



**WE ARE  
SURVIVORS.**

# **NO MANS LAND**

How organisations can effectively support people who have experienced CSA

*Supporting*

research  
in practice

**Principal  
Social  
Worker**

**Duncan Craig OBE**

Chief Executive Officer & Psychotherapist

Honorary Senior Research Fellow in Criminology  
(University of Manchester)

# INTRODUCTION



## DUNCAN CRAIG OBE

Chief Executive Officer

Senior Honorary Research Fellow in  
Criminology – University of Manchester

## Duncan Craig OBE

Duncan is the founder and Chief Executive of **We Are Survivors**, the largest voluntary sector organisation in the UK providing therapeutic and advocacy support to male (and trans and non-binary) victims/survivors of sexual harms.

Works with the Government, NHS, Crown Prosecution Service and various Police forces across the UK advising on policy including VAWG Strategy, End to End Rape Review, Victim Strategy, the NHS SAAS, the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024; and in Europe, USA, Iceland, New Zealand, and Uganda.

He is a member of Victims Reference Group in the Office of the Victims Commissioner, VAWG Reference Group, and GM Justice and Rehabilitation Executive, and GBV Board.

Duncan's been story consultant for Hollyoaks, Coronation Street, Eastenders and Casualty, and number of theatre productions.

In 2020 Duncan received an OBE from Her Majesty The Queen for services to Male Victims of Rape and Child Abuse; was awarded the UoM Medal of Honor for his work with male victims/survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation; and is now a designated Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of Criminology.

# MISSION/VISION



To break the silence of the sexual harm on boys and men, providing support and advocacy to them and their loved ones to engage in positive healing free from the impact of abuse; and educating society on the prevention and impact of sexual harms against boys and men

**No Male Survivor Left Behind**

# RESPONDING TO SEXUAL HARM



# BEHIND THE VAWG DATA



In 2020/21, the Annual CPS VAWG data evidences:

- 1 in 6 Domestic Abuse victims are male
- 1 in 7 Rape victims are male
- 1 in 4 Child Sex Abuse victims are male (boys)

(Source: CPS Data 2020/21 – Table AR14)

In 2022/23, the Annual CPS VAWG data evidences:

- 17% Domestic Abuse victims are male
- 13% Rape victims are male
- 24% Child Sex Abuse victims are male (boys)

(Source: CPS Data 2022/23 – Table AR16)

The latest ONS figures (July 2025) from CSEW show

- 8.4% men and 12.8% women aged 16+ victims
- 1:4 (males/females) experienced sexual assault
- 159,985 males over 16 victims in 2024-25

(Source: ONS Combined Crime Type Data)



HM Government

## Position statement on male victims of crimes considered in the cross-Government strategy on ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

March 2019



HM Government

## Supporting Male Victims

Position Statement on Male Victims of crimes  
considered in the cross-Government Tackling  
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and the  
Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan

