

Amen submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on the 5th October 2011.

About Amen.

AMEN is a voluntary organisation with Charitable Status [CHY13025], founded in December 1997, which provides a confidential helpline, a support service and information for male victims of domestic abuse. Callers to Amen come from all walks of life, all age groups and from every social class. Amen provide and assist in running support group meetings, provide limited Counselling and Court accompaniment. Amen provide information to the victims or other family members who call the helpline on the legal remedies available to them and assist them in making decisions on the options open to them. In addition to the support service, Amen also work to increase public awareness of the plight of the male victim of domestic abuse through media interviews, giving talks at schools etc. Since the founding of Amen this formerly taboo subject has featured in many newspaper articles and radio and television programmes. The Amen organisation also campaigns for greater recognition and support services for male victims from political and statutory bodies and for the inclusion of men, men's groups and men's experiences in the formulation of relevant social policy and legislation. While the main focus of our work is supporting abused men we also deal with broader issues affecting men's lives, including discrimination against men in public places and by State institutions.

What men are experiencing.

Like women who are abused, men are constantly harassed, criticised and compared unfavorably to others. Much of this is witnessed by the children. The impact of the abuse on men includes low self-esteem, depression, and insomnia and can also impact negatively on their relationships with their children. One man is quoted as saying "*I put up with the abuse for years so that I could be with my children*". Men are aware that if they separate from their wives/partners they will lose their homes and will no longer be in a position to care for and protect their children.

Awareness and Research .

For those of us who have been working to raise awareness of this issue it is gratifying to know that it is now almost universally accepted that men and women are equally likely to be victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. The old '*men are the perpetrators; women are the victims*' stereotype has now been discredited. While Amen can claim some credit for highlighting the reality of male victims there is now irrefutable, independent evidence to support the position we have consistently held over the years. In July 2005 the National Crime Council (NCC), in association with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), published the first ever large scale study undertaken to give an overview of the nature, extent and impact of domestic abuse against women and men in intimate partner relationships in Ireland.

Among the notable findings are:

- 29% of women and 26% of men suffer domestic abuse
- 13% of women and 13% of men suffer physical abuse
- 29% of women and only 5% of men report to the Gardai.

This study is regarded by Government Ministers as the definitive piece of research on domestic violence. Others in society decide for various reasons to ignore this study.

Another study of patients attending their family doctors, published in September 2006, found that 52 % of men and 43% of women in this setting experienced domestic violence. The author of the study, based at Trinity College Dublin, said, that it **was "inappropriate to continue to address this issue as solely a woman's problem"**. The research indicated intimate partner violence is a major problem for men and for women. (Details of these and other two-sex studies are attached in *appendix 1*)

Even though most people now accept the well-established fact that men and women are almost equally likely to be victims of domestic abuse, there are still some so obstinate that they seek to perpetuate the discredited simplistic view that domestic violence consists only of violent men abusing women. It is regrettable that those who have been allowed to dominate the discourse, and influence public policy, exclude the experiences of male victims and present partial statistics which ignore the findings relating to male victims. **In presenting statistics on research, including the authoritative NCC study, Amen always includes the figures for both male and female victims. To exclude the figures for one gender would be misleading and dishonest.** We understand that Senators and other public representatives expect such standards of honesty and will, no doubt, disapprove of selective, exclusive and misleading presentations of statistics.

Regrettably some State Institutions collude in this dishonest representation of the issue. For example, last December Minister of State, Noel Ahern, launched a Code of Practice for use by projects within the Community Development Programme which purports to deal with domestic violence but ignores male victims. The many inaccuracies and untrue statements in this document were brought to the attention of the Minister but the Code has not been withdrawn. (*Appendix 2* is a copy of a letter sent to the Minister regarding the Code of Practice and *appendix 3* is a copy of the code highlighting the many inaccuracies in the document). This is a prime example of what can happen when State bodies are lax in ensuring that they are fully informed on an issue and allow groups with a sectional interest and an ulterior agenda to control public policy.

