

**PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WOMEN COMMIT DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS WELL. BUT THE STATISTICS OF OUR COUNTRY SURROUNDING THE SUBJECT PROVES THAT PERPETRATORS ARE COMMONLY MEN. ERGO, MY ANSWERS SPEAK FOR MYSELF AND MY EXPERIENCE WITH MEN AND THEIR NEED TO CHANGE. – [REDACTED]**

## **PREVENTION**

### **1. WHAT CAUSES DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE?**

MISOGYNY. MEN AND WOMEN ARE TAUGHT FROM DAY ONE THAT THERE IS A ROLE IN SOCIETY FOR EACH GENDER. MEN ARE TAUGHT TO BE THE 'PROTECTOR' AND WOMEN THE 'NURTURER' THIS ALONG WITH BIOLOGICAL FACTORS, CLASSES OF SOCIETY AND TRAUMA IN CHILDHOODS (MOSTLY) IS WHAT LEADS THE WAY FOR MEN BECOMING VIOLENT TOWARDS WOMEN. MAJORITY OF THE MEN I KNOW WHO ARE VIOLENT TOWARDS WOMEN HAVE GROWN UP AROUND THEIR FATHERS DOING THE SAME TO THEIR MOTHERS. THEN YOU PILE ONTO THAT WITH SOCIETY BEING THE WAY IT IS, MEN LEADING THE WORLD, THEY ARE TAUGHT THAT EMOTIONS AND BEING IN TOUCH WITH FEELINGS, RESPECT FOR WOMEN, AND ANYTHING FEMININE MAKES THEM LESS OF A 'MAN'. BEING TOLD MEN CAN'T CRY AND THAT FEELING ANY EMOTION, LET ALONE SHOWING THAT TO THE WORLD, LEADS TO ANGER FROM PENT UP FEELINGS THAT ARE ALWAYS INVALIDATED, BECAUSE SHOWING ANYTHING LIKE THIS WOULD MAKE YOU 'LESS OF A MAN'. THEREFORE, FURTHER DOWN THE TRACK THEY ARE GIVING BACK THE PAIN AND TORTURE THAT THEY WERE SUBJECT TOO. WHICH ALAS OCCURS IN THE ONE PLACE THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A HAVEN AND SAFEGUARD FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, YOUR FAMILY HOME.

### **2. WHAT WORKS, OR WILL WORK, TO PREVENT DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE?**

WE NEED TO TEACH MEN, BOYS, PEOPLE, FROM A YOUNG AGE THAT WE ARE ALL EQUALS, THAT EMOTIONS ARE OKAY AND FEELINGS (ALL 32,000 OF THEM) ARE OKAY TO FEEL, THAT SHOWING EMOTION DOES NOT MAKE YOU ANY LESS OF A MAN, AND THAT YOU ARE ENTITLED TO FEEL A CERTAIN WAY ABOUT SOMETHING THAT BOTHERS YOU OR WHATEVER EMOTION YOU FEEL, BUT YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO HURT PEOPLE IN RESPONSE TO BEING INVALIDATED. IT NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS THAT LIFE IS A ROLLERCOASTER AND THAT THINGS WILL HURT YOU AND MAKE YOU FEEL LESS OF A HUMAN, BUT NO ONE AT ALL IN LIFE, SPECIFICALLY MEN AND WOMEN COMPARED TO ONE ANOTHER, IS BETTER THAN THE NEXT, WE ARE ALL JUST BEINGS TRYING TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE WAVE WE ALL RIDE EACH DAY. IT NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT AS A CLASS AND HAVE CURRICULUM SURROUNDING IT IN HIGH SCHOOL AND TO GO INTO DEPTHS OF WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG AMONGST RELATIONSHIPS, WHETHER AN INTIMATE PARTNER OR FAMILY

MEMBER. SEXUAL VIOLENCE NEEDS TO BE SPOKEN OF AS WELL, AND WOMEN NEED TO BE LISTENED TO MORE, AND NOT JUST TOLD THAT 'HE'S DOING THAT BECAUSE HE LIKES YOU' BECAUSE COMMENTS LIKE THOSE ARE THE REASON, I THOUGHT THAT WHAT WAS DONE TO ME WAS PERFECTLY NORMAL THINGS, WHEN IT WASN'T AT ALL. IT WAS ABUSE.

