

PARITY

Equal Rights for Men and Women

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Registered Charity No. 1107795

Member of the NCVO



Sir Michael Scholar KCB
Chair, UK Statistics Authority
Statistics House
Islington
London EC1R 1UW

18 September 2009

Dear Sir Michael,

Misrepresentation of official statistics

Earlier this year (11 February), I wrote to you concerning the assertion contained in a consultation paper on domestic violence published by the Crown Prosecution Service, that "the overwhelming majority of victims [of domestic violence] are women and abusers men", an assertion which does not reflect the results of successive Home Office detailed surveys of intimate violence in England and Wales.

The Authority kindly took up the matter with the Director of Prosecution regarding the use of this terminology (letter 30 March).

Regrettably, I now find a similar use of this same misleading terminology employed by the Welsh Assembly in their current consultation paper on their strategy to address violence against women and to update their current strategy on domestic abuse.

On page 2 of the Introduction to the consultation, the statement is made that "we recognise that women are overwhelmingly the victims of violence in the home ..".

I attach a copy of the full introduction.

This is clearly a gross misrepresentation of the results of Home Office detailed studies of intimate violence (referred to above), the most authoritative available.

I should be grateful if the Authority would take up the matter with the Welsh Assembly to ensure that in future they adhere impartially to good practice in relation to official statistics.

Yours sincerely

John Mays
Chair, PARITY

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