



Gender-based violence and male victims: how do we raise awareness about men's experiences without minimising those of women?

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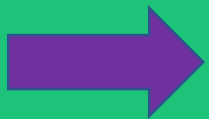
together we can end domestic
abuse.



Is gender-based violence the best term to describe the experiences of male victims?

Gender-based violence

- Widely understood to refer to women and girls
- Often used interchangeably with violence against women and girls
- Rooted in gender inequality
- Aspects of gender-based violence don't apply to men in the same way, or with the same impact (eg upskirting).



Awareness-raising for male victims presents linguistic challenges.

The dominant narrative about domestic abuse

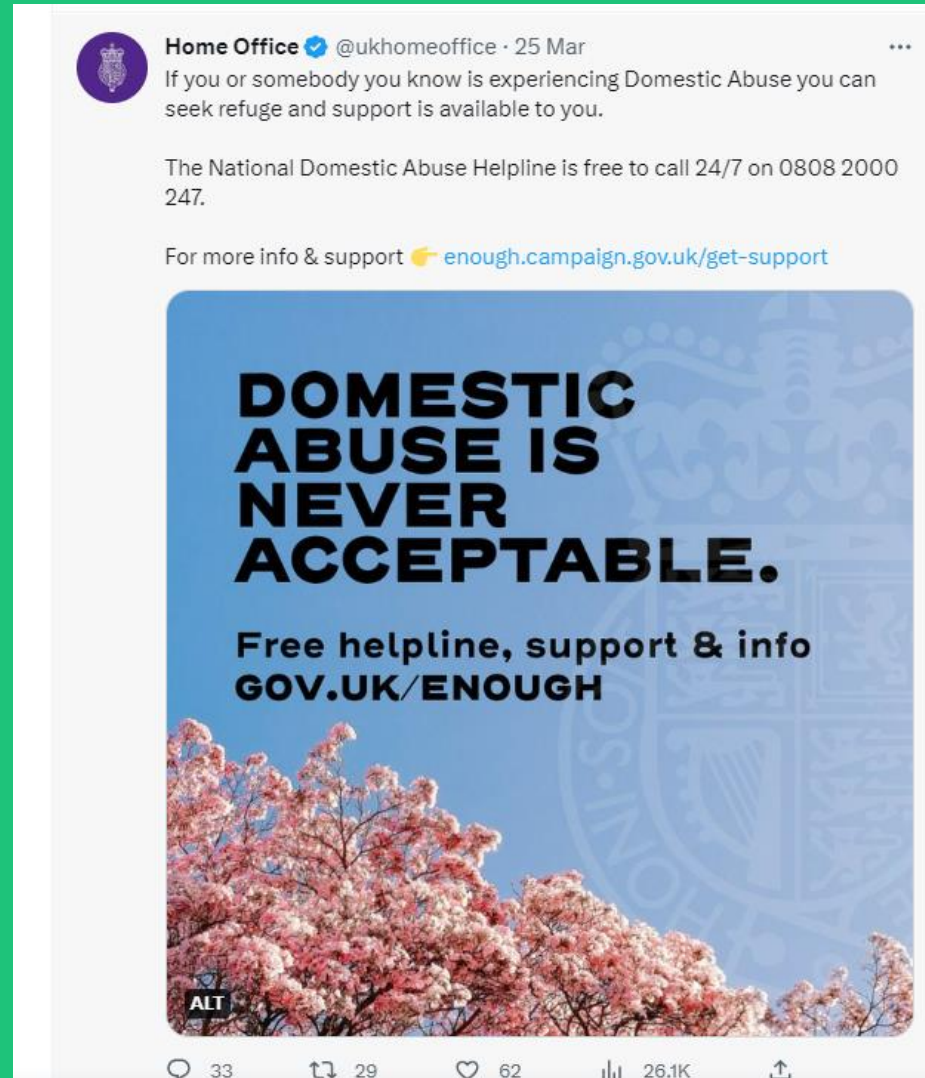
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**Male perpetrator-female
victim**

Logistics of the narrative: a recent example

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How the narrative perpetuates a 'single truth'

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It's important to know that abuse is never your fault. And you're not alone. Sadly, huge numbers of women and girls face abuse every day. That doesn't make it acceptable.