Discrimination against male victims.

Government supports, structures and policies on domestic violence discriminate against male victims. At present 99% of all Government funding for supports for victims of domestic violence goes to female victims. (*Appendix 4* gives details of Government funding for male and female victims respectively on a per-capita basis). The support structures consist of a National Steering Committee and eight Regional Committees on Violence against Women. Representatives of male victims have been specifically excluded from these committees and structures. This discrimination

against male victims is indefensible given that all gender-inclusive research proves conclusively that men and women are equally likely to be victims of domestic violence, as shown in Appendix 1. Adhering to this discriminatory policy, the Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Frank Fahy, has just launched another publicity campaign designed to perpetuate the discredited myth that domestic violence consists only of violent men abusing women. This, despite the fact that his predecessor, Ms. Mary Wallace, and Department officials assured Amen that future publicity campaigns, funded by that Department, would include male as well as female victims.

Given that it has been clearly established the domestic violence is a social and family issue, which involves men and women abusing each other in almost equal numbers it is time for the Government to change its approach to this problem. The present model is now defunct. Responsible and effective domestic violence interventions should be *positive* and *inclusive*, not *negative* and *exclusive*. It must also be equal for those affected.

Government agencies must openly reject the myth that domestic violence is a gender issue. It is a social and family issue the causes of which are many and varied and cannot be explained by any simplistic, single theory or ideology. They should abandon policies and structures which deal only with violence against women and exclude male victims. They must be inclusive and include male victims of Domestic Abuse. They must also ensure, as a priority, that the same level and quality of supports are available to male victims as are currently available to female victims.

At the beginning of the 21st century when equality is deemed to be a worthy aspiration it is now time to reform sectional, partisan initiatives such as the National and Regional Steering Committees on Violence against Women to include male victims and their representatives.

Amen are therefore asking all members of this Committee to take a stand in support of truth, justice and equality by calling on the Government and all State Institutions to :

1. Put an end this blatant discrimination against male victims
2. Respond to the findings of the NCC/ESRI in an honest and just manner by ensuring that adequate and equal services are available to all victims of domestic violence regardless of gender
3. Publicly reject the discredited myth that domestic violence consists only of violent men abusing women
4. Publicly state that domestic violence is a social and family issue and not a gender issue.
5. Ensure that a substantial and immediate increase in funding for services for male victims be one of the Government's top priorities given that less than 1% of Government funding for victims of domestic violence is given to provide services for male victims and
6. Abolish all gender-exclusive structures dealing with domestic violence and replace them with gender-inclusive structures.

7. Ensure that to **Council Directive 2004/113/EC** of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services is honoured.
8. Regarding the National and Regional Steering Committees on Violence against Women to include male victims and their representatives.
9. Provide emergency accommodation [ie refuges] for all victims of abuse and not to exclude male victims' as is the case presently.
10. Ensure that the HSE and others make all references to Domestic Abuse gender neutral so that it is all inclusive of both female/male victims.

Appendix 1

Research on domestic violence

Ireland

On Tuesday 5th July 2005 the National Crime Council (NCC), in association with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), published the first ever large scale study undertaken to give an overview of the nature, extent and impact of domestic abuse against women and men in intimate partner relationships in Ireland. Among the notable findings are:

- 15% of women and 6% of men suffer severe domestic abuse
- 29% of women and 26% of men suffer domestic abuse when severe and minor abuse are combined
- 13% of women and 13% of men suffer physical abuse
- 29% of women (1 in 3) and only 5% of men (1 in 20) report to the Gardai
- 49% of admissions to women's refuges are Travellers (according to the 2002 census Travellers account for just 0.6% of the entire population)
- Of those turned away from refuges, 46% were for reasons other than the refuges being full.

