Not Gendered Issues: A Male Survivor’s Perspective”

11:15 Virtual tea, coffee, biscuits

11:30 Andrew Pain – “Domestic Abuse and Parental Alienation: A Very Common Partnership”

12:00 Deborah Powney – “Controversy, Idea Laundering & Wozzles: How the Gendered Paradigm Hides Male Victims of Domestic Abuse”

13:15 Virtual lunch (self-service, limitless options)

14:00 David Eggins and Denise Knowles – “Perpetrator Programmes – How Children, Families and Society Can be Better Served – not the Current Game: ‘Find the Lady!’ ”

15:00 William Collins – “Families Need Fathers – Both Parents Matter Cymru survey of male victims of domestic abuse”

16:00 Virtual tea, coffee, biscuits

16:15 Elizabeth Hobson – “The Links Between Domestic Abuse and Other Men’s Issues”

18:00 Virtual dinner and drinks at a nearby virtual Michelin 3 star restaurant, courtesy of J4MB