

year of it my mind was mush. Every aspect of my life was trashed in those furious bouts of anger that poured from her mouth. Every part of me was criticised, ridiculed, humiliated and crushed. Her daughter would join in the abuse but, at fourteen she lacked the verbal skills of her mother so she substituted it with violence. She kicked me between the legs on three separate occasions and leapt off a sofa and dropped with both knees onto my back as I played with her young sister on the floor. Then she and my abusers brother told everyone I was a paedophile and old friends stopped talking to me until I was able to prove that it was a lie.

Desperate to try and win back by partners respect I tried hard to be a perfect man. I hoovered, cooked, washed, cleaned, shopped, helped with the children, became a volunteer substitute teacher in the local school, built furniture and bought my partner flowers, clothes, presents and saved up for a paid holiday for her in Bali. Nothing I did was good enough. I was rubbish. I was scum. I was useless. I was a bad Christian. I was a stupid fool. I was everything you can think of that is bad news and evil. Then, suddenly, she would change back into the kind, gentle and loving woman I had first met. It was like the sun coming out after months of storms. Suddenly she loved me again and it was as if she had never gone away. I would be delirious with joy until the next time the other side of her reappeared.

After three years of abuse from my partner, her daughter, brother and father I was finally told to get out and not come back. She had thrown me out frequently in the past but she would always ask me back again. This time I couldn't take anymore and I stayed away. I was plunged into a depression it took three years to even begin to recover from. Also suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I felt isolated and afraid. The church had refused to help me when the abuse was at its height choosing to believe that the sweet lady they saw in their congregation was incapable of doing what I was describing. Friends laughed at me and some even told me to, "go home and slap the bitch." I was so angry at the lack of support for men from any official sources that I started my own web site and offered the support myself. Soon pleas for help started coming in the form of e-mail's, from all over the world. I realised that there was a massive problem around female abuse and male victims who had no help.

Research showed that men were suffering equal amounts of Domestic Violence in the home yet Governments everywhere were refusing to acknowledge it. Instead they relied on unscientific "pop" surveys done by special interest women's groups and on false or inflated statistics. Because the same thing had happened in America with devastating results on families and a huge suicide rate among fathers denied access to their children on the flimsiest of evidence, I decided to act. The Internet was filled with hundreds of sites from all over the world crying out against the injustices being perpetrated on men by authorities deaf to their pleas for help.

When I finally came across the charity "ManKind" I joined and began the fight to get men who suffer domestic violence justice that was equal to that which women get. Little by little the full picture of the horror that men are facing every day and the terrible bias built into the system against them became clear. I began to write hundreds of e-mail's to anyone I thought may listen trying to draw attention to what was going on. Along the way I had a film made about my work by the BBC and that caused a huge amount of interest from other BBC broadcasting services. Gradually people are waking up to the terrible reality of male victims and the terrible costs in terms of ruined children's lives by abusive mothers. To aid this process I am planning a walk from John-O-Groats to Lands End in the summer of 2003. This walk is to raise the profile of the need to help men and to appeal for funds from the public to help ALL victims, regardless of their gender. We want to raise at least 100 thousand pounds so that we can fund a shelter for men and advertise it nation wide. We will be campaigning under the slogan of, NO MORE SILENCE. Half of all we raise will go to female victims of domestic violence. After this walk is over I will target the politicians until they listen and give parity of services and resources to male victims. At the moment all the politicians will do is pump out dry Public Relations statements about how "aware" they are of male victims but how they feel they are a small minority compared to female victims. No amount of real evidence collected from all over the world seems to touch them. The message is always the same; never spoken but always implied: Go away. You will get no help from us. I have news for them though; we are NOT going to go away! We are determined that men will get the same provisions as everyone else. That they will be taken seriously. They will be treated sympathetically. They will not see their children left with their abusers and they will not be silent any more.

More information can be obtained from:

<http://www.man2man.themenscenter.com>