According to the Government Departments (Health and Justice) who have responsibilities in this area, the NCC study is the definitive piece of research on domestic violence in this country.

Other Irish research on domestic violence

The results of the NCC study relating to gender prevalence broadly reflect the findings of all other two-sex studies carried out in Ireland:

- ⇒ The MRCS report (2001), based on a survey of 530 clients, found that, where domestic violence occurs, mutual violence accounts for 33% of cases, female perpetrated violence accounts for 41% and male perpetrated violence for 26%.
- ⇒ Research for ACCORD (2003), based on a survey of 1500 clients, found that women were perpetrators in 30% of domestic violence cases, men were perpetrators in 23% of cases and mutual violence accounted for 48%. An interesting feature of this study, which involved couples attending counseling, was that 84% of women and 74% of men agreed with their partner's response to this question, suggesting that the self-reported prevalence is quite reliable.
- ⇒ A survey of 200 patients attending a Galway city GP practice in August 2005 found that 1 in 3 patients surveyed had experienced domestic violence in the past, while 6%

reported that they were current victims. 18.2% of men were victims of domestic violence.

⇒ A study of patients attending their family doctors, carried out by Trinity College Dublin for the European Journal of General Practice (2006), found that, 52 % of men and 43% of women in this setting experienced domestic violence. The author of the study said that it was **"inappropriate to continue to address this issue as solely a woman's problem"**.

Since Amen was set up in 1997, every single two-sex study in Ireland and abroad, has vindicated our position that a significant number of men are also victims of domestic abuse.

United Kingdom.

1. Incidence and prevalence of domestic violence in a UK emergency department A Boyle and C Todd

Adult patients attending the emergency department of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge were interviewed in randomly allocated time blocks, using validated questions from a US study. 256 completed interviews were returned out of a possible 307 (84.8%). The incidence of domestic violence was 1.2%. The lifetime prevalence of domestic violence was 22.4% among men and 22.1% among women.

2. BBC Here and Now MORI Poll.

A poll undertaken by MORI, who interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,978 adults in the UK and commissioned by Here and Now (BBC) had these main findings:

- One in five (18 percent) of men have been victims of domestic violence by a wife or female partner as opposed to 13 percent of women by a man.
- One in nine women admit to having used physical aggression against a husband or male partner (compared to one in ten men)
- 14 percent of men say that they have been slapped by a partner (compared to 9 percent of women)
- 11 percent of men have had a partner threaten to throw something heavy at them (compared to 8 percent of women)

United States.

History of Domestic Violence among Male Patients Presenting to an Urban Emergency Department, Philadelphia

C. Crawford Mechem. MD, Frances S. Shofer, PhD, Sharon S. Reinhard. BA, EMT, Sarah Hornig, BSN, RN, Elizabeth Datner, MD

Objective: To establish the prevalence of domestic violence committed by women against male patients presenting to an urban ED for any reason.

Methods: This was a prospective survey in which male patients of legal age presenting to the ED over a 13-week period were interviewed.

Results: Of 866 male patients interviewed, 109 (12.6%) had been the victims of domestic violence committed by a female intimate partner within the preceding year. The most common forms of assault were slapping, grabbing, and shoving (60.6% of victims). These were followed by choking, kicking, biting, and punching (48.6%), or

throwing an object at the victim (46.8%). Thirty-seven percent of cases involved a weapon. Seven percent of victims described being forced to have sex. Nineteen percent of victims contacted the police; 14% required medical attention; 11% pressed charges or sought a restraining order; and 6% pursued follow-up counseling.

Conclusions: Almost 13% of men in this sample population had been victims of domestic violence committed by a female intimate partner within the previous year.

Canada.

1. Canadian Statistics Office – 2004 General Social Survey

According to the 2004 General Social Survey it is estimated that 7% of Canadians, experienced spousal violence in the previous 5 years. This is unchanged from previous results in 1999. Rates of spousal violence by a current or previous partner in the 5 year period were 7% for women and 6% for men, representing an estimated 653,000 women and 546,000 men.