3. **WHAT EXISTING INITIATIVES ARE DIRECTED AT ADDRESSING THE ATTITUDES AND SYSTEMS THAT DRIVE DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE? ARE THEY EFFECTIVE?**

THERE IS NOT ONE INITIATIVE I CAN THINK OF THAT I HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED, APART FROM #METOO THAT HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT DOMESTIC, FAMILY OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE. MAJORITY OF PEOPLE DO NOT EVEN KNOW THE DEFINITION OF THE TERMS, IT IS PROMINENT AMONGST US ALL THAT IT IS AN UNSPOKEN THING, WHICH NEEDS TO CHANGE!

## **EARLY INTERVENTION**

**4. WHAT SYSTEMS, INCLUDING SYSTEMS OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT, RECEIVE INFORMATION WHICH MAY ALLOW FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT HIGH RISK OF EXPERIENCING OR PERPETRATING DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE?**

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WORKPLACES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

**5. WHAT IS NEEDED TO ALLOW FOR THIS INFORMATION TO BE USED BY GOVERNMENT AND SPECIALIST DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES?**

CONSENT FROM THE VICTIM, I RANG THE DV EMERGENCY CRISIS LINE TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO STAY AFTER I FLED MY FAMILY HOME WITH MY THEN, 2-YEAR-OLD CHILD. I WAS SCARED, CONFUSED AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO OR WERE TO GO TO NEXT, I WAS ASKED IF THEY COULD SHARE MY INFORMATION WITH THE POLICE TO GET MY EX-PARTNER CHARGED, AND I SAID NO, AND WHEN I WAS READY AND NOT COMPLETELY PETRIFIED OF THE UNKNOWN THAT I, IF WANTING TO, WOULD BE THE ONE TO CONTACT POLICE. BUT THEY DID SO ANYWAY, WHICH THEN LEAD TO AN ABSOLUTE HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE WITH THE POLICE, WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING, BUT WHEN EXPLAINED THAT I WOULDN'T COME IN AND MAKE A STATEMENT JUST YET, I WAS TREATED LIKE A CRIMINAL. THERE NEEDS TO BE A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CALL AND ARRANGE STUFF FOR VICTIMS, TO LISTEN TO THEM AND TO ACTUALLY BE THERE WHEN FLEEING, GOING TO POLICE, COURT, ANYTHING THAT VICTIMS WHO ARE ALREADY GOING THROUGH THE HARDEST THING POSSIBLE, AND TO BE TREATED AS A HUMAN.

**6. WHAT INTERVENTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO MANAGE THE RISK OF A PERSON WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS BEING AT HIGH RISK OF EXPERIENCING OR PERPETRATING DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE?**

**BETTER TRAINING AND POLICE WHO ARENT MISOGYNIST PIGS THEMSELVES. COERCIVE CONTROL TRAINING, AND CENTRES SET OUT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE WORRIED FOR THEIR KIDS, PEOPLE AROUND THEM OR ANYONE THINKING THEY ARE BECOMING VIOLENT TO GO TO SPEAK, DO COUNSELLING AND CLASSES TO SHOW THEM WHAT IS AND ISN'T OKAY.**

## RESPONSE

**7. WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO REPORTING DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE TO POLICE OR SEEKING SUPPORT FROM DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES?**

NOT BEING BELIEVED, NOT HAVING THE RIGHT SUPPORT, NOT BEING ABLE TO GET AN INTERVENTION ORDER THROUGH THE POLICE OR THE COURTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF YOU BEING ABUSED AND LEAVING SOMEONE, BEING TOLD THAT YOU NEED TO DO THIS STUFF YOURSELF BY MULTIPLE POLICE OFFICERS, NOT ENOUGH TEACHING/TRAINING OR PLACES TO GO. NOT ENOUGH SHELTERS OR RESOURCES TO RELY ON WHEN LEAVING YOUR HOME, MAJORITY OF THE TIME WITH ONLY THE SHIRTS ON YOUR AND/OR YOUR CHILD(REN) BACKS. NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT FINANCIALLY, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

