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Honorary Patrons – Lord Cotter, Ian McNicholl, John Penrose MP, Sara Westle and Erin Pizzey

BBC Trust
Executive Complaints Unit,
BBC,
Broadcast Centre,
London W12 7TQ

05 July 2017

Dear BBC Complaints,

Reference CAS-4352202-8LY5X6

Thank you for reply (9 June 2017) regarding our complaint about “All Round to Mrs Brown's” broadcast on 29 April 2017.

As a charity support male victims of domestic abuse, we do not accept the reasoning or the mitigations which are set out in the response and we feel the broadcast of this feature is in breach of the BBC’s guidelines, in particular 5.4.27, 5.4.28 and 5.4.32.

The complaint is based on three issues:

- The treatment of domestic abuse against a man as being acceptable in a light entertainment and humorous context. This is because it desensitises society’s view regarding male victims of domestic abuse and does not portray it as an appalling crime. There is not an equal condoning response from the Mrs Brown character to the seriousness of what was portrayed and the audience can clearly be heard to be laughing. In this feature, there is no avoidance in including material that condones or glamorises violence.
- The portrayal also does cause unjustified stress in those men who have been victims of this type of incident and we have actually had men who have been victims contact us who have been upset by this. This is because of the context of the portrayal of domestic abuse - as if what happened to them should be regarded as normal, humorous and acceptable.

- The last reason for escalating the complaint, and is a question that has not been addressed in the responses received thus far. We are certain that word for word if the genders were reversed* the BBC would not have broadcast this at all, let alone in the context it was shown - and rightly so. **This goes to the heart of the complaint.** If the BBC would not have broadcast this particular feature if the genders were reversed this would be discriminatory and breach the BBC's values in terms of equality and inclusion.

On this basis for this complaint to be satisfactorily dealt with the BBC needs to answer the simple question whether it would have broadcast this feature on this programme if the genders were reversed. It is vitally important that this question is answered with an explanation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Mark Brooks

Mark Brooks
Chair of Trustees
The ManKind Initiative

* He really likes to throw things and it is mum who gets the brunt of it, she has had pretty much everything thrown at her down the years, toasters, hairdryers you name it. There is still a dent in the wall where he threw a knife at her“