Appendix 2.

Mr. Noel Ahern TD
Minister of State at the Department of
Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
'Dun Aimhirgin'
43 – 49 Mespil Road
Dublin 4.

13th January 2006.

Dear Minister

I refer to the Code of Practice for use by Projects within the Community Development programme, which you launched on 8th December 2005.

Having studied a copy of this code I can honestly say that it is one of the most sexist, anti-man and ill-informed documents on domestic violence produced by any organisation in recent years. In order to justify the gender-exclusive approach the document states that “the most recent research into the prevalence of domestic violence in Ireland” was a study carried out by TCD in 2002. It is inconceivable that you or your officials, in preparing this document, could be unaware of the NCC report, published in July 2005, which is accepted by other Government Ministers and Departments as the definitive piece of research into domestic violence in this country. For your information the main findings of that report are:

- 15% of women and 6% of men suffer severe domestic abuse
- 29% of women and 26% of men suffer domestic abuse when severe and minor abuse are combined
- 13% of women and 13% of men suffer physical abuse
- 29% of women (1 in 3) and only 5% of men (1 in 20) report to the Gardai.

Also it should be pointed out that the TCD study dealt with female victims only and could not therefore be described as 'research into the prevalence of domestic violence'. The only other two-sex studies on domestic violence in Ireland, carried out for ACCORD (2003), MRCS (2001) and the Department of Health (2003), concur with the findings of the NCC study.

The claim in the Code that “the weight of all the evidence in Ireland and globally is that men are the perpetrators of violence in intimate relations over 90% of the time”, is quite simply untrue as is clearly shown by the above studies. There have been no studies in Ireland, which looked at the experiences of both men and women as victims, which support this statement. Studies which precluded the experiences of men as victims could not possibly be regarded as valid evidence for this misinformation. As regards global evidence there are over one hundred studies listed on the Amen website which also show this statement to be untrue.

Given that this document is based on such erroneous information it is hardly surprising that it treats domestic violence as consisting of nothing more than violence against women. Of the 13 'internal actions' listed, 10 refer to victims as female only and none acknowledge the existence of male victims. Similarly, 5 of the 7 'external actions' refer to violence against women and there is no recognition that men are also victims. Since 1997 Amen has been working, with little support from State agencies, to gain recognition and adequate supports for male victims of domestic violence. It is extremely disappointing to find that, even though all reliable gender-inclusive research vindicates our position that a significant number of victims of domestic violence are men, a Minister of State and his Department should allow public funds to be used to produce a document which seeks to deny this well-established reality.

This sexist code, with its inaccurate information, can only have the effect of further isolating male victims of domestic violence. It is effectively an attack on one of the most marginalised groups in society by a Government Department, which has allowed its resources to be used by powerful groups for that purpose. What purports to be a Code of Practice on domestic violence is nothing more than a propaganda document for those who have a vested interest in denying the well-established truth that many men are also victims of domestic violence. Enclosed is a copy of the code with a commentary by Amen. As you can see virtually every sentence in the code is based on misleading information or displays an extreme and irrational bias against men and male victims of domestic violence. Also enclosed is a copy of a report in the Irish Times this week of another study on domestic violence which, like all other two-sex studies, shows quite clearly that the sexist anti-man content of this document is totally unjustified.

Given that this document is so clearly based on dishonest propaganda we are now calling on you to:

1. withdraw this document immediately and replace it with a code that is based on truth and is inclusive of all victims and
2. conduct an enquiry to establish how public funds were misused to produce such a flawed and damaging document based on statements that are clearly untrue.

We are also requesting a meeting with you to discuss this very serious issue which will do untold damage to the lives of already marginalised citizens if it is not dealt with immediately.

Appendix 3.