**8. WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A BEST PRACTICE CRISIS RESPONSE WHICH WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF: A. A VICTIM-SURVIVOR? B. A VICTIM-SURVIVOR WHO IS A CHILD? C. A PERPETRATOR (ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ONE NEED IS TO HOLD A PERPETRATOR TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR USE OF VIOLENCE)?**

LISTENING. NOT BLAMING THE WOMEN FOR NOT LEAVING EARLIER. HAVING CENTRES THAT HAVE, POLICE, COUNSELLORS, EMERGENCY HOMELESSNESS WORKERS, AND MEDICAL IN ONE SPOT SO THAT THE ALREADY TRAUMATISED VICTIM DOES NOT NEED TO RUN AROUND WHEN THEY ARE LEAVING. AND AS WELL NOT BELIEVING (ESPECIALLY WITH THE COST OF LIVING) THAT A 5K GOVERNMENT SUPPLEMENT ONE TIME WITH A LENGTHY PROCESS OF EXPLAINING YOUR SITUATION IS ENOUGH TO PROVIDE A VICTIM AND HER CHILDREN AND IT BE ENOUGH. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK TOGETHER WITH UNITING COMMUNITIES ETC. TO HAVE DETAILS ALREADY SHARED TO BE ABLE TO FUND A SURVIVOR WITH APPROPRIATE FUNDS.

**9. WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A BEST PRACTICE HEALTH RESPONSE?**

HAVE A SPECIALIST TEAM OF NURSES, DOCTORS PSYCH'S IN ONE PLACE, ALONG WITH POLICE, COUNSELLORS, AND LAWYERS TO BE IN RESPONSE OF A WOMEN LEAVING.

**10. WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A BEST PRACTICE POLICE RESPONSE?**

POLICE NEED TO BE BETTER. TAUGHT BETTER, FUNDED MORE, HAVE COMPASSION AND NOT BE THE DISGUSTING, UTTERLY SHAMEFUL WAY THEY ARE NOW. CHRISTIES BEACH POLICE STATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY SECTOR SPECIFICALLY NEED TO BE BETTER. THE PLAIN BLUE BOY OFFICERS NEED TRAINING REGARDING RESPONSE. ONE OFFICER (A FEMALE TOO) TOLD ME THAT HER AND THE 2 OTHER OFFICERS SHE WAS WITH WOULD NEED TO LEAVE HALF WAY THROUGH ME RETRIEVING MY BELONGINGS FROM HIS PLACE BECAUSE THEY HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THEY COULD BE DOING.

**11. WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A BEST PRACTICE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**RESPONSE?**

THE LEGISLATION SURROUNDING INTERVENTION ORDERS, FAMILY LAW AND VIOLENCE (ASSAULT ETC.) NEEDS TO BE ACTUALLY ENFORCED, AND NEEDS TO BE BETTER ALL ROUND, SPECIFICALLY THE *INTERVENTION ORDERS (PREVENTION OF ABUSE) ACT 2009 (SA)* IT IS DEFEATING TO GO THROUGH SUCH A PROCESS BEFORE BEING ABLE TO ACTUALLY FEEL SAFE.

**12. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT YOUR RESPONSE(S) TO QUESTIONS 8 TO 11, WHICH ELEMENTS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE IN THE DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SYSTEMS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA?**

IN ALL HONESTY, NOT ONE PRACTICE IN MY EXPERIENCE IS PROPERLY IN PLACE, IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE BACKING OF THE SALVATION ARMY AND THE SHELTER I WAS LUCKILY PUT INTO, I HONESTLY THINK I MIGHT BE DEAD.

**RECOVERY AND HEALING**

**12. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT EVERY VICTIM-SURVIVOR WILL HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS DEPENDING ON THEIR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ARE THERE UNIVERSAL NEEDS THAT WILL ARISE FOR ALL VICTIM-SURVIVORS?**

YES, SUPPORT, ONGOING SUPPORT, COUNSELLING, FINANCIAL, THERES SO MANY UNIVERSAL NEEDS OF SURVIVORS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

**13. WHAT ARE THE BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES TO SUPPORTING A VICTIM-SURVIVOR TO RECOVER FROM TRAUMA AND THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE?**

