

## Same-Sex Relationships: When Things Go Wrong

We would like you to take part in **the first UK wide survey** which looks at what happens in same sex relationships when things go wrong.

There has been a growing concern to make services more relevant and accessible to those in same sex relationships who might need help or advice. However, this is being done without much evidence of what individuals experience. We believe that the best way forward is to ask you directly. The findings from the research will be used to inform public bodies and policy makers so that decisions and services better reflect the needs of same sex communities.

**The questionnaire** looks quite long but most of the questions just ask you to tick a box or boxes, so it should only take about twenty minutes to complete. For your information we have included a sheet at the back that contains the names and addresses of organisations which offer advice and support.

The Project is based at the Universities of Sunderland and Bristol, and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). If you have any questions or would like more copies of the questionnaire please contact:

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**This Research Is Confidential**

## Section 1: About You

### 1.1 Your age:

- |                                   |                                |                                |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30-34    | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50-54    | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-59 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-69 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> over 70  |                                |                                |                                |

1.2 Your gender: (i.e. female/male/transgender) \_\_\_\_\_

### 1.3 Your ethnicity:

- |  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Black British | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ethnic Background |

1.4 Your religion: please say what religion you have (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

### 1.5 Your sexuality:

- |                                   |                                  |                                       |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay man | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay woman    | <input type="checkbox"/> Homosexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian  | <input type="checkbox"/> Queer   | <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Other      |

### 1.6 Do you have a disability?

- Yes  No

### 1.7 Your income:

- |  |                                     |                                       |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> under £10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £11-20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £21-30,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> £31-40,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £41-50,000    | <input type="checkbox"/> £51-60,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> over £60,000 |                                     |

### 1.8 Accommodation: where do you live?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private-owned                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Private-rented        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Housing/Housing Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Student accommodation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |

### 1.9 Education: What is your highest qualification?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Grade/GCSE | <input type="checkbox"/> Higher/A level/CSYS                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SVQ/NVQ             | <input type="checkbox"/> Degree                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional/vocational qualification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other               |  |

### 1.10 Children: Do you parent children?

- Yes  No

How many? \_\_\_\_\_

What ages are they? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they live (including full or part time) with you?

- Yes, all children  Yes, some children  No

## Section 2: Your Relationships

2.1 Are you currently in a same sex relationship?  Yes  No

2.2 Is this your first same sex relationship.  Yes  No

2.3 Have you been in a same sex relationship in the last 12 months?  Yes  No

2.4 Have you ever been in a same sex relationship?  Yes  No



If you have ticked **No** to all four questions please skip to **Section 6 Page 11**

These questions are about your current same sex relationship, or if you're not in a current relationship, your last same sex relationship.

**2.5 Are you 'out' about your current (or last) relationship to:**

- |                                       |   |                     |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Your relatives                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | Partner's relatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Your friends                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | Partner's friends   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Your children                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | Colleagues          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Neighbours                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | Faith community     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Professionals<br>such as teachers, GP | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |                     |   |

**2.6 How long is your current (or last) relationship?**

- |                                     |                                     |                                      |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 months | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> 7-12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> 13-24 months  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 years  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 11-20 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 20 years |

**2.7 Do you live together, or did you live together in your last relationship?**

- Yes  No

**2.8** The following asks you to think about how decisions are made in your current (or last) relationship.

<b>Who makes decisions about:</b>	<b>Usually You</b>	<b>Both Equally</b>	<b>Usually Partner</b>
Where to live			
How to decorate your house			
What food you buy / eat / cook			
How to divide up the household jobs			
How to spend time with friends together			
How to spend time with friends separately			
When you see your relatives			
When you see your partner's relatives			
How to spend your leisure time			
Moving jobs / doing further education/training			
What to watch on the television / video / dvd / cinema			
What pets you might have			
What clothes / hair style you wear			
What clothes / hair style your partner wears			
How to spend your joint money			
How you spend your own money			
When you have sex			
When you get a lie-in			
When your partner gets a lie-in			
<b>If you have children:</b>			
What the rules are for the children (eg. How much tv)			
How to discipline the children			
How to spend time with the children			

**2.9 Do any of these cause resentment or disagreement?**  Yes  No

If yes, please state which ones: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.10 How much do you disagree with your current (or last) partner over issues such as:**

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	N/A
Partner's job / unemployment					
Your job / unemployment					
Partner's neediness					
Your neediness					
Partner's jealousy					
Your jealousy					
Partner's children					
Your children					
Sexual activities					
Partner's friends					
Your friends					
Partner's relatives					
Your relatives					
Partner's alcohol / drug use					
Your alcohol / drug use					
Partner going out socially without you					
You going out socially without partner					
Being 'out' to people / children / work					

**2.11 How do you usually resolve these issues? Please tick the boxes which are most relevant**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid the topic/change the subject | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk it through together            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seek support from family/friends   | <input type="checkbox"/> End up agreeing with partner        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reach a compromise                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Give in to keep the peace           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Argue until one of you wins        | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable as we never disagree |

## Section 3: Your Partner's Behaviour

### 3.1 Emotional Behaviour

We would like to know if you have experienced any of the following emotional behaviours in a same sex relationship in the last 12 months **and** before the last 12 months. We want to know about all of these experiences, even those you may not have considered very serious.

How often have you experienced the following from a same sex partner?	Last 12 Months			Before the Last 12 Months		
	Never	Some-times	Often	Never	Some-times	Often
Being isolated from friends						
Being isolated from relatives						
Being regularly insulted or put down						
Accused of not being a real gay man / lesbian						
Threatened with being 'outed'						
Your spending controlled						
Told what to do / who to see						
Your age used against you						
Your class used against you						
Your education used against you						
Your religion used against you						
Your disability used against you						
Your race used against you						
Your sexuality used against you						
Your property damaged / burnt						
Your pet abused						
Made to do most of the housework						
Threats to harm someone close to you						
Malicious / pestering phone calls						
Blamed for partner's use of alcohol / drugs						
Blamed for partner's self-harm						
Frightened by things your partner says / does						
Your medicines withheld						
<b>If you have children:</b>						
Threats to hurt your children						
Your children actually hurt						
Threats to 'out' you to lose your children						
Threats to stop contact with children						

▶▶▶ If you have **never** experienced any of these behaviours please go to **Question 3.5, Page 6.**

3.2 Did you experience any of the above behaviours from: a current same sex partner   
a previous same sex partner   
from both

**3.3** The following question is about the ways your experiences may have affected you.  
**Please tick all that apply.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't have an impact                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Made you feel loved / wanted        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost respect for your partner              | <input type="checkbox"/> Made you want to leave your partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional/ sleeping problems/ depression   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stopped trusting people             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stopped trusting partner                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt unable to cope                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt worthless / lost confidence           | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt sadness                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt anxious / panic / lost concentration  | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt embarrassed / stupid           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt isolated / stopped going out          | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt angry / shocked                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-harmed / felt suicidal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Worried partner might leave you     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defended yourself/ children/ property/pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Feared for your life                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliated by shouting at your partner     | <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliated by hitting your partner  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected sexual side of your relationship  | <input type="checkbox"/> Worked harder to make partner happy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worked harder to stop making mistakes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt had to watch what you say / do |

**If you have children:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost contact with your children | <input type="checkbox"/> Negatively affected your children/<br>your relationship with children |
|--|--|

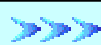
**3.4** Which one of these do you now think best describes your experiences?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> It was a crime                     | <input type="checkbox"/> It was wrong but not a crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It was just something that happens | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these                |

**3.5 Physical Behaviour**

We would like to know if you have experienced any of the following physical behaviours in a same sex relationship in the last 12 months **and** before the last 12 months. We want to know about all of these experiences, even those you may not have considered very serious.

How often have you experienced any of the following from a same sex partner?	Last 12 Months			Before the Last 12 Months		
	Never	Some-times	Often	Never	Some-times	Often
Slapped / pushed / shoved						
Kicked / punched						
Beaten Up						
Burned						
Bitten						
Restrained / held down / tied up						
Choked / strangled / suffocated						
Physically threatened						
Hit with an object / weapon						
Threatened with an object / weapon						
Prevented from getting help for injuries						
Stalked / followed by partner						
Locked in house / room by partner						

 If you have **never** experienced any of these behaviours please go to **Question 3.9, Page 7.**

3.6 Did you experience any of the above behaviours from: a current same sex partner   
 a previous same sex partner   
 from both

3.7 The following question is about the ways any of the above behaviours may have affected you. Please tick all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't have an impact                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Made you feel loved / wanted        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost respect for your partner              | <input type="checkbox"/> Made you want to leave your partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional/ sleeping problems/ depression   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stopped trusting people             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stopped trusting partner                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt unable to cope                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt worthless / lost confidence           | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt sadness                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt anxious / panic / lost concentration  | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt embarrassed / stupid           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt isolated / stopped going out          | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt angry / shocked                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-harmed / felt suicidal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Worried partner might leave you     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defended yourself/ children/ property/pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Feared for your life                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliated by shouting at your partner     | <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliated by hitting your partner  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical injuries (eg. bruising/scratches) | <input type="checkbox"/> Injuries that needed medical help   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected sexual side of your relationship  | <input type="checkbox"/> Worked harder to make partner happy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worked harder to stop making mistakes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt had to watch what you say / do |
- If you have children:**
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost contact with your children | <input type="checkbox"/> Negatively affected your children/<br>your relationship with children |
|--|--|


3.8 Which one of these do you now think best describes your experiences?

<input type="checkbox"/> It was a crime	<input type="checkbox"/> It was wrong but not a crime
<input type="checkbox"/> It was just something that happens	<input type="checkbox"/> None of these

### 3.9 Sexual Behaviour

We would like to know if you have experienced any of the following sexual behaviours in a same sex relationship in the last 12 months **and** before the last 12 months. We want to know about all of these experiences, even those you may not have considered very serious.

How often have you experienced any of the following from a same sex partner?	Last 12 Months			Before the Last 12 Months		
	Never	Some-times	Often	Never	Some-times	Often
Touched in a way that caused fear/alarm/ distress						
Forced into sexual activity						
Hurt during sex						
Refused your request for safer sex						
Had 'safe' words/boundaries disrespected						
Had sex for the sake of peace / a quiet life						
Sexually assaulted / abused in any way						
Threats to sexually assault / abuse you						
Raped						

 If you have **never** experienced any of these behaviours please go to **Section 4, Page 8.**

- 3.10** Did you experience any of these behaviours from:
- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a current same sex partner  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a previous same sex partner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| from both                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**3.11** The following question is about the ways any of these behaviours may have affected you.  
**Please tick all that apply**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't have an impact                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Made you feel loved / wanted        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost respect for your partner              | <input type="checkbox"/> Made you want to leave your partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional/ sleeping problems/ depression   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stopped trusting people             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stopped trusting partner                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt unable to cope                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt worthless / lost confidence           | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt sadness                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt anxious / panic / lost concentration  | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt embarrassed / stupid           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt isolated / stopped going out          | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt angry / shocked                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-harmed / felt suicidal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Worried partner might leave you     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defended yourself/ children/ property/pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Feared for your life                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliated by shouting at your partner     | <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliated by hitting your partner  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical injuries (eg. bruising/scratches) | <input type="checkbox"/> Injuries that needed medical help   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected sexual side of your relationship  | <input type="checkbox"/> Worked harder to make partner happy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worked harder to stop making mistakes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Felt had to watch what you say / do |
- If you have children:**
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost contact with your children | <input type="checkbox"/> Negatively affected your children/<br>your relationship with children |
|--|--|

**3.12** Which one of these do you now think best describes your experiences?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> It was a crime                     | <input type="checkbox"/> It was wrong but not a crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It was just something that happens | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these                |

## Section 4: Seeking Help

**4.1** Thinking about all of these experiences (emotional, physical, and sexual). Did you go to any of the following for help? **Please tick all that apply**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No one                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Your friends                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your partner's friends               | <input type="checkbox"/> Your relatives                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your partner's relatives             | <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Rainbow                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/Gay helpline                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian / Women's Group / Centre          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay Men's Support group/organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Accident and Emergency Department         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your GP                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sought Legal Advice                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counsellor / therapist               | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Agency                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Department                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious group / leader             | <input type="checkbox"/> Someone at work                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's refuge                       | <input type="checkbox"/> The Police                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Support                       | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBT domestic violence group / phone line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbours                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable                       |  |



4.2 If you have ticked any of the above can you say which was the most helpful and why?

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4.3 If you did not contact anybody can you say why? **Please tick all that apply**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because of your sexuality               | <input type="checkbox"/> Too trivial / not worth telling anybody |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private matter / nobody else's business | <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't think they could help            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't think they would believe me      | <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't think they'd be sympathetic      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feared situation would get worse        | <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't want any more humiliation        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other reason                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Previous bad response                   |

**Section 5: Your Behaviour**

We would like to know if you have behaved in your same sex relationship(s) in ways that caused upset to your partner(s). We want to know about all of these incidents, even those you may not have considered very serious.

**5.1 Emotional Behaviour**


How often have you done the following in a same sex relationship?	Last 12 Months			Before the Last 12 Months		
	Never	Some-times	Often	Never	Some-Times	Often
Isolated your partner from friends						
Isolated your partner from family						
Regularly insulted or put them down						
Threatened to out them						
Controlled their spending						
Told them what to do / who to see						
Used their age / class / education against them						
Used their religion / disability / race against them						
Damaged / burnt their property						
Abused their pet						
Made them do most of the housework						
Threatened to harm someone close to them						
Made malicious / pestering phone calls						
Blamed them for your use of alcohol / drugs						
Blamed them for your self-harm behaviours						
Frightened them with things you said / did						
Withheld their medicines						
<b>If you/they have children:</b>						
Threatened to hurt the children						
Actually hurt the children						
Threatened to 'out' partner so they could lose children						
Threatened to stop contact with children						

## 5.2 Physical Behaviour

How often have you done the following in a same sex relationship?	Last 12 Months			Before the Last 12 Months		
	Never	Some-times	Often	Never	Some-times	Often
Slapped / pushed / shoved						
Kicked / punched						
Beaten up						
Burned						
Bitten						
Restrained / held down / tied up						
Choked / strangled / suffocated						
Physically threatened						
Hit with an object / weapon						
Threatened with an object / weapon						
Prevented them from getting help for injuries						
Stalked / followed a partner						
Locked a partner in a house / room						

## 5.3 Sexual Behaviour

How often have you done the following in a same sex relationship?	Last 12 Months			Before the Last 12 Months		
	Never	Some-times	Often	Never	Some-times	Often
Touched in a way that caused fear / distress						
Forced into sexual activity						
Hurt during sex						
Refused their request for safer sex						
Disrespected their 'safe' words / boundaries						
Sexually assaulted / abused them in any way						
Threatened them with sexually assault / abuse						
Raped them						

 If you have answered **never** to all of these questions please go to **Section 6, Page 11**.

## 5.4 Why do you think you did any of these (emotional, physical or sexual) things?

Please tick all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because you loved / cared for them    | <input type="checkbox"/> Made you feel in control                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because they were laughing at you     | <input type="checkbox"/> Because they betrayed / rejected you        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because they hit you first            | <input type="checkbox"/> To protect yourself from them               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To retaliate against them             | <input type="checkbox"/> To protect your children / family / friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To protect your property / pets       | <input type="checkbox"/> To prevent them harming themselves          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because of your emotional problems    | <input type="checkbox"/> Because you didn't trust them               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because of your alcohol / drug use    | <input type="checkbox"/> Because of previous experience of abuse     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You were unhappy in the relationship  | <input type="checkbox"/> You were unhappy in work / life             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To stop them leaving you              | <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't feel good enough / felt insecure     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because you were jealous / possessive | <input type="checkbox"/> Because you didn't know what else to do     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> That's how it is in our relationship  |  |

## Section 6: Views and Opinions

We would now like to know about your thoughts and views more generally.