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Definition of Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence refers to the use of physical or emotional force or threat of physical force, including sexual violence, in close adult relationships (Report of the Task Force on Violence against Women, Office of the Tanaiste, 1997). This includes violence perpetrated by a spouse, partner, son, daughter or any other person who has a close or blood relationship with the victim. The term 'domestic violence' goes beyond actual physical violence. It can also involve emotional abuse such as the destruction of property, isolation from friends, family and other potential sources of support, threats to others including children, stalking, and control over access to money, personal items, food, transportation and the telephone.

(Comment: This definition does not state that men are not victims of domestic violence so why are male victims so excluded from actions etc. in this document.)

1. Introduction

Projects within the Community Development Programme and the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme work from community development principles in developing a collective response to tackle social injustice and inequalities in Irish society. A growing recognition of the need for integrated community based approaches to tackle the issue of violence against / women was one of the factors that informed the recommendations of the Task Force on Violence against Women. The Report of the Task Force (1997) suggests that local communities can play an important role in dealing with violence against women and should be at the centre of a local response. The aim of community based strategies should be to create a collective response around women's safety'.

Both men and women are subjected to violence. However, in the vast majority of cases where violence occurs among persons who are known to each other, global research has shown that women are injured and men carry out the assault. (Comment: This statement is quite simply untrue, as outlined in our letter to Minister of State Noel Ahern.) In Making the Links (1995), the first national research into the prevalence of domestic violence in Ireland, 18% of Irish women reported that they had been abused at some stage in their lives (Comment: This was not research into the prevalence of domestic violence. It concentrated exclusively on violence against women and totally precluded the experiences of male victims). The most recent research into the prevalence of domestic violence in Ireland (carried out by TCD and published in the British Medical journal, February 2002) indicates that 40% of Irish women, who have had a sexual relationship, have experienced abuse (Comment: This statement is untrue. The most comprehensive and most recent research into domestic violence in this country, carried out by the National Crime Council, was published in July 2005. That research found that:

- 15% of women and 6% of men suffer severe domestic abuse
- 29% of women and 26% of men suffer domestic abuse when severe and minor abuse are combined
- 13% of women and 13% of men suffer physical abuse
- 29% of women (1 in 3) and only 5% of men (1 in 20) report to the Gardai.

All other two-sex studies on domestic violence in Ireland, carried out for ACCORD, MRCS and the Department of Health, concur with the findings of the NCC study. The TCD study, referred to above, dealt with female victims only and could not therefore be described as ‘research into the prevalence of domestic violence’. The social stigma and silence that have historically surrounded the physical, sexual and mental abuse of women are effective tools in trapping women in such violent relationships (Comment: There is an even greater social stigma and silence surrounding the abuse of men and this biased document, based on untrue statements, is exacerbating that situation).

Violence against women exists in all communities and is not determined by class or social status. However, the Task Force on Violence against Women (1997) recognised that ‘the effects of violence can be all the more traumatic for women living in poverty, women with physical or mental disabilities, women from different cultures and Traveller women. The cumulative effects of living in poverty, isolation and poor environmental conditions in themselves damage women’s health. When these difficulties are combined with physical, mental and emotional abuse, the effects are enormous’ (Comment: All of the above applies equally to male victims).

This Code of Practice provides a framework for Projects to address the issue of domestic violence (Comment: It does not! It deals almost exclusively with female victims and excludes male victims). Projects are not funded under the Community Development Programme or the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme to provide counselling or front-line services. Their primary role is to support and enable individuals in the community to access relevant services and to promote the development of a community based response. Because worldwide statistics (* see note) indicate that victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly female, the Code of Practice focuses particularly on the issue of violence against women (Comment: This statement is absolutely untrue and, therefore, provides no justification for the sexist anti-man nature of this document). By implementing the Code, projects are highlighting their support for those experiencing domestic violence (Comment: Not true. This code provides support for female victims only and because of its sexist content, untrue statements and inaccurate information projects which implement this code will add to the isolation and marginalization of male victims of domestic abuse) and acknowledging the issue as part of their work.

