I am asking the people concerned with domestic violence to continue their work with helping the women and children, which is very important, but please consider the men, the fathers that are very important.in the raising of their children.

Where is the help for the fathers, the welfare of the children depends on both parents as stressed by the magistrates, What are the statistics on fathers suffering depression, thinking of, or committing suicide, or just giving up and going on the dole.

I am all for supporting the abused women , but please do not forget the men .

The changes I would like to see addressed are as follows,

- 1 Intervention orders , both parties to be checked by police for 24 hrs / 48 hrs for the safety of both parties .
- 2 Affordable helpful advice for men , re their entitlements , coping with child support and contravention of orders ,and coping with the isolation from their children , and the withdrawal of their rights as a father .
- 3 Mothers appear to nearly always get the most custody of children and often dictate when fathers can see their children. In the advent of joint custody, that means just that ,unless otherwise agreed on by both parties.
- 4 Court orders agreed on by both parties should be adhered to ,at present contravention of orders is not treated as breaking the law , and to persue this in court is frowned on , and each court appearance is very expensive and non productive .
- 5 Young children can, and are manipulated by the dominant parent, yet their evidence, when interviewed by counsellors and psychologists is completely regarded as the truth, when in fact it may be influenced by a frightening demanding parent.
- 6 Perhaps the introduction, in schools, of sessions to teach children that violence in the home is totally unacceptable.
- 7. The mother can enrol the children in extra curricular activities, without the any discussion with the father, and the said clubs, tennis, swimming, etc. accept imformation from one parent only and therefore the other patent finds it difficult to access any imformation re times and places of these activities.
- 8 .The mother can and does alter the childrens surnames names, to either her name or a hyphenated name. As this habit is not strictly legal it appears the father has no recourse to stop this ,and is further isolated from his children.,

Hoping these matters can be addressed to help mainly the children ,as they need both parents in agreement to help in their emotional growth as often dictated by magistrates ,

Yours sincerely