The consequences for male victims

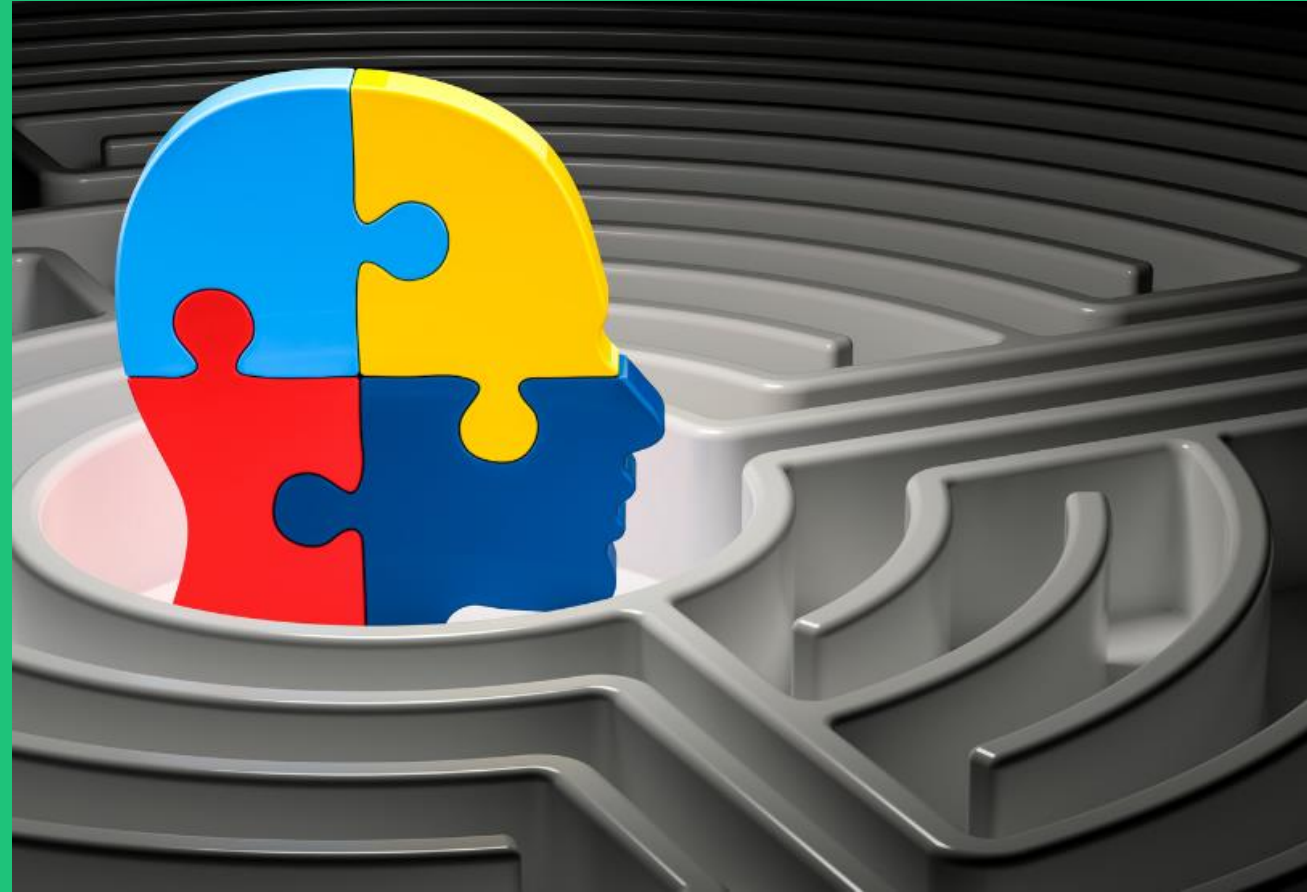
- **No point of reference**
- **Lack of language around victimhood**
- **Delayed recognition of own experience as domestic abuse**
- **Feeling of desperation, helplessness, compounding trauma**



Drivers for change

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Minimise unconscious bias



Drivers for change

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Challenge lack of reporting



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**Be inclusive of non-mainstream service users
their needs**



Drivers for change

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Expand the narrative



Raising awareness about the experiences of male victims, without minimising those of female.

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- Focus on real-life stories
- Be proportionate
- Acknowledge the women's movement for equality
- Work with, not against women's services
- Challenge respectfully
- Remember: it takes time to change attitudes



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**If this was one step forward for you today,
help someone else take one step forward
too**



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