The weight of all the evidence in Ireland and globally is that men are the perpetrators of violence in intimate relations over 90% of the time (Byles 1978; Dobash and Dobash 1979, 1992; Martin 1976; Watkins 1982; Kelly 1999; Kelleher and O’Connor 1999) (Comment: This claim is quite simply untrue as is clearly shown by the above studies. There have been no studies in Ireland, which looked at the experiences of both men and women as victims, which support this statement. Studies which precluded the experiences of men as victims could not possibly be regarded as valid evidence for this misinformation. As regards global evidence there are over one hundred studies listed on the Amen website which also show this statement to be untrue). Research commissioned by Women’s Aid to examine the effectiveness of the Irish civil and criminal judicial systems in protecting victims of domestic violence, found that between 92% and 97% of applicants for protective orders were women (Kelleher and O’Connor 1999) (Comment: This must be seen in the context of the NCC finding that 1 in 3 women report and only 1 in 20 men report).

(Name of organisation) is committed to this Code of Practice because:

- Our aim is to address social injustices and work towards equality for all using community development principles (Comment: this biased and misinformed document does not address social injustices against male victims of domestic violence and does not treat them equally. It, in fact, does the exact opposite).
- Violence against women is a crime and a violation of Human Rights (Comment: This implies that violence against men is not a crime and is not a violation of human rights). There is no acceptable level of violence and violence against women should never be tolerated or minimized (Comment: The exclusion of men again implies that there is an acceptable level of violence against men and that it should be tolerated and minimized – as this document does).
- When violence against women is suspected it should always be taken seriously and responded to appropriately (Comment: This implies that violence against men should not be taken seriously and should not be responded to appropriately).
- We want to break the silence that has traditionally surrounded the physical, mental and sexual abuse of women and domestic violence in general (Comment: It is quite clear that the authors of this document do not want to break the silence that has surrounded violence against men).

2. Internal Actions/ Response

- Safety of victims and confidentiality will be central to the Project's response (Comment: but only if the victims are women).
- Those experiencing domestic violence will be supported / — regardless of age, gender (Comment: This document deals with victims of one gender only. Given its sexist nature and the misinformation on which it is based this statement is meaningless), disability, sexual orientation, religion, race, membership of the Traveller community, marital status or family status.
- The Project will provide a safe and supportive environment where — the issue of domestic violence can be discussed and where women who are experiencing violence can feel safe, if seeking support (Comment; Quite clearly projects are not required by this code to provide a safe and supportive environment where men who are experiencing domestic violence can feel safe, if seeking support).
- The Project will develop and foster an ethos and environment that challenges tolerance of, and collusion with, male violence against women (Comment: Projects are not required by this code to develop and foster an ethos and environment that challenges tolerance of, and collusion with, female violence against men. In fact its sexist nature, untrue statements and misinformation will promote tolerance of, and collusion with, female violence against men) .
- Where violence against women is disclosed or suspected, our response will be supportive, non-judgmental and non-directive (Comment: As with everything else in this document the reality of female violence against men is denied).
- Respect for the individual and safeguarding of the woman's rights, freedom of choice and privacy will be fundamental to our response (Comment: Quite clearly this code does not respect a man's rights, freedom of choice or privacy).
- Our primary concern is for the safety of the woman at risk and her children (Comment: No concern for the safety of the man and his children). Our response will be defined by their needs and wishes and in accordance with Children First, National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Department of Health & Children, 1999 and the Child Care Act, 1991.
- The particular experience of Traveller women and women from other minority ethnic groups will be acknowledged and named. The Project will advocate for the development of responses appropriate to their culture and needs. The Project will also

highlight the need for the development of responses that are appropriate to the needs of women with disabilities (Comment: Obviously the traveller men and men from other minority ethnic groups are also excluded from the code).