6.1 What do you think domestic abuse or domestic violence is? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6.2 Is it different in same sex relationships than in heterosexual relationships, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6.3 Have you ever experienced domestic abuse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6.4 Has your partner ever experienced domestic abuse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6.5 What would be effective ways to help those who do experience it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6.6 What should the LGBT community do about it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Further Request for Help

**Thank you very much for taking part in this survey. We would also like to conduct interviews with people who have answered this questionnaire** and want to involve everyone - whatever your experiences. Interviews will take place in Autumn/Winter 2005/06 and will take about 1 hour. If you are willing to take part in an interview please let us know how we can contact you. (Please say if we should contact you during the day or evening.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: this research is confidential but if you have given us information which suggests that a child is currently at risk, we may have to inform the appropriate agencies.

## Useful Names and Addresses

**Please tear off and keep this page**

If this questionnaire has raised any issues which you are concerned about you can contact any of the agencies below which offer confidential information and support

### **Broken Rainbow**

07812 644 914

Services for LGBT people  
experiencing domestic violence

### **Scottish Women's Aid**

0131 475 2372

For women and children experiencing  
domestic violence.

### **Welsh Women's Aid**

029 203 9874

For women and children experiencing  
domestic violence.

### **Women's Aid Federation of England**

08457 023 468

For women and children experiencing  
domestic violence.

### **National Domestic Violence**

Freephone Helpline (24hrs)

0808 2000 247

Support for anyone experiencing domestic  
violence

### **M.A.L.E Domestic Violence Project**

0845 064 6800

Emotional support helpline and local  
support in Devon for gay, bisexual and  
transgender people

### **National Lesbian and Gay Switchboard**

0207 837 7324 (24hrs)

### **Regard**

0207 738 6191 (7pm-9pm)

For lesbians and gay men with disabilities

### **Southall Black Sisters**

020 8571 9595

For Black and Asian women in London  
area

### **The Samaritans (24hrs)**

08457 90 90 90

Emotional support for everyone

### **Parentline Plus**

Freephone 0808 800 2222

Advice and support for all parents

### **Childline Freephone (24hrs)**

0800 111 111

Helpline for all children and young people

### **NSPCC**

0808 860 5000

Advice for all young people and parents

### **Victim Support (24hrs)**

0845 3030 900

Emotional support and referral service  
for victims of crime

## Interview schedule

1. How many relationships have you had?

We're interested in exploring the best relationship and the worst relationship you've had.

**We'll start with the best. (check whether this is current or previous relationship)**

2. How did you meet? How did the relationship start?

3. Do you think you love/d them? How did you know?

4. Do you think they love/d you? How did you know?

5. Was/is this your first relationship? And/Or was this the first time you were in love?  
**And/OR was this your first same sex relationship?**

6. What are/were the best things about the relationship?

7. What are/were the worst things about the relationship?

8. Was there anything about your partner or their behaviour that you tolerated because you loved them?

9. Do you think there was anything about you/your behaviour that your partner tolerated because they loved you?

10. In general how did you make decisions in the relationship? Was it generally you or your partner who took the decisions or did you work things out together?

Prompt list about: finances, housing, jobs, household tasks, sex, holidays, spending time together/with friends.

11. Did it feel that you both put the same into the relationship?

Prompt: re. Caring for each other, household tasks,

12. In general would you say one had more power in the relationship or was it shared/equal

13. Do you think you love/d each other equally or did/does one of you love the other more?

13. How did you deal with differences of opinion about money, friends, choices of holidays etc

Prompt: how did you resolve conflict/Did you argue about things? ?

14. What about sex? Was that mutually initiated or was one of you more likely to initiate than the other?

15. Did you ever talk to anybody about your relationship? Who? Did it help? Would you do it again?

16. Were/are there any differences between you and your partner in terms of

Age

Social Class

Degree of being out? Length of time of being out?

Disability

Race/ethnicity

Ill-health

Education

Income

**The next three questions depends on how people talk about there being any of the above differences.**

Did any of these have any influence on how you related to each other

Did any of these have any impact on how you resolved differences?

Did any of these have any impact on who had power in the relationship? In relation to what kinds of things?

17. Do/did you want this relationship to last? Why/why not?

18. Why did it end? What happened? Who ended it? Why?

### **Your worst relationship**

**If respondents don't have a 'worst relationship' explore with them the following:**

- **You've talked about what you tolerate in your relationship because you love your partner, can you imagine what your partner could do that would mean you would seriously reconsider whether you loved them/ wanted to continue the relationship.**
- **[they may say breaking trust/infidelity in which case ask: what about in terms of how they behaved towards you in the relationship - what kinds of behaviours do you think would stretch you to your limits of tolerance [then can prompt, jealousy/possessiveness, anger, insecurity etc]**

19. How did you meet? How did the relationship start?

20. Do you think you love/d them? How did you know?

21. Do you think they love/d you? How did you know?

22. Was/is this your first relationship? And/Or was this the first time you were in love? And/**OR was this your first same sex relationship?**

23. What are/were the best things about the relationship?

24. What are/were the worst things about the relationship?

25. Was there anything about your partner or their behaviour that you tolerated because you loved them?

26. Do you think there was anything about you/your behaviour that your partner tolerated because they loved you?

27. In general how did you make decisions in the relationship? Was it generally you or your partner who took the decisions or did you work things out together?

Prompt list about: finances, housing, jobs, household tasks, sex, holidays, spending time together/with friends.

28. Did it feel that you both put the same into the relationship?

Prompt: re. Caring for each other, household tasks,

29. In general would you say one had more power in the relationship or was it shared/equal

30. Do you think you love/d each other equally or did/does one of you love the other more?

31. How did you deal with differences of opinion about money, friends, choices of holidays etc

Prompt: how did you resolve conflict/Did you argue about things? ?

33. What about sex? Was one of you more likely to initiate sex than the other or was it mutual?

33. Did you ever talk to anybody about your relationship? Who? Did it help? Would you do it again?

34. Were/are there any differences between you and your partner in terms of

Age

Social Class

Degree of being out? Length of time of being out?

Disability

Race/ethnicity

Ill-health

Education

Income

**Again it may not be necessary to ask each of these questions depending on how they respond**

Did any of these have any influence on how you related to each other

Did any of these have any impact on how you resolved differences?  
Did any of these have any impact on who had power in the relationship? In relation to what kinds of things?

35. Do/did you want this relationship to last? Why/why not?

36. Why did it end? What happened? Who ended it? Why? How did you meet?  
How did the relationship start?

37. When did you stop loving them?

38. At what point in the relationship did you realise you had reached the limits of what you could take? What did you do?

### **General**

Ending a relationship can be very difficult – whether or not the relationship has been good or bad.

39. Have you ever not wanted a relationship to end? What kinds of things have done to persuade somebody to stay in a relationship?

40. Have you ever tried to finish a relationship and been persuaded to stay?

41. Thinking about your experiences in relationships do you think your ideas about love and what to expect from love has changed over time?

42. Do you think love brings out the best in us?

43. Do you think love brings out the worst in us? Have you ever done anything in a relationship that you are not proud of?

44. Have you ever experienced domestic violence/abuse? What do you mean by domestic abuse/violence?

45. Has your partner ever experienced domestic violence/abuse?

46. Do you think domestic abuse/violence is the same in straight and same sex relationships?

47. Do you think women and men experience domestic violence/abuse the same or differently?

48. Do you think women and men understand and/or do love and relationships differently?

49. Do you think LGB and straight people understand and/or do love relationships differently?

[keep in mind if they ever say 'I thought I loved them' to ask: what do you mean and what has made you say that you weren't really in love then?]



# Comparing love and violence in same sex and heterosexual relationships

## PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Name.....

I give consent for myself to be a participant in this study and for the interview to be recorded. I have received an information sheet about this study and had all my questions answered. I understand that I can withdraw from this study at any time.

Date

Signed.....

It has also been explained to me that the project has a commitment to lodging interview transcripts with the National Archive of qualitative data at Qualidata. Before this is done all identifying information will be changed and/or removed from transcripts.

I give consent for my transcript to be lodged with Qualidata.

Date:

Signed:

**This study is approved by the Universities of Sunderland and Bristol Ethics Committees**

To cite this output:

Donovan, Catherine. (2007). Comparing Love and Domestic Violence in Heterosexual and Same Sex Relationships: Full Research Report. ESRC End of Award Report, RES-000-23-0650. Swindon: ESRC

Report to the ESRC 15 March 2007

Award No. RES-000-23-0650

## **Comparing Love and Violence in Same Sex and Heterosexual Relationships**

Catherine Donovan & Marianne Hester  
(with Melanie McCarry, Eldin Fahmy & Jonathan Holmes)

### **1. Background**

The research was carried out between January 2005 and December 2006. It is the most detailed UK study to date of same sex domestic abuse and the first to directly compare domestic abuse in same sex and heterosexual relationships. The research sought to increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse in same sex relationships; experiences of help-seeking; and examine how 'narratives of love' might be used across different relationship contexts to make sense of violence in intimate relationships.

Whilst there is an extensive international literature on domestic violence in heterosexual relationships (Hester et al. 2007; Hester 2004) research on domestic violence in same sex communities has a more recent history focussing on lesbian relationships (McClennen 2005). Few studies directly compare lesbian and gay male domestic abuse, or attempt to compare abuse in same sex and heterosexual relationships (e.g. Turrell 2000; Tjaden & Thoennes 2000). Those in the UK tend to involve small qualitative samples or include limited questions regarding domestic violence while leaving out contextual factors (Henderson 2003). These gaps led us to develop a detailed exploration of domestic abuse in same sex relationships with a methodology that allowed direct comparison between lesbians and gay men and also heterosexual domestic abuse.

We draw on a range of literature and frameworks: the sociological work on love and intimacy; the feminist frameworks regarding gender and power; and the models based on empirical prevalence data.

#### *1.1 Love and intimacy*

Beck and Beck Gernsheim (1995) argue that concepts of love are becoming more important as other certainties about life diminish. Giddens' (1992) model of confluent love forefronts negotiation and contingency as key features in the 'pure relationship', where intimate partners commit until their needs are not met. Whilst Giddens has been critiqued (Wight 1994; Jamieson 1999) for lack of empirical evidence for the 'pure relationship' Jamieson has argued that there is a growing expectation for 'disclosing intimacy' pointing out that this often remains the ideal as it requires a context of equality in the partners to the relationship. Love is socially constructed though it is perhaps the emotion most scripted as an essentialist set of characteristics by those who experience it and investigate it (e.g. Jackson 1993; Smart & Neale 1999). In her study of how heterosexual women make sense of their experiences of domestic abuse Wood (2001) argues that love and gender narratives drawn from society

shape the explanations given by these women. In this study we explore the extent to which respondents draw on narratives of love to make sense of the abusive relationships they experience and reflect on the degree to which concepts of love are being influenced by more egalitarian ideals.

### *1.2 Gender and Power*

Feminist scholarship has developed analyses of domestic abuse that problematise the social construction of masculinity as embodied in heterosexual men, explaining domestic abuse as the exertion of power and control by men over women in intimate relationships within contexts of gender inequality (Hearn 1996; Hester 2001). There is currently a debate about the applicability of this explanatory model for domestic abuse in same sex relationships (e.g. Renzetti 1992; McClennen 2005; Island and Letellier 1991). These debates led to our exploration of how processes of gendering and power might operate in similar or different ways in abusive lesbian, gay male or heterosexual relationships.

### *1.3 Modelling incidence and prevalence*

Studies from the US increasingly suggest that prevalence of domestic violence may be similar across same-sex and heterosexual relationships, and what differs are help-seeking behaviours (McClennen 2005). However, it is not possible to achieve random, representative samples of those in same sex relationships (Heaphy et al. 1999a) and comparisons between studies on same sex domestic violence are difficult because of the use of a variety of methodologies and samples, and varying definitions of violence and abuse. Consequently rates of incidence have tended to vary enormously across the studies (Turrell 2000; Henderson 2003;).

In the literature on prevalence of heterosexual domestic abuse two contrasting outcomes may be discerned, indicating gender symmetry or asymmetry in patterns of abuse. This difference appears largely methodological, resulting from whether or not contextual and impact related questions are included, and what samples are used (Straus 1990; Walby and Allen 2004; Tjaden & Thoennes 2000). Another aspect of the debate concerns the link between gender asymmetry in domestic abuse and what Johnson (1995) has termed 'intimate terrorism', or whether domestic violence involves symmetrical and thus 'mutual' abuse (Johnson 2006). Different definitions of domestic violence and abuse may influence these outcomes (Stark 2006). These debates led us to develop a national same sex community survey that would provide data regarding a range of domestically abusive behaviour while also taking into account both context and impact, and that included questions about experiences of abuse from partners as well as their own use of such behaviour.

## **2. Objectives**

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All objectives have been addressed and met by the research

*2.1 To explore the scope of domestic violence in same sex relationships via a community incidence study:*

A national community survey was successfully carried out, with 800 responses achieved (746 of which were useable). This is a much larger sample than the 500 responses originally intended. The survey included incidence of abuse in the previous 12 months and any time prior to that. [Appendix A]

*2.2 To increase knowledge and understanding of the particular experiences of those in abusive same sex relationships:*

The survey provided the most detailed quantitative data to date in the UK regarding experiences of physical, sexual and emotional abuse in same sex relationships. This was supplemented by in-depth qualitative data from four focus groups and 67 semi-structured interviews with heterosexual women, men, lesbians and gay men. This combination of data has furthered our knowledge and understanding of the comparative experiences of lesbians and gay men and the experiences of individuals from different age groups.

*2.3 To identify similarities and differences between the experiences of those in same sex and heterosexual relationships, including use of help-seeking strategies via the criminal justice system or other agencies.*

The survey data allowed comparison between our sample and that of the British Crime Survey and our inclusion of heterosexual participants in the focus groups and individual interviews allowed a more in-depth exploration of these issues.

*2.4 To explore the impact of narratives of love as rationales for violence in heterosexual and same sex relationships, and develop comparative understandings of ways in which sexuality may or may not influence both expectations about and the 'doing' of adult intimate relationships:*

Focus groups explored the narratives of love people draw on when talking about intimate relationships and fed into design of the interview schedule. Interviewees were asked

about a 'best' and 'worst' relationship including how they met their partner, whether they loved them, how they organised their relationship. [Appendix B & C].

2.5 To explore existing analyses and develop new theory regarding domestic violence in adult relationships, by comparing the experiences of individuals in 'gender free' relationships (same sex relationships) with those in gendered (heterosexual) relationships and by focussing on narratives of love rather than gender roles.

The survey data enabled analysis of gender and violence in same sex relationships through analysis across and regarding differences between lesbians and gay men. The qualitative data from same sex and heterosexual relationships also enabled exploration of existing theories about domestic abuse, gender and power to ascertain whether and how these theories might accommodate the apparently 'genderless' nature of same sex relationships. [Appendix D, and results below].

### **3. Methods**

The research was informed by an Advisory Group consisting of representatives from a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations [see Appendix E], who were consulted regarding the overall methodology, the development of the research instruments (specifically the survey questionnaire, and interview and focus group schedules), and establishment of networks needed for the development of survey and interview samples.

Some general methodological issues:

- i. Self-definition: respondents self-defined whether they had experienced domestic abuse and other identifying characteristics: sexuality and disability. This allowed us in interviews to explore meanings and understandings of identities in relation to relationship experiences.
- ii. Ethics: the study was approved by both Institutions' Ethics Committees. All respondents' identities were anonymised. A telephone helpline sheet was given to every respondent and attached to the survey.
- iii. Recruitment of samples: To maximise all the samples we developed an extensive network of contacts (over 220) with LGBT and domestic abuse organisations across Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, North East England, North West England, Central England and London using internet searches, LGBT literature, national helplines, the media and personal contacts. Most non-heterosexual interviewees were recruited from the survey sample. We were least successful in recruiting non-heterosexual Black and Ethnic Minority people despite contact with Black and Ethnic Minority organisations and snowballing via friendship networks. This may

reflect an unwillingness to speak about experiences to white researchers. We were also less successful recruiting heterosexual respondents especially men who had experienced abuse. The latter may reflect low prevalence of this or their lack of willingness to come forward.

