

Press Release – immediate release.



As the only national charity that supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans victims and survivors of domestic violence, Broken Rainbow welcomes the opening of dialogue on the thorny issue of the laws surrounding the classification of murder and self defence in domestic violence cases; but believes that the current contents of the consultation document announced today only begins to scratch the surface of the various types of domestic violence and abuse. The report focuses upon women facing domestic abuse from their male partners, and not upon the 1 in 6 men facing domestic abuse, and the 1 in 4 LGBT people facing domestic abuse from same-sex partners. Broken Rainbow receives 60% of its calls from men experiencing abuse from their male partners. Also on the rise are calls from trans people.

Cases of domestic abuse should never be allowed to reach the stage where the victim is compelled to kill their abuser. There are always options available to victims including calling dedicated LGBT support agencies such as Broken Rainbow – 08452 60 44 60 and www.broken-rainbow.org.uk – who can help and support victims to feel safe in their own home, or to leave an abusive situation.

Harriet Harman, Labour's deputy leader, said today: "There is no excuse for domestic violence, let alone taking a life. Whatever happens in a relationship does not justify resorting to violence. So men who kill their wives will no longer be able to claim, 'It's her fault, she provoked me'."

Domestic violence (DV) and abuse is devastating, affecting 1 in 4 people in the UK at some point in their lives, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Melvin Hartley, C.E.O. of Broken Rainbow states that, "The lack of awareness around the subject for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans victims compounds what is already a difficult situation.

Not only can these individuals not access mainstream services without outing themselves, they face a dearth of dedicated services tailored to their needs. For example, services such as refuge spaces that are usually available to women, are far more difficult to access for lesbian and bisexual women, and are practically impossible for trans people to access."

Chair of Broken Rainbow, Jo Barringer, said, "This is an opportunity to ensure that all communities are represented and their voices heard. Domestic abuse is an insidious crime which poisons both the physical and emotional well being of all victims regardless of their gender or sexuality".

Broken Rainbow LGBT Domestic Violence Service is keen to draw out the wider implications of the proposed amendments to the consultation launched today regarding changes to the way murder and self defence are classified.

ENDS

www.broken-rainbow.org.uk is a registered charity in the UK. Reg: 1103624
for more info:
Email: mail@broken-rainbow.org.uk

Phone: office 08452 60 55 60

Notes

Broken Rainbow provides support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people experiencing domestic violence. They are funded by The Home Office and certain roles part funded by The Nationwide Foundation.

Broken Rainbow run a National LGBT domestic violence helpline staffed with trained LGBT sessional workers and LGBT volunteers.

The consultation mentioned is CP 19/08, "murder, manslaughter and infanticide: proposals for the reform of the law," headed by Baroness Scotland, Maria Eagle and Vernon Coaker.