


Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015



Royal Commission into Family Violence  
PO Box 535  
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Vic. 8009

I would like to wish the Royal Commission into Family Violence every success in attempting to rid today's society of the ever increasing abhorrent Family Violence assaults.

I lived for 27 years with what was then referred to as Domestic violence. When I finally found the courage to leave my husband, all arrangements to leave had to be made without him finding out otherwise I would have ended up dead or very close to it as he always told me that if I ever left him he would scar me so badly that no man would ever look at me again and if I tried to take any thing from the house he would smash it rather than me have it. Over the years he smashed family photos and anything that meant anything to me.

My husband was of the opinion that when he married me in  he then owned me. I became part of his chattels and that is how I had to live my life, by his rules, and they were 'do as I say, not as I do'.

He had no guilt in continually verbally abusing me, raping me, punching me, slapping me, kicking me, depriving me of any money, with me having to beg him for money for food for myself and our children, throwing me out and locking me out of the house in the cold of night if I happened to say the wrong thing or refused to perform what he wanted.

The day before I left, I went to  Court where I was issued with an Intervention Order against my husband. I pleaded with the Magistrate for the police to not serve this order on my husband until the next night, as by then my  year old son and I would have moved out, so fortunately that is what happened. The Intervention Order was one of the first orders issued without a 'use by date'.

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This order meant nothing to my husband and from my experience, it was not worth the paper it was written on. My husband breached his order on a number of occasions. I would make a report to the local police, but because my husband and his family were long time locals and very well known in the area, no action was taken except for a phone call to him from the police.

In my opinion Intervention Orders are not the answer in protecting the aggrieved.

I lived in fear of my ex husband carrying out his threats up until the day of his death from [REDACTED] late last year. He said to me for years that he would dance on my grave.

I suffer from PTSD along with many other health problems. Psychology sessions over the years have helped me to deal with my husbands brutality but I will never forget the way I was treated by the man who supposedly loved me.

My [REDACTED] children all suffered, being verbally abused on a daily basis, and physically abused from time to time, but no where near the amount that I was abused.

My daughter has often said to me that had I left their father years earlier, she and her brothers would have had a much better life.

My children are all high achievers, no thanks to their father. Our daughter who is now [REDACTED] years old has never married, but has had a very successful career as an [REDACTED], our eldest son who is now [REDACTED] years old, has had 2 broken marriages, but has worked for many years for [REDACTED] Victoria, and our youngest son who is [REDACTED] years old, has had a number of unsuccessful relationships and one broken marriage and is a [REDACTED], hence why I would prefer that my name and identity will be removed as I want to protect their identity and also because I myself have recently retired after being a volunteer at our local [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] years.

So long as there are men and women on this Earth, my opinion is that unfortunately Family Violence will continue. I don't know what the answer is but I certainly wish you well in finding a solution. Please don't give up.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]