### **3.1 National same sex community incidence survey**

#### *3.1.1 The questionnaire*

To achieve our aims in the survey we used the British Crime Survey (BCS - and its associated self-report module on domestic violence) as the main UK survey providing prevalence data on domestic violence, and identified areas for replication, including time periods and violence/abuse types. Relevant US studies were also drawn on for development of same-sex specific questions and items on decision-making and conflict resolution (Renzetti 1992; Turrell 2000), which allowed the questionnaire to move beyond the 'hetero-normative' approach of the BCS.

The survey elicited responses to a wide range of questions pertaining to respondents' experience of emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse both within the last 12 months and earlier; the impacts of domestic abuse; whether their responses related to the behaviour of a current or previous partner, or both; respondents' use of emotional, physical and sexual abusive behaviours; help-seeking activities in relation to own and partner directed abuse; the locus of decision-making within relationships; and the nature of disagreements within partnerships. Finally open-response questions allowed respondents to give a definition of domestic abuse, whether they or their partner had experienced domestic abuse, and what should be done about it. [Appendix A]

#### *3.1.2 The questionnaire sample*

A national 'community' survey was carried out to address a number of methodological concerns: the impossibility of recruiting a representative sample; compromising respondents' confidentiality by identifying a limited geographical area in which to conduct the survey.

Dissemination involved distribution of hard copies of the questionnaire, and a web-based version. We distributed 1000 initial copies of the questionnaire with self-addressed envelopes via supportive organisations and received 208 completed questionnaires (approx. 20% return rate). Additionally we distributed an identical web-based questionnaire, designed using ACCESS (Couper et al. 2001; Moon 2005), via supportive websites and emailing lists. This approach proved the most effective method of obtaining a large sample in a short period, resulting in 592 responses (total sample = 800). No significant differences were found between the 'hard copy' and 'web-based' sub-samples.

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### *3.1.3 Managing and analysing the survey data*

An SPSS database was set up in order to manage the survey questionnaire data. The hard copy data was transferred manually from the questionnaire onto the database while the online questionnaires were downloaded from ACCESS.

From the original 800 cases, 54 cases were removed (they identified as heterosexual; their sexuality was unknown; or they had not had a same sex relationship). This resulted in a final data set of 746 individuals [Appendix G for demographic profile].

General frequencies and cross-tabulations were carried out across the data, using mainly Pearson's Chi Square to assess significance. This provided initial data for the testing of the 'gender & power' model.

To seek the validity and reliability of the items relating to abusive experiences and impact of abuse separate and combined scales were developed [Appendix F Section 5]. Five scales were created; three separate scales relating to emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, a combined scale including the three items, and a scale relating to abuse by the respondent. These scales were found to be reliable at  $>.8$  using Cronbach's Alpha. This approach allowed further exploration of differences within the sample.

Further exploration of the theoretical models regarding 'gender and power' and 'intimate terrorism' versus 'common couple' abuse was carried out via development of thresholds involving the abuse scales and impacts of the abuse. The relationship between the incidence of abuse and its impact on respondents lives was examined, based on the assumption that in general higher levels of abuse should be associated with a greater impact upon respondents (Walby & Allen 2004). The empirical (Spearman's rank) correlation between scores on the impact scales and abuse scales relating to the previous 12 months supported this assertion with strong correlations (at  $p < .001$ ). Optimal thresholds for any set of impacts and abuse items was achieved by maximising the statistical 'fit' between these scales using one-way ANOVA. [Appendix F, Section 6]

## **3.2 Qualitative Data**

### *3.2.1 Focus groups*

Focus groups were undertaken with lesbians (3), gay men (2), heterosexual women (8) and heterosexual men (6). Themes from the focus group data informed design of the interview schedule.

### *3.2.2 The interview schedule*

The interview schedule focussed on respondent's best and worst relationship experiences and explored the story of these relationships from beginning to end or current situation. We also asked more general questions about respondents' views of love and domestic abuse in same sex and heterosexual relationships, whether they had experienced domestic abuse and how they defined this [Appendix C]

### *3.2.3 Methodological issues*

We do not look to respondents' accounts to provide the definitive truth about 'what happened' in these relationships (e.g. Heaphy et al. 1999). Memory is an important influence here. In addition in place of an exact account respondents focussed on particular anecdotes as exemplars of the abusive partner. Such selectivity also draws on hindsight, another factor to take into consideration. Previous studies on domestic abuse in either heterosexual (Kelly 1988) or lesbian (Ristock 2002) relationships have highlighted the 'cathartic' experience of interviews for participants talking about abuse for the first time and/or understanding it as abusive. These factors give a context to how respondents tell their stories, and the influence of the questions asked and the context in which they tell them (Duncombe and Marsden 1996). However, as Ramazanoglu with Holland (2002) point out respondents' accounts of their experiences are 'a necessary element of knowledge of gendered lives and actual power relations' (2002: 127) and accounts thus provide insights into the ways in which relationships can be understood.

### *3.2.4 Analysis of interview data*

QSR NVivo7 was also used for a thematic analysis of data. Interviews were read and re-read to identify and code themes that emerged from the data in relation to the key research questions: what kinds of differences and similarities occur in the abusive experiences of lesbians, gay men, heterosexual women and heterosexual men; what, if any, narratives of love are drawn on to make sense of abusive experiences and do these differ across gender and sexuality. Codes were tested and collapsed to identify three key features of abusive relationships: types of abuse; relationship practices and spheres of power; and narratives of love [Section 4 below].

A separate reading of whole transcripts was also carried out in relation to individuals who took part in the questionnaire survey, highlighting that individuals were more likely to focus on a previous relationship (before the previous 12 months) when talking about abusive experiences (see also Lie et al. 1991; Turrell 2000).

## **4. Results**

### ***4.1 Experiences and impacts of abuse***

#### *4.1.1 Incidence of abuse*

As the questionnaire sample was not random, nor necessarily representative of the same sex community, the levels of domestic abuse experienced do not represent the prevalence of such abuse within same sex relationships. More than a third of the survey respondents (38.4%, 266/692) said that they had experienced domestic abuse at some time in a same sex relationship, including similar proportions of women (40.1%) and men (35.2%). These



figures suggest that domestic abuse is an issue for a considerable number of people in same sex relationships in the UK.

Emotional abuse was more widespread than physical or sexual abuse for the questionnaire and interview respondents, and both were more likely to identify physically and sexually abusive behaviours as 'domestic abuse'. As detailed in Appendix F, risk factors for abuse included age (under 35 years), lower income levels and to some extent lower educational attainment. Age and income level have also been identified as risk factors for domestic abuse in the BCS (Walby & Allen 2004). Our interviews indicated a strong link between experience of domestic abuse and first same sex relationship for both gay men and lesbians, which tended to be associated with younger age groups [see Appendix D]. Risk linked to income and educational levels are more difficult to explain. Where gay men are concerned, both our survey data and interviews indicated that financial abuse may be a particular concern. In the survey data gay men were significantly more likely than women to have their spending controlled (beyond the previous 12 months, Chi-square sig. at  $p < .05$ ).

Others have indicated that sexuality, particularly threats to out victim/survivors, is used as a tool of control in same sex abusive behaviours (e.g. Renzetti 1992). Our study showed sexuality being used in other ways including denigrating LGBT networks and insisting the relationship is kept closeted because the abuser is not out to isolate the victim/survivor.

#### 4.2.2 *Gender and power*

Echoing Ristock (2002), what is striking about abusive relationships is their heterogeneity. However, the similarities were also notable. In the survey data this included the range of abusive behaviours experienced by gay men and lesbians and impacts. The interviews indicated particular similarities between heterosexual women and lesbian and gay male experiences of abuse with regard to post-separation abuse.

The differences were, however, particularly interesting, and appear to reflect wider processes of gendering and gendered norms. In the survey data there were significant differences in the use of physically and sexually abusive behaviours (Chi-square sig. at  $p < .05$ ), with gay men more likely to use some of these behaviours. Men were significantly more likely to be kicked/ punched, physically threatened, or prevented from getting help. Sexual abuse was where the greatest gender differences occurred with male respondents significantly more likely than women to be forced into sexual activity, be hurt during sex, have 'safe' words or boundaries disrespected, have requests for safer sex refused, and be threatened with sexual assault. When both abuse and impact scales are taken into account sexual abuse stood out even more clearly as a risk factor for gay men [Appendix F]. With regard to impact of abuse, lesbians were significantly more likely to be affected by emotional and sexual abuse. Lesbians were much more likely to report that the abuse made them work harder so as 'to make their partner happy' or in order 'to stop making mistakes', that it had an impact on their children or their relationship with their children, or made them stop trusting people.

Interviews similarly indicated that abusive behaviours can be understood to be related to gendered behaviours: heterosexual women and gay men more typically experienced physical violence and physically violent sexual violence from male perpetrators; lesbians and heterosexual men more typically experienced emotional abuse from female perpetrators; gay

men typically experienced more financial abuse; and lesbians typically experienced more emotionally or physically coercive behaviours.

There was also some evidence from the qualitative data that abusive men tended to be more aggressively possessive whilst abusive women tended to be more desperately needy. In the former the abuse may be more easily identifiable as such. The severity of the abuse is also more evident. In the latter, abusive behaviour may be less identifiable, and more drawing in of the victim/survivor to want or feel obliged to 'fix' the abuser and the relationship.

Preliminary analysis has begun to apply the feminist 'gender and power' analysis of domestic abuse that problematises the social construction of masculinity in particular and explains domestic abuse as the exertion of power and control in both heterosexual and same sex intimate relationships within contexts of gender inequality. Moreover, the specific use of sexual abuse by men against men highlights the construction of male sexuality as social control as a 'male power' behaviour (Hester 1992).

#### *4.2.3 Narratives of love*

The existence of children, lack of resources and fear of consequences are just some of the reasons victim/survivors may stay in their abusive relationships (Radford & Hester 2006; Hester et al. 2007). In this study the interviews indicated that, in addition, love, can provide the 'glue' for keeping victim/survivors engaged with abusive relationships regardless of gender and sexuality. Most victim/survivors maintained that they loved their abusive partner but more said that their abuser loved them, the latter suggesting that abusers' declarations of love were another powerful hold over victim/survivors and providing further evidence that narratives of love continue to exist that do not achieve the ideal of disclosing intimacy.

The survey data highlighted the impact of emotional abuse on female respondents in particular. Gendered understandings and practices of love in the interviews also led to women being more willing to attempt to understand and explain their partners' abuse. Female interviewees, as in the survey, were more likely to want to attempt to help their abuser change their behaviour; to believe the abuser was dependent on them; and stay loyal to their abuser by keeping their experiences private. This was also consistent with the pattern in the interviews of women living with and staying longer with their abuser. Typically, those who did not live with their abusive partner had shorter abusive relationships. Heterosexual women were typically married to their abuser and this formal arrangement tended to provide an additional impetus to staying because of their commitment to and belief in being in the relationship 'forever'. As identified elsewhere (Hester et al. 2007), the formalisation of a (heterosexual) relationship may also initiate or lead to an increase in the perpetrator's abusive behaviour.

#### *4.2.4 The distribution of power in the enactment of relationship practices*

Relationship practices have the potential for being worked out in both egalitarian and non-egalitarian ways. In abusive heterosexual relationships they are often divided along gendered roles that are embodied in men and women and result in the abuse of women by men. However these practices are not inherently heterosexually masculine or feminine (Kelly 1996). Weeks et al. (2001) argued that the egalitarian ideal was understood to be easier to achieve in same sex relationships because they did not start out with gendered assumptions

about how relationships should work. Nevertheless they also came across accounts of same sex relationships in which there were abuses of power (Heaphy et al 1999b).

In this study, there were some similarities in the experiences from interviewees of domestically abusive relationship practices that occurred across different types of relationships: practices that define the boundaries of the relationship wherein people's activities and social contacts with others are controlled and minimised; and practices that undermine the self-perception of the victim/survivor.

Relationship practices related to decision-making showed differences along gender lines as abusive men were more likely to dictate entirely the terms of the relationship. This was more evident with gay men who typically did not live with their partner allowing the abusive partner to dictate when/how they saw each other.

Relationship practices related to the household division of labour showed a tendency for heterosexual women to be more likely to be responsible for this whilst in lesbian relationships this tended not to be an area of inequality. Since gay men tended not to live with their abusive partner these relationship practices did not tend to emerge as problematic.

#### *4.2.5 Mutual abuse versus intimate terrorism*

By incorporating questions on respondents' use of abusive behaviours against their partners, and contextual questions relating to these alongside the respondents' own experiences of domestically abusive behaviours and impacts, it was possible to explore the extent to which abuse experiences might be classified as mutual or uni-directional (see Appendix D section 7 Table 5).

Using the multidimensional combined scale (Scale B – see Appendix D) it is clear that of those respondents experiencing abuse most (86%) were *not* in mutually abusive relationships. Using the broader, single abuse item scale definition (Scale A – see Appendix D) a majority (71%) of those respondents experiencing abuse most (64%) were again *not* in mutually abusive relationships though this proportion is rather lower than for Scale A.

Typically, of those respondents experiencing abuse, male respondents, young respondents, and those living on low incomes appeared to be slightly more likely to be living in 'mutually abusive' relationships, though cell frequencies are too small to make robust inferences.

### **4.3 Help-seeking**

Of those individuals responding to the survey who said they had experienced domestic abuse, about one in five did not seek help from anyone (22.2%). Of those who did seek help most used 'informal' or 'private' means rather than voluntary or statutory sector services.

Comparing our data to that in the 2001 BCS Interpersonal Module (Walby & Allen 2004) indicates some similarities and differences in help-seeking patterns between heterosexual and LGBT communities. The biggest category with regard to help-seeking in both studies was friends/ relatives/ neighbours (the BCS combined these categories). A stark contrast, however, was the apparently much greater use of the police by victims in the BCS, where

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this was the second largest category. Also, female victims in the BCS were much more likely to contact the police, while in our survey the proportions for male and female respondents were similar (with men slightly more likely to use the police. The BCS only asked about contacting GPs or medical services if injury had been sustained. Here, the pattern was again very different to the general pattern of help-seeking in our survey, with women in the BCS most likely to contact GPs, while men in our survey were more likely to contact GPs. The BCS did not ask specifically about use of counsellors/therapists (a high category in our survey), although the use of mental health services by BCS respondents appeared to be very low.

## 5. Activities

Links were made with North East LGBT Workers' Network, Bristol City Council LGB Forum, Scottish LGBT Health Forum, Mesmac NE, Hart Gables, North Tees Women's Aid, the Advisory Group Member agencies and many researchers in related fields.

Presentations were made at:

- NE LGBT worker's Forum, November 2005;
- Launch of the Newcastle Domestic Violence Strategy, September 2006;
- Bristol City Council LGB Forum AGM, November 2006.

Two Dissemination Conferences were organised in December 2006 with approximately 300 practitioners, academics and policy makers, and launch of Interim Report [Appendix I for conference programmes and agencies attending]. Presentations were given by the CPS, MESMAC North East, EACH, and LGBT Youth Scotland. John Dunworth, Government Lead Officer for Domestic Abuse, provided keynote at both days.

## 6. Outputs

Numerous papers:

- BSA Annual Conference, Harrogate, April 2006:
  1. "Report from a survey comparing domestic violence in same sex and heterosexual relationships"
  2. "Comparing narratives of love in same sex and heterosexual relationships"
- Gay Divorce: A One Day Symposium, Kings College London, May 20 2006  
"Same sex relationships – when things go wrong"
- International Family Violence Conference, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, July, 2006  
"*Comparing Domestic Violence in Same Sex and Heterosexual Relationships: A View from a UK National Community Sample*"
- Abstracts have been accepted at:
  1. 2007 British Sociological Association Conference (2 papers);
  2. Sex and Relationship Education One Day Conference in London, May 2007
  3. Gender Unbound Conference at University of Westminster in July 2007.

