

Equally Seen, Served & Safe.

The Call for Strategies to Tackle Intimate Violence
Against Boys and Men in All UK / Ireland Regions

#BAMS4NI Campaign Supporters Brief

The Campaign Goal

The Northern Ireland Executive commit to the development of a strategy to protect male victims of intimate violence.

The Detail

The Northern Ireland Executive [have put out a call for public views](#) on their plan to develop two strategies:

- A '[gender neutral](#)' Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy, led; and
- A '[gender specific](#)' Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy.

Split the Difference have called on the Executive to also develop a 'gender specific' strategy to protect the human rights of boys and men and address their specific support needs. [Read our Briefing Paper.](#)

How You Can Support Campaign

If you want to see Governments develop intimate violence strategies to protect male victims in every region of the UK and Ireland, then please contact the Northern Ireland Executive **before Monday 21st March** and ask them to make history by becoming the first region to commit to one.

You can do this in the following ways:

- Complete an online survey (20 mins aprox):
 - o The [Call for Views Public Survey](#)
 - o The [Call for Views Victim Survey](#)
- Complete the: [Call for Views Written Response](#)
- Write directly to: CallforViews@justice-ni.gov.uk

We ask that you highlight our key arguments on the next page.

#BAMS4NI – Key Messages

The Northern Ireland Executive's proposed approach sends out a very clear message that tackling abuse and acknowledging the trauma experienced by male victims is less important to them.

We support The Executive's aim to address the unique challenges faced by female victims. **There is also a need for a strategy to address the unique challenges faced by male victims, such as:**

- **Fear of not being believed or losing their children.**
- **Stigma if their perpetrator is female;**
- **Victim blaming if their perpetrator is male; and**
- **Prejudice from some support service providers.**

Aspects of the Northern Ireland Executive's current domestic and sexual violence strategy are 'gender neutral' in name only. **Male victims have to navigate:**

- **A sex segregated service infrastructure;**
- **Significant / total gaps in service;**
- **Exclusion from funding streams;**
- **Suspicion and sex discrimination.**

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland have already called on the Executive to adopt 'gender specific' approaches to tackle violence experienced by both women and men.

Police Service for Northern Ireland records shows that:

- **1 in 4 child victims of sexual abuse,**
- **1 in 5 adult victims of sexual abuse,**
- **1 in 3 adult victims of domestic abuse are male; and**
- **1 in 3 victims of domestic homicide are male.**

There is an emerging consensus in other regions that a parallel Intimate Violence against Boys and Men strategy is the way forward. The SNP have already committed to develop one and to fund equitable support services for male victims in Scotland.

Supporting citations are available in [our Briefing Paper](#).