ACTUALLY, HAVING RESOURCES THAT ARE ONGOING, FREE, AND THAT SHOW CARE AND COMPASSION, PEOPLE THAT WANT TO ACTUALLY HELP AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR YOU AND YOUR RIGHTS. LAWYERS SPECIFICALLY NEED TO BE BETTER, THEY ALREADY MAKE SO MUCH MONEY, WHY CHARGE SO MUCH FOR A VICTIM OF DV TO GET FULL CUSTODY, OR HAVE THE PERPETRATOR CHARGED WITH HOMICIDE, ASSAULT OR EVEN COERCIVE CONTROL IN A HIGH REGARD. LAWS NEED TO CHANGE AND AN LEGISLATION SURROUNDING ALL OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND COERCIVE CONTROL, GOVERNMENT, POLICE, LAWYER, COMMUNITY GROUPS LIKE THE SALVOS NEED TO BE INTERPRETED INTO THIS. THERE NEEDS TO BE A LEGISLATION WITH LAWS THAT ACTUALLY HOLD MEN ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE VIOLENCE, WHETHER IT'S EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, SEXUAL OR COERCIVE CONTROL, IT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND DONE BEFORE MORE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE KILLED. THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE FUNDING TO COMMUNITY GROUPS FOR TRAUMA CONSELLING, INTERVENTION ORDERS AND GOING THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM, LAWYERS AND LEGAL AIDS, AND SPECIFICALLY, RELOCATING AND SHELTERS FOR VICTIMS TO GO TO, I WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES, BUT NOT EVERYONE ELSE IS. STOP FUNDING SWIMMING CENTRES, BASKETBALL STADIUMS AND CRAP THAT WE DON'T NEED, FUND

OUR HOSPITALS LIKE LABOR PROMISED AND ADD A WARD THAT IS SPECIFICALLY FOR VICTIM-SURVIVORS TO GO TO WHEN THEY ARE HAVING INJURIES TREATED DUE TO DV.

**14. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT YOUR RESPONSE TO QUESTION 14, WHAT BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES ARE ALREADY IN PLACE IN THE DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SYSTEMS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA?**

THE ONLY THING THAT IS HALF DECENT, AND STILL NOT ENOUGH IS THE SHELTERS THAT ARE IN ADELAIDE, THE COUNSELLORS, WOMENS SAFETY SERVICES, SALVATION ARMY, AND OTHER NON-FOR PROFIT COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, UNITING COMMUNITIES THAT HELP AND DO SO TO THE BEST OF THEIR MEANS AND ABILITY TO DO SO. NO GOVERNMENT AGENCY, EXCEPT FOR THE GRENFELL STREET POLICE STATION HAS HELPED ME IN ANY WAY. THE POLICE ESPECIALLY NEED TO BE BETTER. AND THE LSC WHICH, TO NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN (DUE TO THE LAWS SURROUNDING INTERVENTION ORDERS) WERENT ABLE TO HELP ME EITHER.

THERE IS SO MANY THINGS THAT NEED TO CHANGE, IT IS GETTING BEYOND A JOKE, I AM CURRENTLY STUDYING TO BECOME A LAWYER, TO PREVENT PERPETRATORS RUINING VICTIMS' LIVES, AND TO FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT, BECAUSE AT THE MOMENT, IT IS DISGUSTING.

I HAVE LUCKILY HAD THE SALVATION ARMY TO HELP ME OUT IMMENSELY, THEY TOOK ME IN, GAVE ME AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT ABUSE WAS AND VALIDATED MY EXPERIENCE, WHICH NOT MANY PEOPLE EVEN SEE AS INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE, THEY HELPED ME GET A PLACE OF MY OWN TO LIVE WITH MY DAUGHTER, WHO WAS ALSO SUBJECTED TO WITNESSING THE VIOLENCE AND COERCIVE CONTROL I WAS SUBJECT TO FROM MY EX PARTNER. BUT SINCE MOVING IN TO THIS PLACE, THERE IS NO MORE SUPPORT, NO FINANCIAL, EMOTIONAL NOR PHYSICAL SUPPORT, BECAUSE THERE IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH FUNDING AND MEANS TO BE ABLE TO DO SO. IT IS NO WONDER SO MANY WOMEN GO BACK TO THE VIOLENCE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ONE, OR NOWHERE ELSE TO GO...