Interim Report:

- *Comparing Domestic Abuse in Same Sex and Heterosexual Relationships*, November 2006  
[[www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research)]

To cite this output:

Donovan, Catherine. (2007). Comparing Love and Domestic Violence in Heterosexual and Same Sex Relationships: Full Research Report. ESRC End of Award Report, RES-000-23-0650. Swindon: ESRC

Articles in:

- Bristol LGBT Forum newsletter (November 2006);
- SAFE, a journal hosted by National Women's Aid (in press)

Datasets:

- Quantitative Dataset deposited with ESRC Data Archive – an embargo has been requested for this until 2009, subject to approval by the ESRC
- Qualitative Data set, anonymised summaries of in-depth interviews deposited with Qualidata – an embargo has been requested for this until 2009, subject to approval by the ESRC

A book is being discussed with Macmillan

## **7. Impacts**

Overwhelming success of the two dissemination conferences in December 2006 indicates significant interest in the research by policy-makers and practitioners. Feedback highlighted usefulness of the research in providing much needed evidence to support funding/resources for work in this area.

Media interest: The Co-Directors gave radio interviews on Century Radio, Kiss Radio and Radio Bristol. The Sunderland Echo and The Guardian reported the research.

Significant interest in the research from a range individuals and agencies nationally and internationally. Requests for Interim Report have been received from Australia, the USA and Sweden.

Asked to run a workshops at:

- CHAPS conference (Gay Men's Health Conference in London)
- Scottish LGBT Health Forum
- Barnardos NE Regional Conference

Invited to speak in the Sociology and Social Policy Seminar Series at the University of Bath.

Interim Report has been made available from the University of Bristol Web-site

The PI is on the NE Steering Group: Domestic Abuse in LGBT Relationships; and accepted as Trustee on Broken Rainbow.

The questionnaire was adapted for use as a risk assessment tool for working with victim/survivors of same sex domestic abuse [Cardiff Domestic Violence Project]

Recommendations in the Interim Report highlighted need for awareness raising within LGBT communities about same sex domestic abuse. We will contribute to that process by ongoing publication of key findings in the LGBT press.

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## 8. Future Research Priorities

- i. Exploration of links between low income and lower educational achievement and domestic abuse in same sex relationships
- ii. Black and minority ethnic same sex relationships
- iii. Comparison of same sex domestic abuse across different national contexts
- iv. Exploring further gender/ing processes in same sex relationships

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To cite this output:

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## **Appendices:**

**Appendix A: The Questionnaire – separate**

**Appendix B: Focus Group Guide – attached**

**Appendix C: Interview Guide – attached**

**Appendix D: Interim Report (Nominated  
Output) – separate**

**Appendix E: Advisory Group Membership  
attached**

**Appendix F: Questionnaire Survey Analysis  
attached**

**Appendix G: Survey Sample Profile - attached**

**Appendix H: Interview Sample Profile - attached**

**Appendix I: Dissemination Conferences  
Programmes and Agency Attendance Lists  
Attached`**

## Appendix B: The Focus Group Guide

Focus Group format:

1. Discussion-starter: Ask each participant to take a couple of minutes to write down how they know whether or not they love somebody?

**Prompts** [if they don't know what to write] might be how do you feel, what do you do? What is contrast between being in love and not being in love

Moderator make notes of similarities and differences and explore some of these

explore when they know they don't love somebody or when they fall out of love with somebody

2. What are the important influences on our ideas of what love is and what to expect from being in a relationship? Give out sheet and Ask them to rate in order of importance

Using Flip Chart: what did people put in their top three? And their bottom three. Is there agreement? Do 'cultural' rather than individuals have more/less influence – e.g. does film/music more than family and friends?

Were they surprised by what was important for people in group?  
Did anybody put in 'none of these' if yes ask so what do you think has influenced your ideas about love

Do you think men and women think differently about love?  
Do you think heterosexuals and non-heterosexuals think differently about being in love?

3. What are the best things about being in love?  
Prompts: Can love bring out the best in people?
4. What are the worst things about being in love?  
Prompts: jealousy, Can love bring out the worst in people?
5. What kinds of things does love tolerate that wouldn't be tolerated from other people?
6. What can change a loving relationship into an abusive one?
7. How much has love got to do with staying in a hurtful/abusive and/or violent relationship?

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8. This is the last question and we'd like everybody to say something. We are exploring how relationships that may start out being loving become painful, abusive or even violent. Why do you think that happens?

## Appendix C: The Interview Guide

**The focus of the interviews is to explore how love and abuse/violence interconnect in people's relationships. We are particularly interested in the threshold: when does love change/go away, at what point to people realise that the relationship is not good for them/that their partner is abusive; what can love tolerate before that point is reached?**

**The other issues we are trying to unpack are whether gender and /or sexuality has any influence on how people understand domestic abuse/violence: whether men tolerate higher levels of violence before they recognise it as such; and whether women identify violence/abuse much earlier and therefore have lower tolerance levels.**

**Demographics: (on separate sheet we ask them to fill in when we're asking them to fill in consent form)**

1. How many relationships have you had?

We're interested in exploring the best relationship and the worst relationship you've had.

**We'll start with the best. (check whether this is current or previous relationship)**

2. How did you meet? How did the relationship start?

3. Do you think you love/d them? How did you know?

4. Do you think they love/d you? How did you know?

5. Was/is this your first relationship? And/Or was this the first time you were in love?  
**And/OR was this your first same sex relationship?**

6. What are/were the best things about the relationship?

7. What are/were the worst things about the relationship?

8. Was there anything about your partner or their behaviour that you tolerated because you loved them?

9. Do you think there was anything about you/your behaviour that your partner tolerated because they loved you?

10. In general how did you make decisions in the relationship? Was it generally you or your partner who took the decisions or did you work things out together?

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Prompt list about: finances, housing, jobs, household tasks, sex, holidays, spending time together/with friends.

11. Did it feel that you both put the same into the relationship?

Prompt: re. Caring for each other, household tasks,

12. In general would you say one had more power in the relationship or was it shared/equal

13. Do you think you love/d each other equally or did/does one of you love the other more?

13. How did you deal with differences of opinion about money, friends, choices of holidays etc

Prompt: how did you resolve conflict/Did you argue about things? ?

14. What about sex? Was that mutually initiated or was one of you more likely to initiate than the other?

15. Did you ever talk to anybody about your relationship? Who? Did it help? Would you do it again?

16. Were/are there any differences between you and your partner in terms of

Age

Social Class

Degree of being out? Length of time of being out?

Disability

Race/ethnicity

Ill-health

Education

Income

The next three questions depends on how people talk about there being any of the above differences.

Did any of these have any influence on how you related to each other

Did any of these have any impact on how you resolved differences?

Did any of these have any impact on who had power in the relationship? In relation to what kinds of things?

17. Do/did you want this relationship to last? Why/why not?

18. Why did it end? What happened? Who ended it? Why?

## **Your worst relationship**

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If respondents don't have a 'worst relationship' explore with them the following:

- **You've talked about what you tolerate in your relationship because you love your partner, can you imagine what your partner could do that would mean you would seriously reconsider whether you loved them/ wanted to continue the relationship.**
- **[they may say breaking trust/infidelity in which case ask: what about in terms of how they behaved towards you in the relationship - what kinds of behaviours do you think would stretch you to your limits of tolerance [then can prompt, jealousy/possessiveness, anger, insecurity etc]**

19. How did you meet? How did the relationship start?

20. Do you think you love/d them? How did you know?

21. Do you think they love/d you? How did you know?

22. Was/is this your first relationship? And/Or was this the first time you were in love?  
And/**OR was this your first same sex relationship?**

**23.** What are/were the best things about the relationship?

24. What are/were the worst things about the relationship?

25. Was there anything about your partner or their behaviour that you tolerated because you loved them?

26. Do you think there was anything about you/your behaviour that your partner tolerated because they loved you?

27. In general how did you make decisions in the relationship? Was it generally you or your partner who took the decisions or did you work things out together?

Prompt list about: finances, housing, jobs, household tasks, sex, holidays, spending time together/with friends.

28. Did it feel that you both put the same into the relationship?

Prompt: re. Caring for each other, household tasks,

29. In general would you say one had more power in the relationship or was it shared/equal

30. Do you think you love/d each other equally or did/does one of you love the other more?

31. How did you deal with differences of opinion about money, friends, choices of holidays etc

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Prompt: how did you resolve conflict/Did you argue about things? ?

33. What about sex? Was one of you more likely to initiate sex than the other or was it mutual?

33. Did you ever talk to anybody about your relationship? Who? Did it help? Would you do it again?

34. Were/are there any differences between you and your partner in terms of

Age

Social Class

Degree of being out? Length of time of being out?

Disability

Race/ethnicity

Ill-health

Education

Income

Again it may not be necessary to ask each of these questions depending on how they respond

Did any of these have any influence on how you related to each other

Did any of these have any impact on how you resolved differences?

Did any of these have any impact on who had power in the relationship? In relation to what kinds of things?

35. Do/did you want this relationship to last? Why/why not?

36. Why did it end? What happened? Who ended it? Why?How did you meet? How did the relationship start?

37. When did you stop loving them?

38. At what point in the relationship did you realise you had reached the limits of what you could take? What did you do?

## **General**

Ending a relationship can be very difficult – whether or not the relationship has been good or bad.

39. Have you ever not wanted a relationship to end? What kinds of things have done to persuade somebody to stay in a relationship?

40. Have you ever tried to finish a relationship and been persuaded to stay?

41. Thinking about your experiences in relationships do you think your ideas about love and what to expect from love has changed over time?

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42. Do you think love brings out the best in us?

43. Do you think love brings out the worst in us? Have you ever done anything in a relationship that you are not proud of?

44. Have you ever experienced domestic violence/abuse? What do you mean by domestic abuse/violence?

45. Has your partner ever experienced domestic violence/abuse?

46. Do you think domestic abuse/violence is the same in straight and same sex relationships?

47. Do you think women and men experience domestic violence/abuse the same or differently?

48. Do you think women and men understand and/or do love and relationships differently?

49. Do you think LGB and straight people understand and/or do love relationships differently?

50. Can you remember

[keep in mind if they ever say 'I thought I loved them' to ask: what do you mean and what has made you say that you weren't really in love then?]

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## **Appendix D: Interim Report (Nominated Output) Separate**



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## **APPENDIX E**

### **Advisory Group**

Two meetings of the Advisory Group were held towards the beginning and middle of the research. Further contact was made by email with Advisory Group members to report on progress and to obtain feedback on research instruments and the initial (November 2006) report. Advisory Group members also acted as Chairs at the two dissemination conferences held in December 2006.

The research was informed by an Advisory Group consisting of representatives from the following organisations:

Rob Williamson, Northern Rock Foundation, The Old Chapel, Woodbine Road, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE3 1DD 0191 284 8412 [rob.williamson@nr-foundation.org.uk](mailto:rob.williamson@nr-foundation.org.uk)

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Alex Muir-McKenzie, Equality & Diversity Officer, Mercantile House, Hampshire Terrace, Portsmouth. PO1 2EG [Alexandra.Muir-McKenzie@port.ac.uk](mailto:Alexandra.Muir-McKenzie@port.ac.uk)

# Questionnaire Survey of Domestic Abuse in Same Sex Relationships

## 1. Survey Data Description

The results outlined here summarise the views and experiences of 746 respondents drawn from a UK-wide survey of domestic abuse in same sex relationships. The sample design and methodology, and the characteristics of the achieved sample themselves, are described elsewhere. Here, we focus upon respondents' views and experiences of domestic abuse, specifically with regard to its prevalence and impact upon respondents, and with regard to the significance of these findings in understanding the nature of respondents intimate relationships. Where appropriate we also seek to draw attention to significant differences between sample sub-groups in their responses to these issues. The remainder of this section describes the main substantive topic areas covered by the survey.

### 1.1 Respondents' experiences of abuse

The survey elicits responses to a wide range of questions pertaining to respondents' experience of emotional abuse (27 items), physical abuse (13 items), and sexual abuse (9 items) both within the last 12 months and earlier, in each case asking respondents whether they had 'never', 'sometimes' or 'often' experienced the behaviour in question. The survey also elicits respondents' views about the impacts of domestic abuse based upon a multi-response survey item listing 26 possible outcomes and inviting respondents to tick all that apply in relation to emotional, physical and sexual abuse separately. In addition, respondents are also asked to identify whether their responses related to the behaviour of a current partner, to a previous partner, or to both

### 1.2 Partners' experiences of abuse

Modified question sets pertaining to emotional, physical and sexual abuse were also used to explore the behaviour of respondents themselves, and the views of respondents as to the reasons for their behaviour were also surveyed by eliciting responses to a multi-response question comprising 21 items. As a result it is possible to estimate the prevalence of mutually abusive relationships and the characteristics of these relationships (e.g. controlling behaviour, defensive behaviour, etc.).

### 1.3 Decision-making within relationships

The survey investigates the locus of decision-making within relationships based upon a 22-item series of questions in which respondents are asked to identify whether decisions are usually made by the respondent, the partner, or by both. A related question taps respondents' views about the nature of disagreements within partnerships which seek to estimate the extent of disagreement based upon a series of eighteen 4-point Likert type question items ('never'/'rarely'/'sometimes'/'often').

### 1.4 Open response items

A series of further open-response questions give respondents the opportunity to outline their view on the nature of domestic abuse, whether (and how) it differs from that experienced within heterosexual relationships, whether they or their partner have experienced domestic abuse, and finally what should be done about it. Hence it is also

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possible to compare the incidence of domestic abuse within the sample as defined by respondents (Item 6.3) and as identified using the question items described above.

## **2. Incidence Of Abuse**

Table 1 (*below*) shows the overall incidence of domestic abuse across the sample as a whole. These data illustrate that in general emotional abuse appears to be more widespread than physical and sexual abuse. Those forms of abuse experienced by more than 10% of respondents within the last 12 months are summarised below:

- isolated from friends
- regularly insulted/put down
- told what to do/who to see
- frightened by things your partner says/does
- isolated from relatives
- made to do most housework
- your spending control
- your age used against you
- your education used against you
- slapped/pushed/shoved
- had sex for sake of peace

In general however gender differences in respondents' reporting of the extent of domestic abuse were not marked and in most cases were not significant at the .05 level<sup>1</sup>. Much more marked social differences in reported abuse were evident in relation to respondents' age group, self-reported income band, and educational achievement.