March 2022

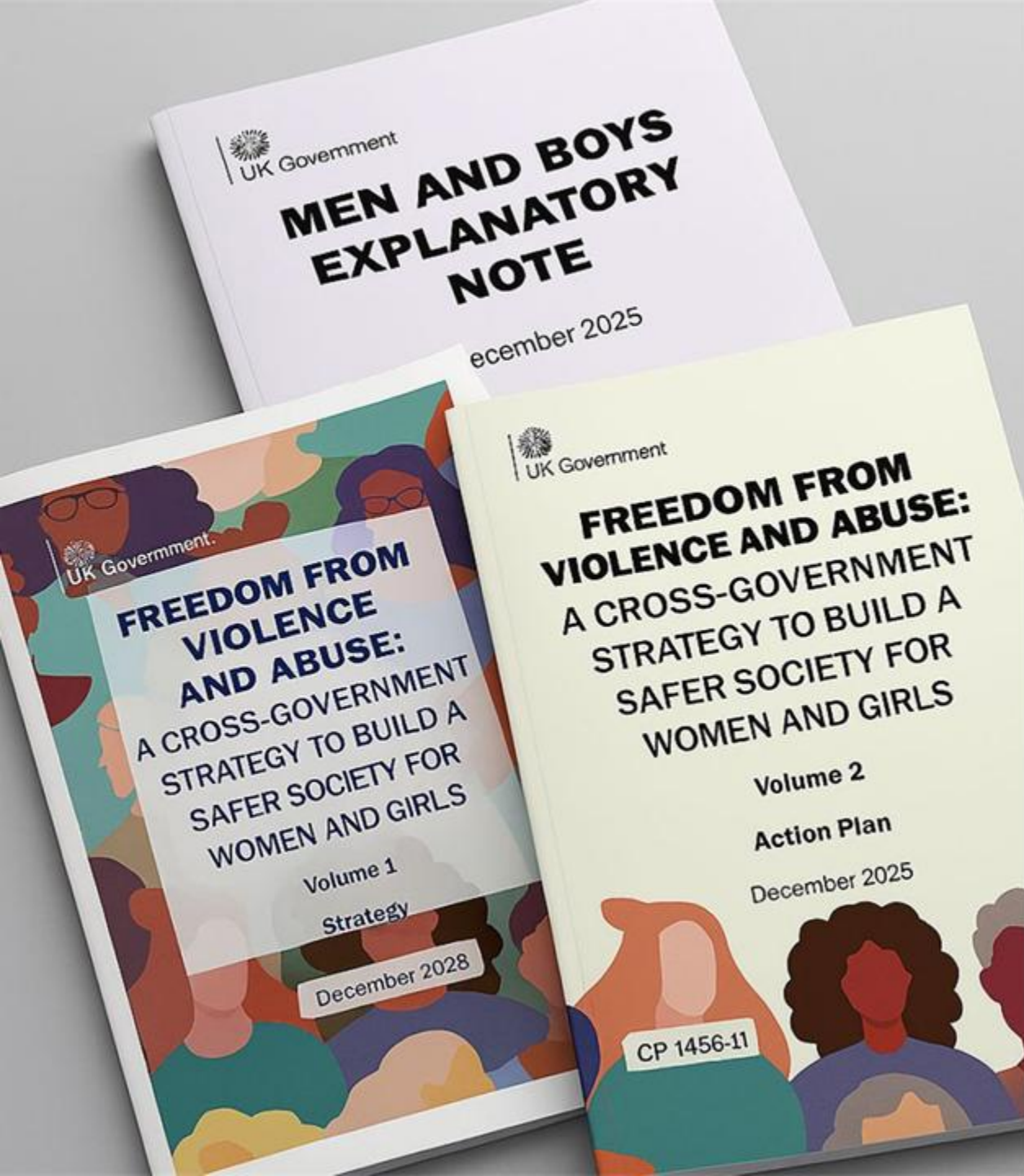
# 2019...

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- Research suggests that **1 in 6 males** will experience sexual abuse, rape or sexual exploitation
- **1 in 4 victims** of child sexual abuse are boys
- **275,000 men over 16** had experienced sexual assault/abuse in 2022 (ONS 2022)
- **20% of males** samples in a data dive took over 31 years to disclose childhood sexual abuse
- **5% of boys and young men** experience sexual abuse before the age of 16
- **1 in 10 victims** of rape are male
- Boys are generally more likely than girls to be abused by people in occupational positions of trust or authority
- Less than **1/3 of male survivors** have disclosed



2025...

