



Press release

Date: 17th May 2017

**Judge out of touch with reality regarding male victims of domestic abuse:
Lavinia Woodward**

In response to Judge Ian Pringle QC's comments about a female student (Lavinia Woodward) who stabbed her boyfriend with a bread knife that she may avoid jail due to mitigating factors such as being an "exceptional young talent", **Mark Brooks, Chairman of the ManKind Initiative, a national charity supporting male victims of domestic abuse, said:**

"The judge's comments are completely unacceptable and out of touch. This is a clear case of severe domestic abuse against a man and the focus and sympathy should be with him.

"The judge seems to think that domestic abuse, when it is committed by a woman against a man, is not as serious as it rightly is when it is the other way round. This is wrong. It only serves to reinforce society's continuing empathy gap between male and female victims and the message the judge sends is that this is right. If we are to live in an equal, fair and inclusive society, these old-fashioned views have to be challenged.

It also makes it harder for men to come forward and get help because many fear not being taken seriously when they do – just because they are a man. This case does nothing to change that view".

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (www.mankind.org.uk), based in Taunton, Somerset, is a national charity which runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm).

It received 1,500 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers and sisters) every year.

It created the award winning #violenceisviolence social experiment highlight society's double standards when it comes to domestic abuse against men:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3PgH86OyEM>

Media

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