### 2.1 Emotional Abuse

In relation to the individual items described in Table 1 (*below*) certain behaviours were significantly more prevalent amongst the following sample sub-groups:

- *Younger respondents (under 35)*: isolated from friends; not being a real gay/lesbian; threatened with 'outing'; spending controlled; age used against respondent; sexuality used against respondent
- *Low educational attainers*: isolated from relatives; not being a real gay/lesbian; spending controlled; told what to do; property damaged; threats to harm someone close; malicious phone calls; frightened by partner
- *Low income respondents*: isolated from friends; put down/insulted; threatened with 'outing'; religion used against respondent; disability used against respondent; blamed for self-harm; frightened by partner; medicines withheld

### 2.2 Physical Abuse

In relation to the individual items described in Table 1 (*below*) certain behaviours were significantly more prevalent amongst the following sample sub-groups:

- *Gay men*: kicked/punched; physically threatened; prevented from getting help
- *Younger respondents (under 35)*: slapped/pushed; kicked/punched; bitten; held down; strangled; hit with an object; stalked
- *Low educational attainers*: slapped/pushed; kicked/punched; held down; physically threatened; stalked; locked out
- *Low income respondents*: bitten; held down; prevented from getting help; stalked

### 2.3 Sexual Abuse

In relation to the individual items described in Table 1 (*below*) certain behaviours were significantly more prevalent amongst the following sample sub-groups:

- *Gay men*: forced into sex; hurt during sex; refused safer sex; 'safe' words disrespected; threats of abuse
- *Younger respondents (under 35)*: Hurt during sex; refused safer sex; safe words disrespected; sexually assaulted
- *Low income respondents*: touched inappropriately; hurt during sex; safe words disrespected; sexually assaulted; threats of abuse; raped

Table 1: Incidence of Emotional, Physical and Sexual Abuse (%)

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<sup>1</sup> Based upon Pearson's Chi Square with continuity correction

		Ever	Last 12 months
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	isolated from friends	53.1	34.5
	regularly insulted/put down	45.1	25.4
	told what to do/who to see	39.9	22.5
	frightened by things your partner says/does	41.0	21.8
	isolated from relatives	34.6	21.6
	made to do most housework	27.6	18.5
	your spending control	26.7	18.1
	your age used against you	22.7	14.0
	your education used against you	20.4	11.5
	your class used against you	18.2	9.9
	your sexuality used against you	16.1	8.7
	accused of not being real gay man/lesbian	17.4	8.7
	blamed for partners misuse of alcohol/drugs	15.3	7.8
	malicious/pestering phone calls	20.5	7.7
	your religion used against you	8.6	6.3
	blamed for partners self-harm	13.5	6.1
	property damaged/burnt	15.3	5.3
	children actually hurt	7.3	4.7
	your disability used against you	6.3	4.3
	threats to stop contact with children	7.5	3.9
	threats to harm someone close to you	8.3	3.4
	threats to 'out' you to lose your children	7.3	3.1
	threats to hurt your children	7.5	3.0
threatened with being 'outed'	8.6	2.8	
your race used against you	3.4	1.5	
pet abused	4.1	1.5	
your medicines withheld	1.4	0.7	
PHYSICAL ABUSE	slapped/pushed/shoved	32.3	14.3
	physically threatened	20.8	8.9
	kicked/punched	17.5	7.0
	restrained/held down/tied up	14.8	6.2
	threatened with an object/weapon	4.4	4.0
	stalked/followed by partner	13.7	3.7
	bitten	7.3	2.9
	choked/strangled/suffocated	7.7	2.8
	hit with an object/weapon	7.5	2.8
	beaten up	9.2	2.6
	locked out of house/room by partner	7.8	2.6
	prevented from getting help for injuries	4.4	1.7
	burned	1.6	0.6
SEXUAL ABUSE	had sex for sake of peace	32.3	18.4
	touched in way that caused fear/alarm/distress	14.6	5.3
	hurt during sex	14.1	5.3
	forced into sexual activity	14.4	4.1

'safe' words/boundaries disrespected	9.3	3.8
refused your request for safer sex	7.8	2.7
sexually assaulted/abused	8.6	2.1
threats to sexually assault/abuse	5.7	1.2
raped	5.3	0.8

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### 3. The Impact of Abuse

Table 2 (*below*) shows the overall impact of domestic abuse across the sample as a whole in relation to each dimension of abuse reported here. It is perhaps unsurprising (given its prevalence within the sample) that the impact of emotional abuse was most frequently cited by respondents, with 16 of the 25 applicable items relating to emotional abuse being reported by at least one in five respondents as detailed in Table 2 (*below*). Nonetheless, 5 of the 27 items applicable to physical abuse were also reported by at least one in five respondents, and one fifth (20%) of respondents also reported that sexual abuse 'had affected sexual side of [their] relationship'.

Gender differences in the impact of abuse were limited to emotional abuse with female respondents being significantly more likely to report a range of impacts of emotional abuse on their lives than male respondents. Again low income and educational attainment are associated with heightened impact of emotional, physical and in some cases sexual abuse though this typically relates to a limited number of indicators as summarised below:

### 3.1 Impact of Emotional Abuse

In relation to the individual items described in Table 2 (*below*) the impact of emotional abuse was significantly more prevalent amongst the following sample sub-groups:

- *Female respondents*: worked harder to make partner happy; worked harder to stop making mistakes; negatively affected relationship with children
- *Older respondents (35 and over)*: Negatively affected relationship with children
- *Low educational attainers*: Feared for own life; retaliated by shouting at partner; emotional problems or depression; stopped trusting people; felt worthless; felt sadness; felt panic/loss of concentration; felt angry/shocked; self-harmed/felt suicidal
- *Low income respondents*: Stopped trusting people; self-harmed/felt suicidal

### 3.2 Impact of Physical Abuse

In relation to the individual items described in Table 2 (*below*) the impact of physical abuse was significantly more prevalent amongst the following sample sub-groups:

- *Low educational attainers*: felt sadness; worried partner may leave; feared for own life; felt had to watch what said and did
- *Low income respondents*: made you feel loved/wanted;

### 3.3 Impact of Sexual Abuse

In relation to the individual items described in Table 2 (*below*) the impact of sexual abuse was significantly more prevalent amongst the following sample sub-groups:

- *Female respondents*: stopped trusting people; worked harder to make partner happy; negatively affected relationship with children
- *Low educational attainers*: lost respect for partner; injuries that needed medical help

Table 2: The Impact of Emotional, Physical and Sexual Abuse (%)

	Emotional	Physical	Sexual
made you feel love/wanted	6.6	2.6	2.2
lost respect for partner	33.9	22.3	15.2
made you want to leave partner	35.2	21.0	13.6
emotional/sleeping problems/depression	34.7	18.6	14.4
stopped trusting people	13.7	10.4	6.2
stopped trusting partner	32.0	21.8	14.0
felt unable to cope	20.2	14.3	10.0
felt worthless/lost confidence	34.7	18.4	13.8
felt sadness	42.3	21.0	16.0
felt anxious/panic/lost concentration	28.5	17.8	13.6
felt embarrassed/stupid	30.4	17.0	14.8
felt isolated/stopped going out	24.2	13.8	7.3
felt angry/shocked	33.8	24.5	12.6
self harmed/felt suicidal	13.1	9.2	6.7

worried partner might leave you	20.1	8.8	6.0
defended yourself/children/property/pets	8.2	8.2	2.9
feared for your own life	6.2	7.4	3.8
retaliated by shouting at your partner	30.2	14.9	4.8
retaliated by hitting your partner	6.8	9.3	2.1
physical injuries eg. bruising/scratches	na	14.7	5.5
injuries that needed medical help	na	5.1	1.9
affected sexual side of your relationship	37.1	18.9	20.0
worked harder to make partner happy	21.6	8.8	6.4
worked harder to stop making mistakes	18.1	8.1	5.2
felt had to watch what you say/do	35.3	16.6	8.9
Lost contact with your children	0.4	0.3	0.1
negatively affected relationship with children	3.7	1.6	0.7

#### 4. Partner Abuse

Table 3 (*below*) illustrates the extent of reported abuse of partners by the respondent themselves. It is perhaps unsurprising that the overall incidence of self-reported abuse of partners is significantly lower than that respondents report experiencing themselves – whether as a result of their partners actions or otherwise. This may reflect the social opprobrium associated with domestic abuse and/or unmeasured differences in sampling probabilities.

##### 4.1 Respondents' Reasons for their Behaviour

Nonetheless, it is also useful to investigate the respondents' explanations of reasons for their behaviour, specifically with regard to the extent to which respondents view their actions as motivated essentially by self-defence or alternatively by a desire to control their partner's behaviour. Of the 21 items which seek to tap respondents' explanations for their abusive behaviour, 5 can be broadly be defined as 'defensive' strategies. These are listed below together with the percentage of respondents offering this as a reasons for their behaviour:

- they hit you first (7.2%)
- to protect yourself from them (7.6%)
- to retaliate against them (9.0%)
- to protect children/relatives/friends (0.8%)
- to protect property pets (1.6%)

In total, 108 respondents answered at least one of these questions and 64 respondents answered two or more of these questions positively. This suggests that a significant proportion of respondents living in 'mutually abusive' relationships may simply be seeking to defend themselves or others from further abuse. This theme is explored further in Section 7 (*below*).



*Table 3: Emotional, Physical and Sexual Abuse of Partners by Respondent (%)*

		Ever	Last 12 months
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	insulted/put them down	17.2	13.8
	told them what to do/who to see	13.5	11.0
	Frightened them with things you said/did	13.3	10.1
	Controlled their spending	11.8	9.5
	isolated partner from friends	9.2	7.3
	age/class/education against them	7.4	5.5
	made them do most of the housework	6.3	5.4
	isolated partner from relatives	5.1	4.1
	blamed for your misuse of alcohol/drugs	6.6	3.8
	blamed them for your self harm	6.0	3.4
	religion/disability/race against them	2.5	2.5
	made malicious/pestering phone calls	3.3	2.0
	threatened to 'out' them	3.4	1.7
	Damaged/burned their property	2.6	1.1
	abused their pet	0.7	0.8
threatened to harm someone close	0.7	0.6	
withheld their medicines	0.4	0.2	
PHYSICAL ABUSE	slapped/pushed/shoved	21.9	9.2
	Restrained/held down/tied up	7.0	4.1
	Physically threatened	7.1	3.4
	kicked/punched	6.8	3.2
	Bitten	3.0	1.9
	hit with an object/weapon	2.2	1.2
	threatened with an object weapon	2.7	1.2
	choked/strangled/suffocated	1.6	0.9
	locked a partner in a house/room	1.9	0.9
	stalked followed a partner	3.7	0.6
	beaten up	1.2	0.3
	Burned	0.5	0.3
	prevented from getting help for injuries	0.4	0.2
SEXUAL ABUSE	touched in a way that caused fear/distress	2.2	1.8
	hurt during sex	2.7	1.7
	forced into sexual activity	2.2	1.5
	disrespected their 'safe' words/boundaries	1.4	0.9
	refused their request for safer sex	1.0	0.8
	raped them	0.1	0.2
	sexually assaulted/abused them in any way	0.4	0.0
	threatened them with sexual assault/abuse	0.0	0.0

## 5. Item Reliability and Scaling

Clearly in order to make sense of these data it is useful to assess whether these items can in fact be combined to form one or more summary scales. This is important not only with respect to clarity in the dissemination of findings but also in seeking to establish the validity and reliability of the items described above – that is, the extent to which the items are truly measuring the same underlying construct and whether would be likely to give similar results each time they are used.

The construct validity of the emotional, physical and sexual abuse items can be established on the basis of the association between these individual items and a variable known *a priori* to be well-correlated with the underlying concept we wish to measure. In this situation it is therefore useful to examine the association between self-defined experience of abuse and the instances of abuse which respondents report. The reliability of the resulting scale can then be estimated on the basis of classical reliability theory (Cronbach's Alpha) - and refined in an iterative fashion to produce optimal indices of abuse the components of which are both valid and reliable.

### 5.1 Construct Validity

The results described here relate to indicators of respondent and partner abuse, and of the impacts of abuse, pertaining to *the 'last 12 months' only*. These data show that self-defined abuse is more closely correlated with abuse based upon an unrestricted time window compared to measures based on the previous 12 months only. This is to be expected since the self-reported measure is itself not based upon a specified time window. However, these measures are also subject to substantial recall error and the 'face validity' of the resultant data is therefore questionable. Given that these data are also not directly comparable with BCS estimates, the 12 month time window is preferred here.

In the event, all of the items measuring physical and sexual abuse proved to be significantly associated with self-defined abuse based upon the Pearson Chi Square test (with continuity correction) at the .05 level, and in most cases at the .01 level or higher. With the exception of emotional abuse items relating to children only two fall below the .05 threshold (isolated from relatives; your age used against you) and both are in fact significant at the .1 level or less. Aside from the four items referring to children in the emotional abuse module, all the other emotional, physical and sexual abuse items are therefore included in the reliability analysis.

### 5.2 Reliability Analysis

All three potential scales relating to emotional, physical and sexual abuse produced Cronbach's Alpha scores in excess to the 0.7 value conventionally taken as a threshold of reliability in social survey and psychometric studies. Indeed, once a number of unreliable items are removed from the scales, Alpha scores for respondent abuse are all in excess of 0.8 indicating that the scales all share a common variance with any other possible scales of 64% or greater.

Based upon these results it is therefore clearly plausible to construct scales measuring emotional, physical, and sexual abuse based upon a simple aggregation of responses to the relevant individual scale components. The scores and resulting scale construction for the respondent abuse scales is detailed below, and a similar procedure has been applied to assess the reliability of the domestic abuse impacts scales and that pertaining to respondents' abuse of their partners:

- *Emotional Abuse*. These indicators can be reliably scaled (Alpha=.865) producing an 20-item scale with achieved values in the range 0 to 17 (with 58 missing cases)
- *Physical Abuse*. These indicators can be reliably scaled (Alpha=.895) producing an 11-item scale with achieved values in the range 0 to 11 (with 73 missing cases)
- *Sexual Abuse*. These indicators can be reliably scaled (Alpha=.807) producing an 8-item scale with achieved values in the range 0 to 8 (with 67 missing cases)
- *Combined Abuse*. These indicators can be reliably scaled (Alpha=.915) producing an 38-item scale with achieved values in the range 0 to 35 (with 49 missing cases).
- *Partner abuse (combined)*. Indicators of respondent's abuse towards partners can be reliably scaled (Alpha=.839) producing an 28-item scale with achieved values in the range 0 to 25 (with 65 missing cases).

## 6. Analysis of Domestic Abuse and Impact Scales

The individual abuse scales can be then be correlated against various social and demographic predictors using Spearman's rank correlation, a non-parametric equivalent of Pearson's R. With regard to respondents' own experiences of abuse, the following predictors are significantly associated (at the .1 level or higher) with higher scores:

- *Emotional abuse*: Younger respondents (under 35); low educational attainers; low income respondents
- *Physical abuse*: Younger respondents (under 35); low educational attainers; low income respondents
- *Sexual abuse*: Male respondents; younger respondents (under 35); low educational attainers; low income respondents
- *Combined abuse scale*: Younger respondents (under 35); low educational attainers; low income respondents

A key question that immediately arises in analysing these scales based upon interval level measurement is how can we establish a threshold in order to distinguish between respondents defined as 'abused' and those defined as 'not abused' – either in relation to emotional, physical and sexual abuse separately, or in relation to a combined scale. It is of course possible to establish a predetermined threshold based upon the observed frequencies as, for example, 'three or more' instances of abuse - or on the basis of some predetermined proportion of cases (e.g. the upper quartile or decile).

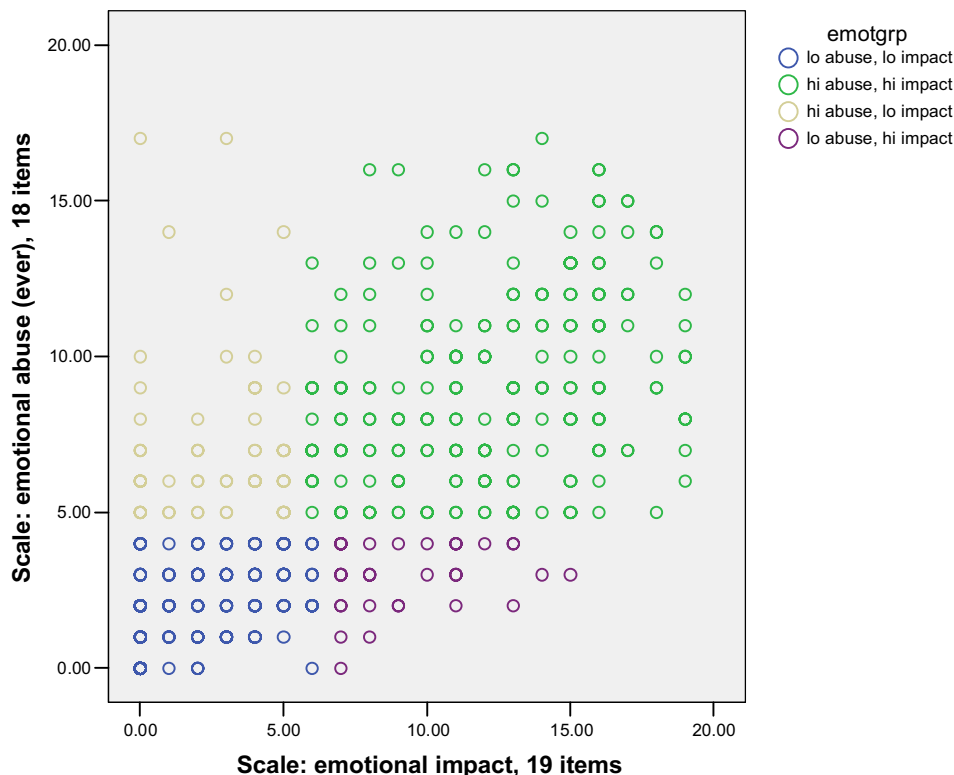
### 6.1 Establishing Thresholds of Domestic Abuse

However, any such approach is inherently vulnerable to the charge that the threshold is essentially arbitrary and that very different results may be obtained using a different cut-off. A more theoretically adequate approach might begin by examining the relationship between the incidence of abuse and it's impact on respondents lives since we can assume that in general higher levels of abuse should be associated with a greater impact upon respondents. The empirical (Spearman's rank) correlation between scores on the impact scales and abuse scales relating to the previous 12 months supports this assertion with strong correlations evident between

impact and emotional abuse (.503,  $p < .001$ ), physical abuse (.463,  $p < .001$ ) and sexual abuse (.432,  $p < .001$ ).