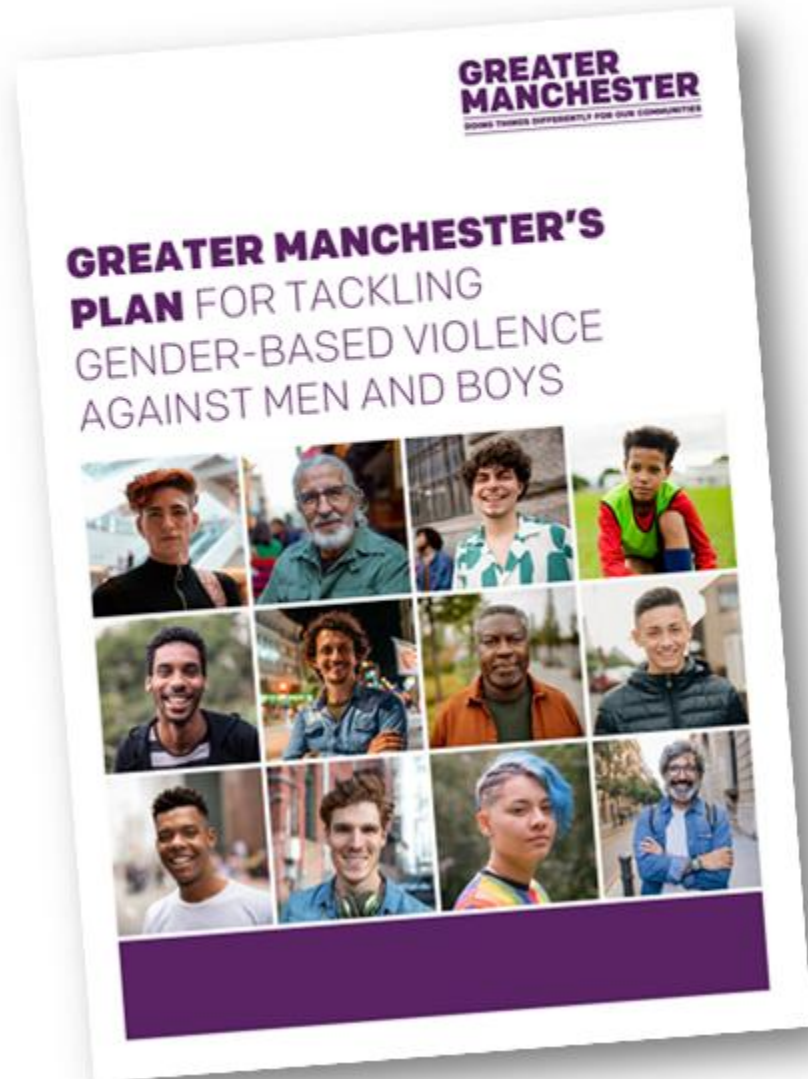


- Connecting with The Men's Health Strategy
- Ban on LGBT+ Conversion Practices
- Connecting with the National Plan to End Homelessness
- Advance healthy masculinity and protect young boys
- Home Office Standards for DA Perp Interventions must be upheld
- Update the Statutory Guidance on DA on teenage relationship abuse
- Address outdated gender assumptions regarding childcare and dads in the Family Court
- Address the lack of available specialist services for male victims
- A national summit for men and boys in 2026

# BEING DIFFERENT



- Commissioned by Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Kate Green
- Authored by Professor David Gadd and Duncan Craig OBE
- Plan for Tackling GBV Against Men and Boys is part of the 10 year GM GBV Strategy
- In the year ending June 2024, Greater Manchester Police recorded 9,904 offences of rape and sexual assault, of which 1,836 male victims
- That's 1 in 5 RASSO crimes are of males
- The avg time these victims took to report the crime was 4 years
- Less than 4% of reports resulted in a charge



