



Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse

A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR REVIEWS INTO DOMESTIC HOMICIDES AND FOR SPECIALIST
PEER SUPPORT Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse, PO Box 3636, Swindon, SN3 9BG

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Non-Fatal Strangulation to be a separate offence punishable by up to five years in prison.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56231916>

AAFDA is proud to have been part of a big team of other individuals and organisations who have been lobbying for this new law. I congratulate the Secretary of State for Justice, Robert Buckland QC MP, for ensuring this becomes law and Baroness Helen Newlove for delivering a compelling argument in the debates in Parliament.

This is a sickening and horrific crime which has too often escaped the attention of the Police and the Courts. It is all about power, control and inducing fear. Victims of domestic abuse, already compromised by the way societal myths can often mean they get blamed for the abuse they suffer, will hopefully now have better protection.

I have quality assured over 800 Domestic Homicide Reviews for the Home Office and time and again I see non-fatal strangulation in the histories of those who were later killed by their current or ex-partners. It is striking that the evidence I have seen reveals that non-fatal strangulation is a hugely gendered crime with the offence being perpetrated, in the main, by men on women.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-statutory-guidance-for-the-conduct-of-domestic-homicide-reviews>

Strangulation is so common in domestic abuse that it is almost normalised. Safelives calculate that amongst survivors deemed high risk and referred to Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, 37% of those who report physical abuse experience strangulation or attempted strangulation, which adds up to 20,000 women per year across the UK. There are also those deemed standard or medium risk, and those who don't have an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, so even more women out there experience this terrifying ordeal.



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Notes to editors:

1. Advocacy After Fatal Abuse (AAFDA) is a centre of excellence for reviews after domestic homicide and for specialist peer support. For more information about AAFDA and its work, please visit: www.aafda.org.uk
2. For AAFDA media enquiries, please contact Sarah Dangar, Operations Manager at sarah.dangar@aafda.org.uk 07887 488464 or Frank Mullane on info@aafda.org.uk 07768 386922.