Since the incidence and impacts of domestic abuse can indeed therefore be assumed to be theoretically interdependent, establishing the optimal threshold for any set of impacts and abuse items can be achieved by maximising the statistical 'fit' between these scales using techniques such as one-way ANOVA. This can be represented graphically – and this is illustrated by Figure 1 (*below*).

Figure 1: Modelling the Relationship Between the Incidence and Impact of Abuse – A Worked Example



This graph plots values for the impact and abuse scales relating to emotional abuse at any unspecified point in the respondents lives. These data show a clear relationship between abuse and impact but also smaller number of cases where respondents are experiencing either high abuse and low impact or vice versa. Through analysis of variance we can identify the optimal fit between these two variables – in this case at about 7 on the x-axis (impacts) and 4 on the y-axis (abuse). Pursuing this approach gives rise to four distinct groups as identified in the legend. Respondents are therefore identified as experiencing domestic abuse if they report both high levels of abusive behaviour *and* report that this has a significant impact upon their lives. Using this approach we identify two separate scales as defined below:

## 6.2 Any Abuse (Scale A)

This scale estimates the incidence of abuse separately for emotional, physical and sexual abuse, i.e. based on multidimensional measurement, with prevalence rates varying between 6.7% (sexual) to 14.1% (emotional). The individual thresholds are defined as follows:

- *Emotional*: Respondents are classified as 'emotionally abused' if they score 5+ on this scale and 7+ on the emotional impacts scale - identifying 105 respondents (14.1% of the valid sample). A majority (58%) of respondents reported that instances of emotional abuse arose solely from the behaviour of a previous partner. Of those categorised here as emotionally abused just over half (52%) stated that this was solely the result of the behaviour of a previous partner.
- *Physical*: Respondents are classified as 'physically abused' if they score 1+ on this scale and 4+ on the physical impacts scale - identifying 72 respondents (9.7% of the valid sample). A majority (71%) of respondents reported that instances of physical abuse arose solely from the behaviour of a previous partner. Of those categorised here as physically abused over half (56%) stated that this was solely the result of the behaviour of a previous partner.
- *Sexual*: Respondents are classified as 'sexually abused' if they score 1+ on this scale and 4+ on the sexual impacts scale - identifying 50 respondents (6.7% of the valid sample). A majority (67%) of respondents reported that instances of sexual abuse arose solely from the behaviour of a previous partner. Of those categorised here as sexually abused a similar proportion (67%) again stated that this was solely the result of the behaviour of a previous partner.

The summary indicator used here defines a respondent as 'abused' if their scores on any of the separate incidence/impact scales is above the threshold - 19.0% of the valid sample

## 6.3 Cumulative Abuse (Scale B)

This scale estimates the incidence of respondent and partner abuse, and of the impacts of abuse, based on a unified measurement scale. It is assumed here that emotional, physical, and sexual abuse are one-dimensional. These indicators can be reliably scaled (as described above). The summary indicator used here defines a respondent as 'abused' if their scores on the *combined* incidence/impact scale is above the threshold - 7.5% of the valid sample.

## 6.4 Classification of Respondents

Overall the cumulative abuse scale (Scale B) identifies only two fifths (39.4%) of those classified as 'abused' on any of the separate scales as abused on the combined measure. All of those identified as 'abused' using the separate individual scales (Section 6.2) are also classified as 'abused' on the cumulative scale. Table 4 (*below*) presents a classification table of respondents for these measures using respondents group memberships for the separate emotional, physical and sexual abuse scales as the unit of classification (rows). The first two data columns (Columns B & C) show the total number of respondents thus classified and this figure expressed as a percentage of all those classified as abused using the individual scales. The next two data columns (Columns D & E) show the number and percentage within each of these groups who define themselves as having experienced abuse. The final two data columns (Columns F & G) show the number and percentage of cases within these groups who are also defined as abused using the cumulative scale.

Table 4 shows that a majority (52.8%) of those identified as 'abused' on *any* of the individual scales are abused in relation to one dimension only - primarily emotional abuse (42 cases) but also physical and sexual abuse only (22 and 11 cases respectively). In comparison with the separate measures, the combined scale mainly identifies those respondents experiencing multiple types of abuse (i.e. Groups 4 to 7, below). Taken together these groups account for 92.8% of the 'Cumulative Abused' sample of 56 respondents.

These results thus suggest that the Cumulative Abuse scale (Scale B) is more effective in targeting the more extreme end of the abuse spectrum. Considering the profile of responses to the combined 38-item cumulative abuse scale (Section 5.2), respondents classified as 'cumulative abused' (Scale B) on average recorded no fewer than 16 positive responses in relation to these abuse questions, compared with 11 positive responses for those classified as 'abused' on any of the individual scales (Scale A).

*Table 4: Domestic Abuse Group Memberships and Proportions Within Groups Self Reporting and 'Cumulative Abused'*

	Scale:		~ AND self-defined		~ AND cumulative	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Emotional only	42	29.6	11	27	2	5
2. Physical only	22	15.5	16	73	2	9
3. Sexual only	11	7.7	5	45	0	0
4. Emotional & physical	28	19.7	20	71	23	82
5. Emotional & sexual	17	12.0	7	41	12	71
6. Physical & sexual	4	2.8	3	75	0	0
7. Emotional, physical & sexual	18	12.7	18	100	17	94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>39</b>

### 6.5 Group Memberships and Self-defined Abuse

Table 4 (above) suggests that, in the view of respondents', domestic abuse is most closely associated with experiences of physical abuse and, to a lesser extent, with sexual abuse, rather than with emotional abuse per se. Thus, of those respondents classified as experiencing significant abuse relating to one dimension only as defined above (Section 6.2), only 27% of those experiencing 'emotional abuse only' (Group 1) also self-defined as abused. In contrast, nearly three quarters (73%) of those defined as experiencing 'physical abuse only' (Group 2) also self-defined as abused, and nearly half (45%) of those experiencing 'sexual abuse only' (Group 3) also self-defined as abused. Self-defined was most closely identified with multiple forms of abuse (Groups 4 to 7), and especially with abuse in all three dimensions where *all* 18 respondents classified in this way also self-defined as 'abused'.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, therefore, the fit between these summary measures and self-defined abuse is also much closer for the cumulative scale (Scale B) than for the 'any abuse' (Scale A) measure. In total, 77% of those identified as 'cumulative abused' also define themselves as having experienced domestic abuse, compared with 56% of respondents classified as 'abused' on the basis of their group membership within any of the separate scales relating to emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

### 6.6 Group Memberships and Social Differences

Having developed these summary scales on the basis of the fit between abuse and impacts for the above dimensions of abuse separately (Scale A) and for a combined scale (Scale B) it is therefore possible to investigate between group differences in group membership using standard Chi Square-based measures of association. The association between the various social demographic variables and the summary group memberships defined by Scales A and B can be assessed using Cramer's V where the strength of the association varies between 0 (no association) and 1 (perfect association). Results which are significant at the .1 confidence level are shown below:

- *Any abuse (Scale A):*
  - Younger respondents (under 35) ( $V=.077$ ,  $p<.0$ )
  - Low educational attainers ( $V=.072$ ,  $p<.0$ )
- *Cumulative Abuse (Scale B):*
  - Younger respondents (under 35) ( $V=.062$ ,  $p<.0$ )
  - Low educational attainers ( $V=.069$ ,  $p<.0$ )

These results suggest that both low educational attainment and relative youth are both significantly though weakly associated with an elevated risk of domestic abuse, whether defined in terms of relatively more extreme forms of abuse (Scale B) or adopting a lower threshold of abuse (Scale A). Neither gender nor sexuality are significant predictors of overall group membership though a limited number of individual abuse items are significantly associated with these variables as described above (Sections 2.1-2.3).

## 7. The Nature of Partner Relationships

Since data is not available on the impact of abuse on partners it is not possible to identify a threshold of abuse in the same way as for respondents as described above (Sections 6.1-6.3). In the absence of such data we have defined two thresholds which identify *similar proportions* of partners as experiencing abuse as are identified in Scales A and B above. This gives rise to a lower threshold (corresponding to Scale A) of 2+ items (20.7% of respondents) and a higher threshold (corresponding to Scale B) of 4+ items (7.2% of respondents).

### 7.1 *Classifying Respondent's Partner Relationships*

On this basis it is therefore possible to classify respondent's intimate relationships as shown in Table 5 (*below*). However, it is worth noting that of those respondents reporting having abused their partner in the last 12 months a substantial proportion explained their actions in terms of strategies that be broadly described as 'defensive' strategies as described above (Section 4.1), i.e. protecting themselves or others, retaliation, etc.

Of those respondents reporting 4 or more instances of abuse of their partner (i.e. a frequency consistent with Scale B, above), more than half (51%) cited one or more reasons related to protecting themselves or others, or retaliation against their partner's violence, and well over a quarter (29%) cited two or more reasons of this nature. Of those respondents reporting 2 or more instances of abuse of their partner (i.e. a frequency consistent with Scale A, above), nearly a third (32%) cited one or more reasons related to protecting themselves or others, or retaliation against their partner's violence, and over one fifth (21%) cited two or more reasons of this nature.

Clearly, it would be inappropriate to characterise a relationship as 'mutually abusive' where the motivations for the respondents actions are strongly associated with a

desire to protect themselves or others, or constitute a retaliation against their partner's violence. In cases where respondents have responded positively to *two or more* items of this type (as described in Section 4.1) these cases are re-classified as 'respondent only abuse' rather than as mutually abusive relationships.

The overall profile of respondents' partner relationships is illustrated in Table 5 (*below*). Using the narrower, more multidimensional definition (Scale B) it is clear that the overwhelming majority (88%) of respondents are *not* in abusive relationships, and of those respondents experiencing abuse most (86%) are *not* in mutually abusive relationships. Using the broader, single scale definition (Scale A) a majority (71%) of respondents are again *not* in abusive relationships in mutually abusive relationships, and of those respondents experiencing abuse most (64%) are again *not* in mutually abusive relationships though this proportion is rather lower than for Scale A.

Table 5: Relationship Type By Abuse Scale

Relationship Type:	Scale A		Scale B	
	N	%	N	%
Mutually abusive	51	7.5	9	1.3
Respondent abused	89	13.1	47	6.9
Partner abused	60	8.8	26	3.8
Non-abusive	481	70.6	599	88.0
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>681</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>681</i>	<i>100</i>

In general of those respondents experiencing abuse, male respondents, young respondents, and those living on low incomes appear to be slightly more likely to be living in 'mutually abusive' relationships, though cell frequencies are too small to make robust inferences.



## APPENDIX G

### The questionnaire sample

#### Summary

- Nearly two thirds of the questionnaire respondents were women (60.5%, n=451) and a third were men (37.5%, n=280). Women were most likely to identify as 'lesbian', men as 'gay man'. Four transgendered individuals identified as bisexual, gay woman, lesbian and queer.
- The ages of respondents ranged from under 16 years to late 60s, mean 35.37. Most were in their 20s and 30s. Our study thus involved a wider range of ages than the SIGMA UK surveys (Henderson 2003).
- The survey reflected the ethnic composition of the UK population.
- 11.1% (79/713) of respondents had a disability.
- The income level was slightly higher than the population generally and reflected the UK income inequality between men and women.
- One in five women parented children (21.7%) and only 7.2% of the men.
- Most respondents (86.5%) had been in a same sex relationship during the past 12 months, and most were currently in such a relationship (70.5%). Men predominated in shorter relationships, lasting up to one year, but also in relationships lasting two to five years or more than 20 years; women had longer relationships, between one and twenty years (Chi-square:  $X^2=15.503, p=.03$ ).

#### The 746 sample

A database of same sex individuals was created from the questionnaire survey data. From the original 800 cases, anyone identifying as heterosexual in 'your sexuality' (Q 1.5) was excluded, as was anyone whose sexuality was unknown, which resulted in 45 cases being removed. A further 9 individuals who had apparently never had a relationship were also excluded (this included one transgender individual and one bisexual under age 16 years). This resulted in a final data set of 746 individuals.

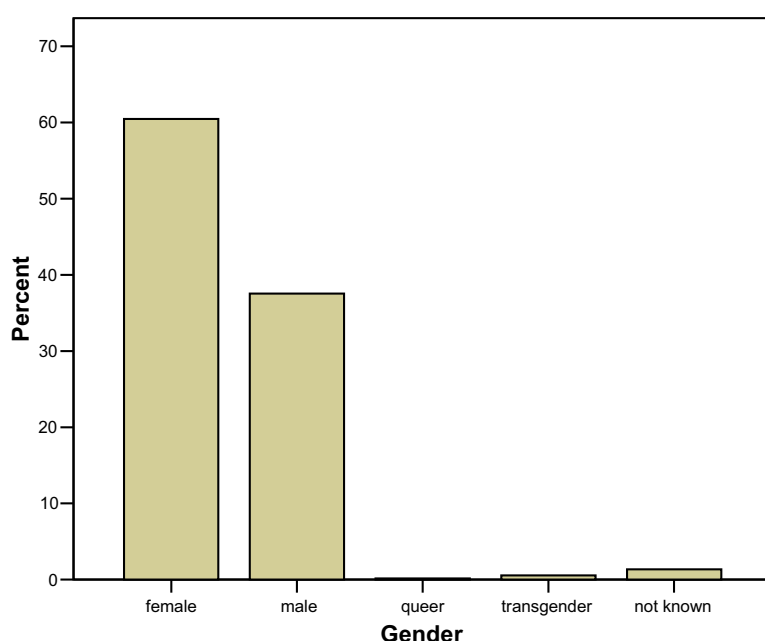
#### 1. Gender (n=736)

In cases where no gender was recorded but gender was non the less obvious because of sexuality being reported as 'gay man', gay woman' or 'lesbian', or where gender had been identified through the interview sample, gender was assigned. This resulted in 451 women (60.5%) and 280 men (37.5%), with a total of 731. The remainder were 4 transgendered individuals (0.5%), one queer (0.1%) and a further 10 individuals (1.3%) whose gender was unknown. (Graph 1.1 and Table 1.1). In what follows, analysis involving gender will include only the 736 individuals identified as female, male, transgender or queer.

**Table 1.1 - Gender**

	Frequency	Percent
female	451	60.5
male	280	37.5
queer	1	.1
transgender	4	.5
not known	10	1.3
Total	746	100.0

**Graph 1.1- Gender**



## 2. Sexuality (n=746)

Women were most likely to identify as 'lesbian', with more than two-thirds of women (69.6%, 314/451) defining in this way. The second largest category was 'gay woman' (16.4%, 74/451). Men mainly identified as 'gay man', with more than three-quarters of the men identifying as gay (76.4%, 214/280). The second largest category among the male respondents was homosexual (18.2%, 51/278). Other categorisations used were bisexual and queer (Table 2.1).

More women than men defined themselves as bisexual (10.4%, 47/451 compared to 3.9%, 11/280 of men) or as queer (2.9%, 13/451 compared to 1.4%, 4/280 of men). Very few women (0.7%, 3/451) identified as homosexual. One individual identified themselves as queer in relation to both gender and sexuality. The four transgendered individuals identified themselves in four separate ways: as bisexual, gay woman, lesbian and queer.