# BARRIERS TO DISCLOSURE

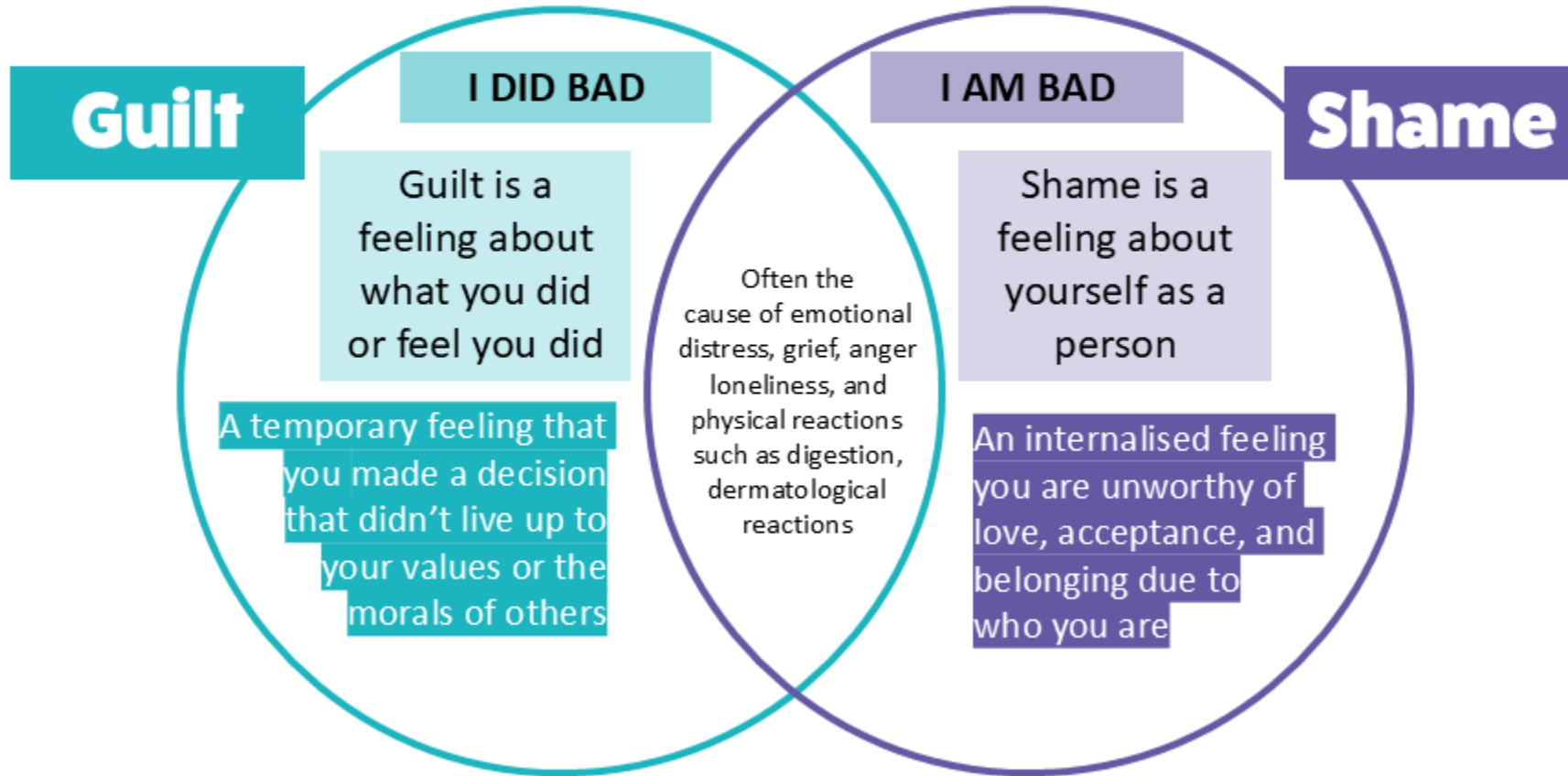


- Many men do not report as they feel the police would not believe them
- Reluctance to expose themselves to greater scrutiny if they feel their reputations and jobs may be affected by on-going investigations
- Fear of being judged, e.g. victims sexuality; victims own fault; victim feeling sensations equated to pleasure; that the victim “asked for it”
- Confusion of the traumatic events / acts
- “The straightjacket of masculinity” (Hite, S. 1981)
- Rejection
- Avoidance of “Victim” Identity (Etherington, K)
- Shame and Embarrassment
- Guilt, e.g. “I should have been able to stop it”

# GUILT & SHAME

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# LIVED EXPERIENCE

Duncan became friends with John, the local Park Keeper, regularly hanging out playing tennis, bowls and miniature golf.

John bought Duncan gifts, let him smoke, bought him alcohol and let him drink, because they were mates.

But no one saw what was behind the 'friendship'. John's motives were to ensure that Duncan was compliant as he sexually abused him.