- The Project will support the involvement of women who experience violence in the development of a community response to the issue (Comment: Projects are not required by this code to support the involvement of men who experience violence).
- The issue of violence against women will become an integral part of the work of the Project and incorporated into the Project's work plan (Comment: Obviously the issue of violence against men is not to be an integral part of the work of projects hence it is dishonest to claim that this is a code of practice on domestic violence).
- Accessible posters and information leaflets on supports and services available to women will be clearly visible in the office, meeting rooms and all other public notice boards within the Project (Comment: The code does not require that accessible posters and information leaflets on supports and services available to men will be clearly visible in the office, meeting rooms and all other public notice boards within the Project).
- The Project will name a key person who will be responsible for compiling and making available the most up to date information on the services that are provided by voluntary and statutory agencies for women who experience violence (Comment: Projects are not required to name a key person who will be responsible for compiling and making available the most up to date information on the services that are provided by voluntary and statutory agencies for men who experience violence).
- The Project will commit to ongoing training in good practice in relation to domestic violence and developing an appropriate response to it (Comment: It is both cynical and dishonest to revert to referring to 'domestic violence' as male victims have been totally excluded from the preceding actions and responses). Training will include the role of individual projects, personal boundaries and safety for members of the Project, relevant legislation and the issue of confidentiality.

3. External Actions/ Response

The Project is committed to:

- Developing firm relations with local and regional organisations that provide services and supports for those experiencing domestic violence (Comment: Given the nature and content of this code it is obvious that organizations providing services and supports for men experiencing domestic violence cannot participate).
- Networking and developing partnerships with the relevant organisations and agencies to develop a community response to violence against women (Comment: Again the code refers exclusively to 'violence against women' clearly excluding organizations dealing with violence against men).
- Encouraging other agencies/organisations that we work with to -- support the development of a community response to violence as the most effective way of addressing the issue (Comment: To refer to 'violence' rather than 'violence against women' in this action is again cynical and dishonest).
- Communicating our condemnation of violence against women with the language and images that we use and the messages that the Project delivers (Comment: Again it is quite clear that this code does not require any condemnation of violence against men).
- Supporting awareness raising campaigns/initiatives about violence against women locally, regionally and nationally (Comment: Awareness campaigns about violence against men are again specifically excluded).
- Raising the issue of violence against women in a variety of appropriate fora that we participate in (Comment: Obviously the authors of this document do not want the issue of violence against men raised in any fora).

- Maintaining strong links with Women's Aid Specialist Support Agency to address the issue of violence against women in Ireland (Comment: Is this the source of the misinformation and untrue statements contained in this document and the reason why it is so dishonest, sexist and anti-man?)

4. Implementing the Code

The implementation of this Code of Practice will be ratified at management level and monitored by management and staff within the Project. The Project will take full responsibility for providing the most comprehensive and up to date information on the services and supports that are in place for those at risk of domestic violence (Comment: This document contains misinformation and seeks to undermine and marginalize the services and supports that are in place for male victims of domestic violence).

Appendix 4

Department of Health/HSE funding for male and female victims of domestic violence based on the findings of the NCC/ESRI report

15% of women and 6% of men suffer severe domestic abuse – equates to 213,000 women and 88,000 men per NCC.

Department of Health/HSE:

€12,000,000.00 - average €56 per female victim
€50,000 – average 56 cent per male victim (1%)

29% of women and 26% of men suffer domestic abuse when severe and minor abuse are combined:

Department of Health/HSE:

€12,000,000.00 - average €29 per female victim
€50,000 – average 13 cent per male victim (0.4%)

13% of women and 13% of men suffer physical abuse:

Department of Health/HSE:

€12,000,000.00 - average €65 per female victim
€50,000 – average 26 cent per male victim (0.4%)

Note: In addition to the above various other Government Departments provide financial support for services for female victims amounting to approximately €5 million p.a.