As already explained, those identifying as ‘heterosexual’ or ‘other’ were excluded from the analysis. Of the further 10 individuals whose gender was unknown, most identified themselves as homosexual (50%, 5/10). The remainder defined themselves as bisexual (30%, 3/10) or queer (20%, 2/10).

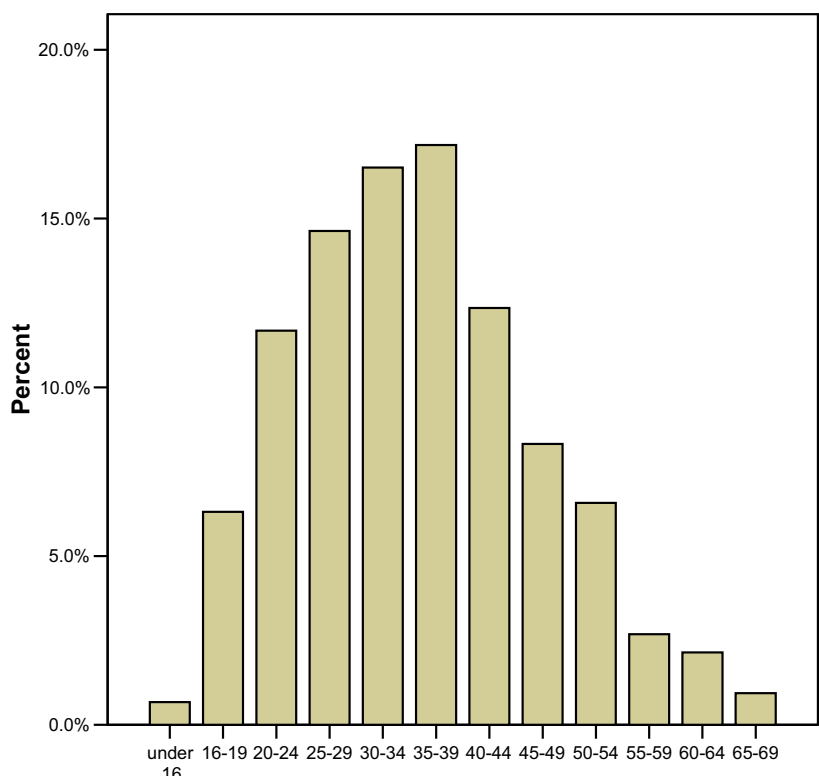
**Table 2.1 - Gender and Sexuality**

	Sexuality						Total
	Bisexual	Gay man	Gay woman	Homosexual	Lesbian	Queer	
female	47	0	74	3	314	13	451
% within Gender	10.4%		16.4%	.7%	69.6%	2.9%	100.0%
male	11	214	0	51	0	4	280
% within Gender	3.9%	76.4%		18.2%		1.4%	100.0%
queer	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
% within Gender						100.0%	100.0%
transgender	1	0	1	0	1	1	4
% within Gender	25.0%		25.0%		25.0%	25.0%	100.0%
not known	3	0	0	5	0	2	10
% within Gender	30.0%			50.0%		20.0%	100.0%
Total	62	214	75	59	315	21	746
% within Gender	8.3%	28.7%	10.1%	7.9%	42.2%	2.8%	100.0%

### 3. Age (n=745)

The ages of respondents ranged from five individuals who were under 16 years (exact ages not known) to seven in their late 60s. The mean age was 35.37 with standard deviation of 11.341.<sup>2</sup> Most were in their 20s and 30s (Graph 2).

<sup>2</sup> Our study thus involved a generally older age group, as well as wider range of ages, than the sample of respondents in Henderson et al.’s (2002) lesbian and bisexual survey (where the median age of all respondents was 31, with mean of 31.8 and standard deviation 8.6).



**Graph 2: Age of respondents**

The female respondents tended to be older than the men, with a median age for women of 37 (mean 35.77, standard deviation 11.201), and a median age for men of 32 (mean 34.48, standard deviation 11.526).

The age distribution for the transgendered individuals, although involving only four people, was older, with one in the 20-24 age group, one in 40-44, one in 50-54 and one in the 55-59 age group.

When age is looked at in relation to sexuality the youngest age group were individuals identifying as bisexuals, with mean age of 30.95 (median 27, standard deviation 11.247), and the oldest were lesbians, with mean age of 37.11 (median 37, standard deviation 11.635). The second oldest group were gay men, with mean age of 34.90 (median 37, standard deviation 11.429), followed by homosexuals – who were mainly men (at least 86.4%) – with mean age of 34.62 (median 32, standard deviation 11.737), then gay women (mean 34.48, median 32, standard deviation 9.179), and finally queer – who were mostly women (61.9%) - with a mean age of 32.50 (median 32, standard deviation 7.348). (See Table 3.1)

*Table: 3.1 Age and sexuality*

**Age and sexuality**

Sexuality			Statistic	Std. Error
Age	Bisexual	Mean	30.95	1.428
		Median	27.00	
		Std. Deviation	11.247	
	Gay man	Mean	34.90	.783
		Median	37.00	
		Std. Deviation	11.429	
	Gay woman	Mean	34.48	1.060
		Median	32.00	
		Std. Deviation	9.179	
Homosexual	Mean	34.62	1.528	
	Median	32.00		
	Std. Deviation	11.737		
Lesbian	Mean	37.11	.656	
	Median	37.00		
	Std. Deviation	11.635		
Queer	Mean	32.50	1.604	
	Median	32.00		
	Std. Deviation	7.348		

The age groups ascribed to different sexual identities would appear to suggest that younger people are more likely to be using the labels ‘bisexual’ or ‘queer’ as compared to the older age groups who seem more likely to be using labels of ‘lesbian’, ‘gay man or woman’, or ‘homosexual’.

**4. Ethnicity (n=743)**

**Table 4.1 – Ethnicity of respondents compared to 2001 Census (percentages)**

Ethnicity	Census 2001	CoHSar (n=743)	CoHSar female resp. (n=449)	CoHSar male resp. (n=279)
White	92.2	94.8	94.0	95.7
Mixed	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.1
Asian or Asian British	4.0	0.5	0.7	0.4
Black or Black British	2.0	1.1	1.3	0.7
Chinese	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4
Other	0.4	1.9	2.0	1.8

The question about ethnicity used similar categorisations to the 2001 Census. (See Table 4.1) Our survey reflected the general population with an overwhelming and similar proportion of respondents identifying as white (94.8%, 704/743 compared to 92.2% in Census). The proportions identifying as mixed or Chinese were also similar. However, our survey had considerably smaller proportions of Asian or Black respondents. As our survey did not subdivide the categories of Asian or Black, which was the case in the Census, this may account for part of the discrepancy. In particular the ‘other’ category, which was more than four times as large in our survey than in the Census, may have contained what the census termed ‘Other Asian’ and ‘Black other’.

**Table 4.2 - Ethnicity and gender**

		Gender num					Total
		female	male	queer	transgender	not known	
White		422	267	1	4	10	704
	% within Gender	94.0%	95.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	94.8%
Mixed		8	3	0	0	0	11
	% within Gender	1.8%	1.1%				1.5%
Asian or Asian British		3	1	0	0	0	4
	% within Gender	.7%	.4%				.5%
Black or Black British		6	2	0	0	0	8
	% within Gender	1.3%	.7%				1.1%
Chinese		1	1	0	0	0	2
	% within Gender	.2%	.4%				.3%
Other Ethnic Background		9	5	0	0	0	14
	% within Gender	2.0%	1.8%				1.9%
Total		449	279	1	4	10	743
	% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

If gender is taken into consideration, levels for white men (95.7%) and women (94%) were similar overall (see Table 42). The proportions of other minority ethnic groups were not the same, with almost twice as many women as men among those identifying as Asian or Asian British, those identifying as mixed, as Black or as Black British, although the numbers were very small. The transgendered (n=4) and queer (n=1) individuals all identified as white.

**Table 4.3 - Ethnicity & sexuality**

		Sexuality						Total
		Bisexual	Gay man	Gay woman	Homosexual	Lesbian	Queer	
White		57	202	72	58	296	19	704
	% within Sexuality	91.9%	94.8%	96.0%	98.3%	94.3%	95.0%	94.8%
Mixed		1	3	2	0	5	0	11
	% within Sexuality	1.6%	1.4%	2.7%	.0%	1.6%	.0%	1.5%
Asian or Asian British		1	1	0	0	1	1	4
	% within Sexuality	1.6%	.5%	.0%	.0%	.3%	5.0%	.5%
Black or Black British		2	2	1	0	3	0	8
	% within Sexuality	3.2%	.9%	1.3%	.0%	1.0%	.0%	1.1%
Chinese		0	1	0	0	1	0	2
	% within Sexuality	.0%	.5%	.0%	.0%	.3%	.0%	.3%
Other Ethnic Background		1	4	0	1	8	0	14
	% within Sexuality	1.6%	1.9%	.0%	1.7%	2.5%	.0%	1.9%
Total		62	213	75	59	314	20	743
	% within Sexuality	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Individuals identifying as homosexual were most likely to be white (98.3%, 58/59), with bisexuals most likely to be represented among individuals of mixed, Asian, Black or other ethnic backgrounds (91.9% 57/62 white). (See Table 4.3)

## 5. Disability (n=713)

Out of 713 individuals who answered the question ‘do you have a disability’, 79 (11.1%) said they did. By comparison, in the 2001 Census, 18.2% of respondents said they had a long-term illness, health problems or disability that limited their ability to work or their daily activities – although the question was different to that in our survey.

Slightly more women (11.6%, 50/431) than men (9.7%, 25/269) said they had a disability. Half of those individuals indentifying as transgendered (50%, 2/4) said they had a disability, although the numbers are very small. (See Table 5.1)

**Table 5.1 - Disability and Gender**

		Gender					Total
		female	male	queer	transgender	not known	
Disability	Yes	50	26	0	2	1	79
	% within Gender	11.6%	9.7%		50.0%	12.5%	11.1%
	No	381	243	1	2	7	634
	% within Gender	88.4%	90.3%	100.0%	50.0%	87.5%	88.9%
Total		431	269	1	4	8	713
% within Gender		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

If sexuality is taken into consideration, the largest proportion of individuals (more than a fifth, 22.2%, 4/18) with a stated disability were among those identifying as queer. One in six bisexuals (16.7%, 10/60) and just over one in ten lesbians (11.3%, 34/300) had a disability, while less than one in ten gay women, gay men, or homosexuals said that they had a disability. (See Table 5.2)

**Table 5.2 - Disability and Sexuality**

		Sexuality						Total
		Bisexual	Gay man	Gay woman	Homosexual	Lesbian	Queer	
Disability	Yes	10	19	7	5	34	4	79
	% within Sexuality	16.7%	9.3%	9.7%	8.6%	11.3%	22.2%	11.1%
	No	50	186	65	53	266	14	634
	% within Sexuality	83.3%	90.7%	90.3%	91.4%	88.7%	77.8%	88.9%
Total		60	205	72	58	300	18	713
% within Sexuality		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## 6. Children (n=740)

One in six of respondents (16.1%, 120/740) parented children. The majority of parents – more than two-thirds (70.8%, 85/120) – had all or some of these children living with them. This included most of the school age and teenage children, and a few of the adult children. Women were almost three times as likely to be parents than the men, with one in five women parenting children (21.7%, 97/447) compared to only 7.2% men (21/279).

Individuals identifying as transgendered were most likely to be parents, although the numbers are very small (33.3%, 1/3). (See Table 6.1)

**Table 6.1 - Parenting children and Gender**

			Gender					Total
			female	male	queer	transgender	not known	
Children - do you parent children	Yes		97	21	0	1	1	120
		% within Gender	21.7%	7.5%		33.3%	10.0%	16.2%
	No		350	258	1	2	9	620
		% within Gender	78.3%	92.5%	100.0%	66.7%	90.0%	83.8%
Total			447	279	1	3	10	740
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

These figures are reflected if sexuality is also taken into consideration. Thus lesbians were most likely to parent children, with nearly a quarter saying they parented (24%, 75/312). Other, largely female, groups such as bisexuals (19.4%, 12/62), gay women (13.7%, 10/73) and queers (9.5%, 2/21), were more likely to parent than those comprising largely men i.e. homosexuals (8.6%, 5/58) and gay men (7.5%, 16/214). (See Table 6.2)

**Table 6.2 - Parenting children and Sexuality**

			Sexuality						Total
			Bisexual	Gay man	Gay woman	Homosexual	Lesbian	Queer	
Children - do you parent children	Yes		12	16	10	5	75	2	120
		% within Sexuality	19.4%	7.5%	13.7%	8.6%	24.0%	9.5%	16.2%
	No		50	198	63	53	237	19	620
		% within Sexuality	80.6%	92.5%	86.3%	91.4%	76.0%	90.5%	83.8%
Total			62	214	73	58	312	21	740
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## 7. Income (n=740)

The mean income was within the £21-30,000 bracket (around £26,000), indicating that the sample was higher level earners than the population generally (where the mean is about £23k). Even so, one in five earned less than £10,000, and nearly half earned less than £20,000. (See Table 7.1)



**Table 7.1 - Income of respondents**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid under £10,000	157	21.2
11-20,000	193	26.1
21-30,000	215	29.1
31-40,000	114	15.4
41-50,000	35	4.7
51-60,000	8	1.1
over 60,000	18	2.4
Total	740	100.0
Missing	6	
Total	746	

**Table 7.2 - Income & gender**

	Gender num					Total
	female	male	queer	transgender	not known	
under £10,000	91	61	1	2	2	157
% within Gender	20.4%	22.1%	100.0%	50.0%	15.4%	21.2%
11-20,000	139	51	0	0	3	193
% within Gender	31.2%	18.5%			23.1%	26.1%
21-30,000	130	81	0	1	3	215
% within Gender	29.1%	29.3%		25.0%	23.1%	29.1%
31-40,000	63	48	0	1	2	114
% within Gender	14.1%	17.4%		25.0%	15.4%	15.4%
41-50,000	10	23	0	0	2	35
% within Gender	2.2%	8.3%			15.4%	4.7%
51-60,000	4	4	0	0	0	8
% within Gender	.9%	1.4%				1.1%
over 60,000	9	8	0	0	1	18
% within Gender	2.0%	2.9%			7.7%	2.4%
Total	446	276	1	4	13	740
% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The income distribution by gender reflects the national income inequality between men and women, with the biggest group of men in the £21-30k income bracket, and the biggest group of women in the £11-20k income bracket. More than half the women earned less than £20k (51.6%, 230/446), whereas only 40.6% (112/276) of men earned less than £20K. This distinction is also reflected in particular in the medians. For women the median is £15k (mean about £25), and for men the median is £25 (mean about £28k). (See Table 7.2)

Both variance and standard deviations also show greater dispersion of income distribution for the men: variance of £22k, standard deviation of £15k, for women: variance of £16k, standard deviation of £13k.

