

EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

Cette épreuve comporte une (1) page

2. Domestic Violence Against Men: No Laughing Matter.

Today is the international men's day. This is an opportunity to shed light on issues faced by men that typically lie in the shadows of society. One of these concerns is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against men.

A recent UK government survey indicated that 9% of males had experienced some form of partner abuse, which amounts to around 1.4 million men. This includes persecution, physical violence and sexual assault. Indeed, an influential US study found that male IPV victims are often slapped, kicked, punched, grabbed or choked by their partners.

The above-mentioned studies indicate that small proportions of men (less than 20% of victims) will tell the police or a health professional about their victimization. This may be due to well-founded fears that they will be rejected, ridiculed, or disbelieved by these authorities.

Incredulously, laughter is a common response to male victims of IPV. This is illustrated in the short "social experiment" video here, examining public reactions to a male being abused by a female on a street. This video has over 8 million views on YouTube and is a powerful educational tool.

The above video was created by the Mankind Initiative, a leading British charity supporting male victims of domestic abuse. This event attracted around 100 people. Attendees heard a range of engaging presentations from researchers, service-providers and IPV victims. Nevertheless, there was a palpable air of optimism diffusing the event. The event was attended by a variety of senior figures including police officers, health care providers, lawyers, community workers, military representatives, and local government employees. This indicates a growing awareness of the seriousness of the issue among key stakeholders.

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