Regarding age, as would be expected, all four under 16s earned less than £10k, and similarly the vast majority of 16-19 year olds (89.1%, 41/46). There was a tendency for income to increase with age until 60 years and decrease again thereafter. Those earning over £40k were clustered between 30-55 years. (See Table 7.3)

**Table 7.3 - Age & income**

	Income							Total
	under £10,000	11-20,000	21-30,000	31-40,000	41-50,000	51-60,000	over 60,000	
under 16	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
% within Age	100.0%							100.0%
16-19	41	4	1	0	0	0	0	46
% within Age	89.1%	8.7%	2.2%					100.0%
20-24	42	33	9	1	0	0	1	86
% within Age	48.8%	38.4%	10.5%	1.2%			1.2%	100.0%
25-29	14	42	33	18	1	0	1	109
% within Age	12.8%	38.5%	30.3%	16.5%	.9%		.9%	100.0%
30-34	13	26	50	20	8	4	2	123
% within Age	10.6%	21.1%	40.7%	16.3%	6.5%	3.3%	1.6%	100.0%
35-39	14	28	46	22	9	1	6	126
% within Age	11.1%	22.2%	36.5%	17.5%	7.1%	.8%	4.8%	100.0%
40-44	8	18	33	22	6	0	4	91
% within Age	8.8%	19.8%	36.3%	24.2%	6.6%		4.4%	100.0%
45-49	8	16	15	12	6	3	2	62
% within Age	12.9%	25.8%	24.2%	19.4%	9.7%	4.8%	3.2%	100.0%
50-54	5	13	17	9	4	0	1	49
% within Age	10.2%	26.5%	34.7%	18.4%	8.2%		2.0%	100.0%
55-59	2	5	6	7	0	0	0	20
% within Age	10.0%	25.0%	30.0%	35.0%				100.0%
60-64	4	4	3	3	1	0	1	16
% within Age	25.0%	25.0%	18.8%	18.8%	6.3%	.0%	6.3%	100.0%
65-69	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	7
% within Age	28.6%	57.1%	14.3%					100.0%
Total	157	193	214	114	35	8	18	739
% within Age	21.2%	26.1%	29.0%	15.4%	4.7%	1.1%	2.4%	100.0%

## 8. Your relationship

Questions were asked regarding whether the respondent was currently in a same sex relationship, had been in the relationship during the past 12 months, and whether it was their first same sex relationship. The vast majority of respondents (86.5%) had been in a same sex relationship during the past 12 months, with more than two-thirds currently in

such a relationship (70.5%). For about one in seven it was their first same sex relationship (14.7%). The patterns for women and men were very similar. (See Table 8.1)

Table 8.1: In same sex relationship

	Gender		Total – yes	Pearson Chi-Square*
	Female -yes	Male -yes		
Currently in same sex relationship	310/446 69.5%	201/279 72.0%	511/725 70.5%	.519 not sig
In first same sex relationship	54/379 14.2%	39/255 15.3%	93/634 14.7%	.802 not sig
Same relationship in last 12 months	376/432 87.0%	231/270 85.6%	607/702 86.5%	.656 not sig

\*Continuity Correction for 2x2 table

With regard to the length of the relationship they were currently in, men tended to predominate in shorter relationships - lasting up to one year, although also in relationships lasting two to five years or more than 20 years. Women tended to predominate in the longer length relationships - from one to twenty years, although not the longest. These differences were found to be significant at .03 using Chi-square (value 15.503). (See Table 8.2).

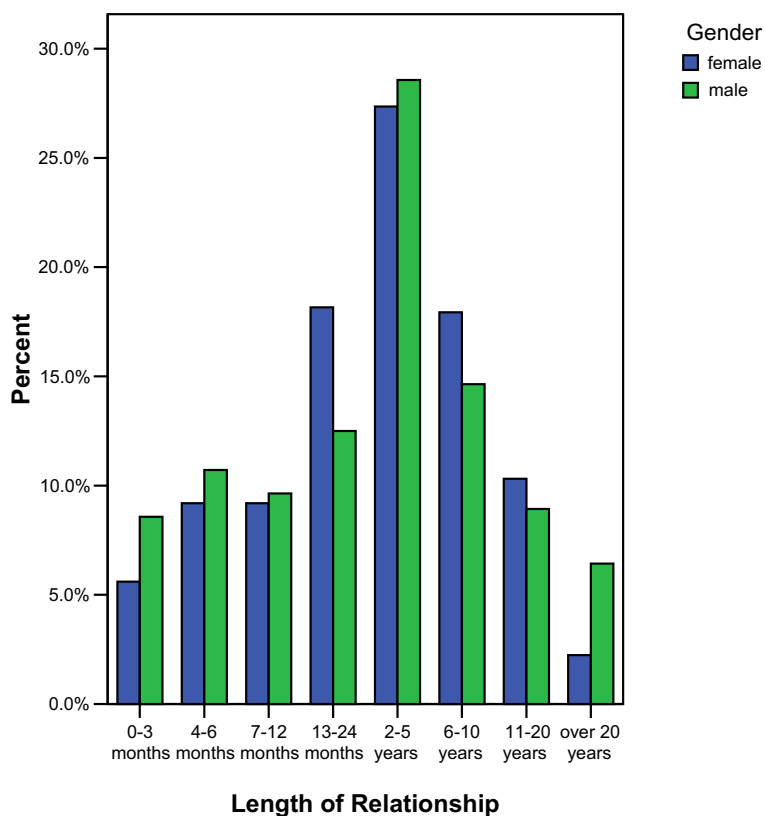
Table 8.2: length of same sex relationship

Length of Relationship and Gender

Length of Relationship		Gender		Total
		female	male	
0-3 months		25	24	49
	% within Gender	5.6%	8.6%	6.7%
4-6 months		41	30	71
	% within Gender	9.2%	10.7%	9.8%
7-12 months		41	27	68
	% within Gender	9.2%	9.6%	9.4%
13-24 months		81	35	116
	% within Gender	18.2%	12.5%	16.0%
2-5 years		122	80	202
	% within Gender	27.4%	28.6%	27.8%
6-10 years		80	41	121
	% within Gender	17.9%	14.6%	16.7%
11-20 years		46	25	71
	% within Gender	10.3%	8.9%	9.8%
over 20 years		10	18	28
	% within Gender	2.2%	6.4%	3.9%
Total		446	280	726
	% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

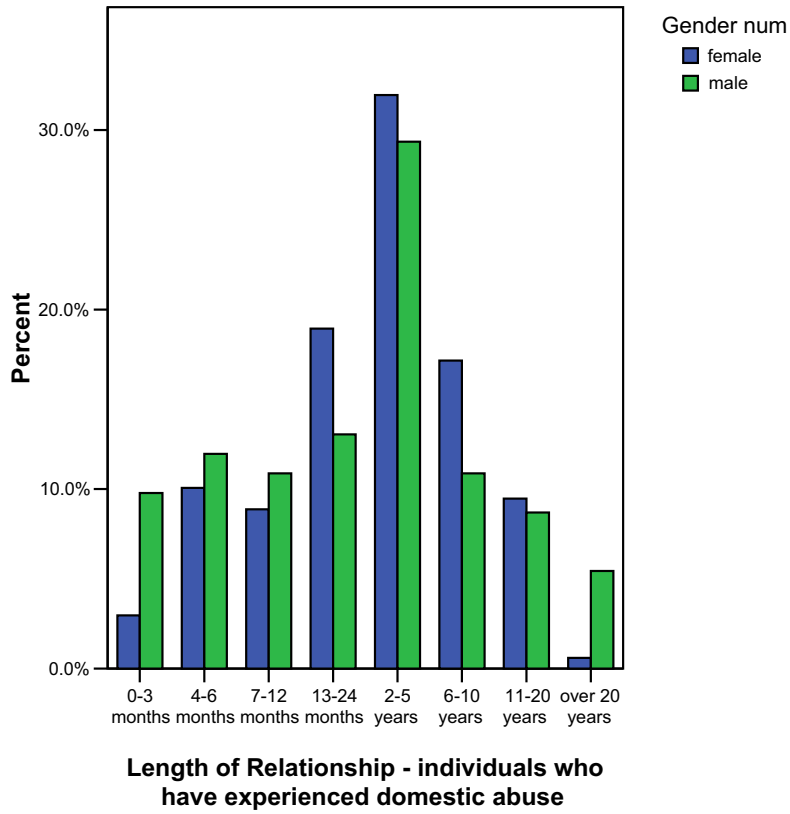
Towards two-thirds of both men (65.1%, 177/272) and women (62.3%, 273/438) were living together in their current or most recent relationship. They were more likely to live together if the relationship had lasted over a year. (See Graph 8.1).

Graph 8.1: Length of relationship & gender



When only the sub-sample of individuals saying that they had experienced domestic abuse was taken into account, the pattern is even clearer, with men predominating in shorter relationships – up to one year, and women predominating in the longer relationships – from one to 20 years. However, the sample also included a predominance of men in relationships longer than 20 years. The differences between women and men in this sub-sample were found to be significant at .04 using Chi-square (value 14.670), i.e. less so than for the whole sample. (See Graph 8.2).

*Graph 8.2: Length of relationship – where abused*



## **APPENDIX H**

### **Demographic Profile of Interviewees**

Summary: The sample was majority white women, most of whom had experienced domestic abuse. Over three-quarters of the lesbians, just over a half of the heterosexual women, and gay men and a third of heterosexual men said that they had experienced abusive behaviours in their intimate relationships. In general the profile of the sample is educated with incomes at or above the average.

78 Interviews were organised but due to cancellation or no shows 67 were conducted.

Of these 19 were lesbians, 19 were gay men, 14 were heterosexual women, 9 were heterosexual men, 3 were bisexual women and 3 were queer women.

Age range: respondents' ages ranged from 19 years old to 64. Lesbians ages ranged from 19 to 54; gay men from 20- 64, heterosexual women from 20-59, heterosexual men from 20-59. Most respondents were between the ages of 20 and 59 years old.

Ethnicity: All of the respondents identified as White or White British. Two lesbians identified as Black/Black British

Disability: five respondents identified as having a disability

Income: Incomes ranged from under £10,000 to over £60,000. Most men earned £21-30,000 and the highest earner was a heterosexual man. Most women earned £11-20,000.

Education: most respondents were educated to degree or above with women slightly more likely to have higher educational qualifications. However, women were also more likely to only have GCSE or A levels.

## Appendix I



Free One day conference on

## Domestic Abuse in Same Sex and Heterosexual Relationships

December 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm at

**Armada House, Telephone Avenue, Bristol BS1**

Speakers and contributors include:

- Marianne Hester (University of Bristol) & Catherine Donovan (University of Sunderland) reporting on findings from the ESRC funded project comparing domestic abuse in same sex and heterosexual relationships
- John Dunworth, Lead on Domestic Violence (Home Office)

To cite this report  
Reference No.  
Donovan, Catherine. (2007). Comparing Love and Domestic Violence in Heterosexual and Same Sex Relationships: Full Research Report. ESRC End of Award Report, RES-000-23-0650. Swindon: ESRC

- Linda Belmont & Brian Pixton (Crown Prosecution Service)
- Jonathan Charlesworth (Educational Action Challenging Homophobia)
- Workshops exploring implications of the research for practice

Please register by emailing [Jennifer.sewell@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:Jennifer.sewell@sunderland.ac.uk) or telephoning Jo Tyler on 0191 515 2218.

The research and conference has been funded by the ESRC grant number RES-000-23-0650





**North Tees Women's Aid**  
Working Together for Safer Communities

**In Partnership with Mesmac North East, North Tees Women's Aid, and Hart Gables**

**Domestic Abuse in**

**Same Sex and Heterosexual Relationships**

**North East Free One Day Conference**

9.00 – 9.30	Registration
9.30- 9.45	Welcome, housekeeping, introductions
9.45-10.25	Research findings I – Marianne Hester (Univ. of Bristol)
10.25 –11.05	Research findings II – Catherine Donovan (Univ. of Sunderland)
11.05 – 11.20	Break
11.20 – 11.30	Janet Owen, Mesmac: Regional Audit of DV services for LGBT findings
11.30 – 11.40	Fergus McMillan Scotland LGBT Youth: Developments in Scotland
11.40 – 12pm	John Dunworth, Home Office Lead on Domestic Violence
12pm – 12.15	Open Clasp Theatre Company
12.15 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 2.30	workshops
2.30 – 3.30	workshops

To cite this report  
REF ID: A12345  
Donovan, Catherine. (2007). Comparing Love and Domestic Violence in Heterosexual and Same Sex Relationships: Full Research Report. ESRC End of Award Report, RES-000-23-0650. Swindon: ESRC

3.30 3.45	Feedback from research/practice workshops and end of conference
3.45 – 4pm	Networking
4pm	Close

## **Attendees at Bristol Dissemination Conference, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2006**

117 Project Bath & North Somerset Council  
Aquarius  
Avon & Somerset Probation Service  
Avon Othopaedic Centre  
Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Bath Churches Housing Association  
Bede Housing Association  
Body Positive North West  
Bransholme Women's Centre  
Brigend Youth Offending Team  
Bristol City Council  
Bristol City Council Children and Young Peoples Services  
Bristol Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Forum  
Bristol PCT  
Bristol Samaritans  
Bristol Specialist Drug Service  
Bristol Unviversity  
Broken Rainbow  
Torquay Police  
CAFCASS  
Cardiff Women's Safety Unit  
Central OCU  
Community Safety Partnership  
Focus Counselling  
Crown Prosecution Service  
Crime and Disorder Reduction Team Solihull  
Bristol MBC  
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary  
Diversity Unit – Charles Cross Police  
Dorset Women's Outreach  
Eddison Trust  
Families Without Fear Domestic Abuse Project  
FFLAG  
Gemini Project  
GMFA – Gay Men's Health  
Institute of Applied Social Studies  
Lawrence Weston Clinic  
London Metropolitan University  
Lyons Davidson Solicitors  
Metropolitan Community Church  
N2 Adult Community Care  
Next Link Domestic Abuse Services  
North Somerset Against Domestic abuse  
North Somerset Community Safety and Drug Action Team  
North Somerset Council  
Offender Management Assessment Team  
Portsmouth City Council  
Portsmouth Counselling Service  
Priority Youth Housing  
Probation Services Manchester

Respect  
Rethink Mental Illness  
Safer Bristol Partnership  
Somerset Change  
Somerset County Council  
SPO Risk  
Staffordshire Police  
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council  
Stroud Beresford Women's Refuge  
West Mercier Probation  
The Ridgwood Centre  
Threshold Support  
University of Birmingham  
University of Surrey  
University of the West of England  
Victim Support  
Violence Against Women Research Group  
Violent Crime Research – Home Office  
West Glamorgan Witness Care Unit  
West Mercier Probation  
West Midlands Probation Service  
Wish  
Womankind Bristol Women's Therapy Centre  
Worcester DV Violence Prevention Team

## **Attendees at Dissemination Conference, Newcastle December 8<sup>th</sup> 2006**

Body Positive Manchester  
Byker Bridge Housing Association  
Care UK, Newcastle  
Central Manchester Women's Aid  
Chester le Street District Council  
Cheviot Housing Association, Newcastle  
Cleveland Police Community Safety  
Cleveland Police Hartlepool  
Connexions Tyne and Wear  
County Durham Primary Care Trust  
Crown Prosecution Service Northumbria  
Derwentside DV Forum  
Durham County Council  
Durham Women's Refuge  
East Durham DV Forum  
Gateshead Council  
GONE  
Hampshire Police  
Hart Gables  
Kings College London  
Leeds Inter-Agency Project  
Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Network  
Lesbian Line, Newcastle  
LGBT Centre for Health and Well-being, Edinburgh  
LGBT Youth Scotland  
Manchester City Council  
Mesmac North East  
Metropolitan Community Church, Newcastle  
Mind in Gateshead  
My Sister's Place, Middlesborough  
National Probation Service  
Newcastle City Council  
Newcastle Social Services  
No 31 and SODA Domestic Abuse Service  
Norcare Ltd  
North Bristol NHS  
North Tees Women's Aid  
North Tyneside Victim Support  
Northern Rock Foundation  
Northumberland County Council  
Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Trust  
Northumbria Police  
Organisation Care at Home, Newcastle  
Panah  
Places for People  
Police, Darlington  
Relate  
Respect  
Sedgefield Borough Council

To cite this report  
Reference No.  
Donovan, Catherine. (2007). Comparing Love and Domestic Violence in Heterosexual and Same Sex Relationships: Full Research Report.  
ESRC End of Award Report, RES-000-23-0650. Swindon: ESRC

Sixty Eight Thirty, Hexham  
South Tyneside PCT  
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sunderland Housing Group  
Supporting People, Stockton  
Teesdale District Council  
The Equality Network, Scotland  
Tilly Bailey and Irvin Solicitors  
Tristar Homes Ltd, Stockton  
University Dundee  
University of Lincoln  
University of Newcastle  
University of Sunderland  
Victim Support  
Violence Against Women Team  
Wearside DV Forum  
Wearside Women in Need  
Witness Service, South Tyneside  
Women's Direct Access Centre, Manchester