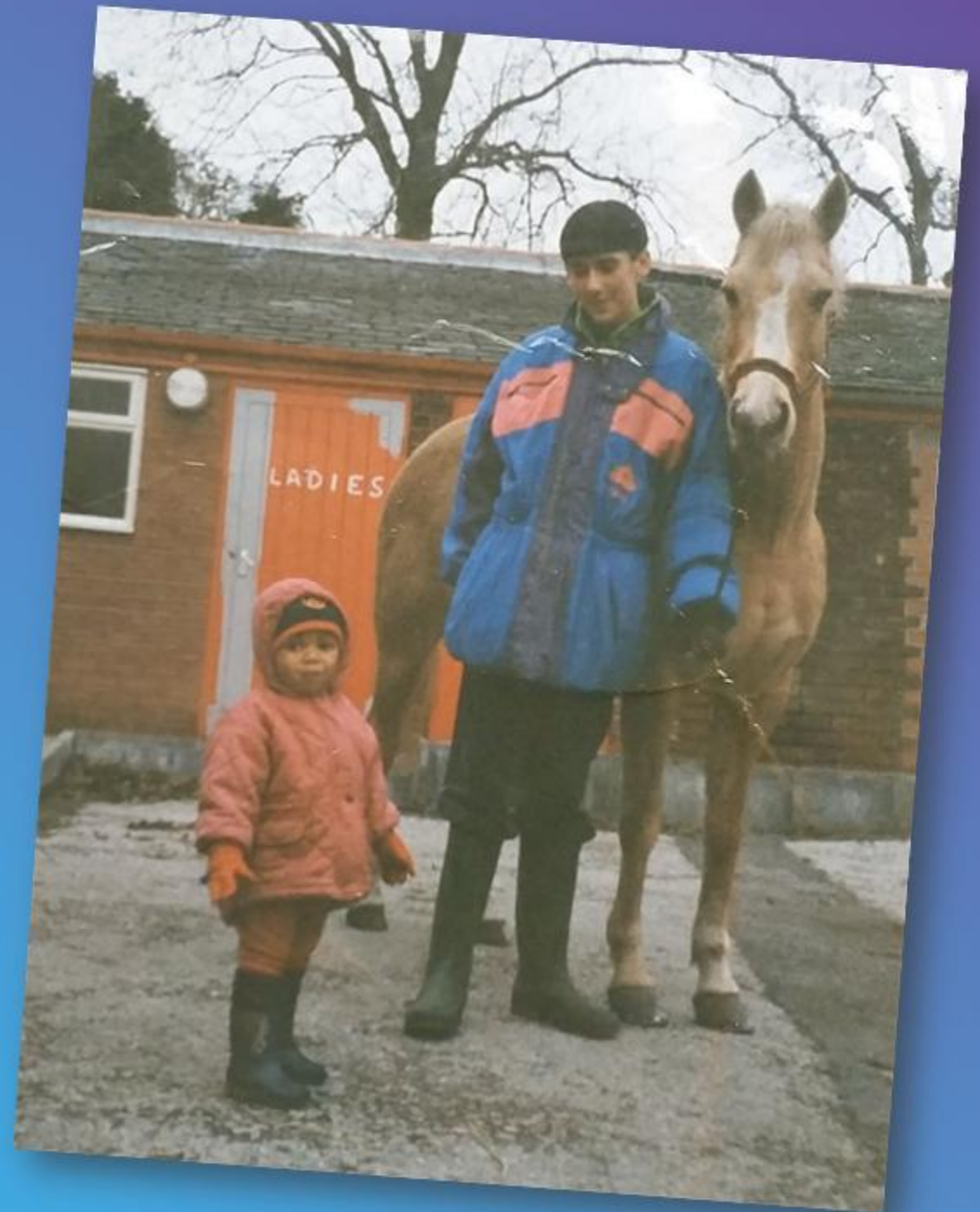
Duncan was 17 the last time he saw John, who was mid 50s



# LIVED EXPERIENCE

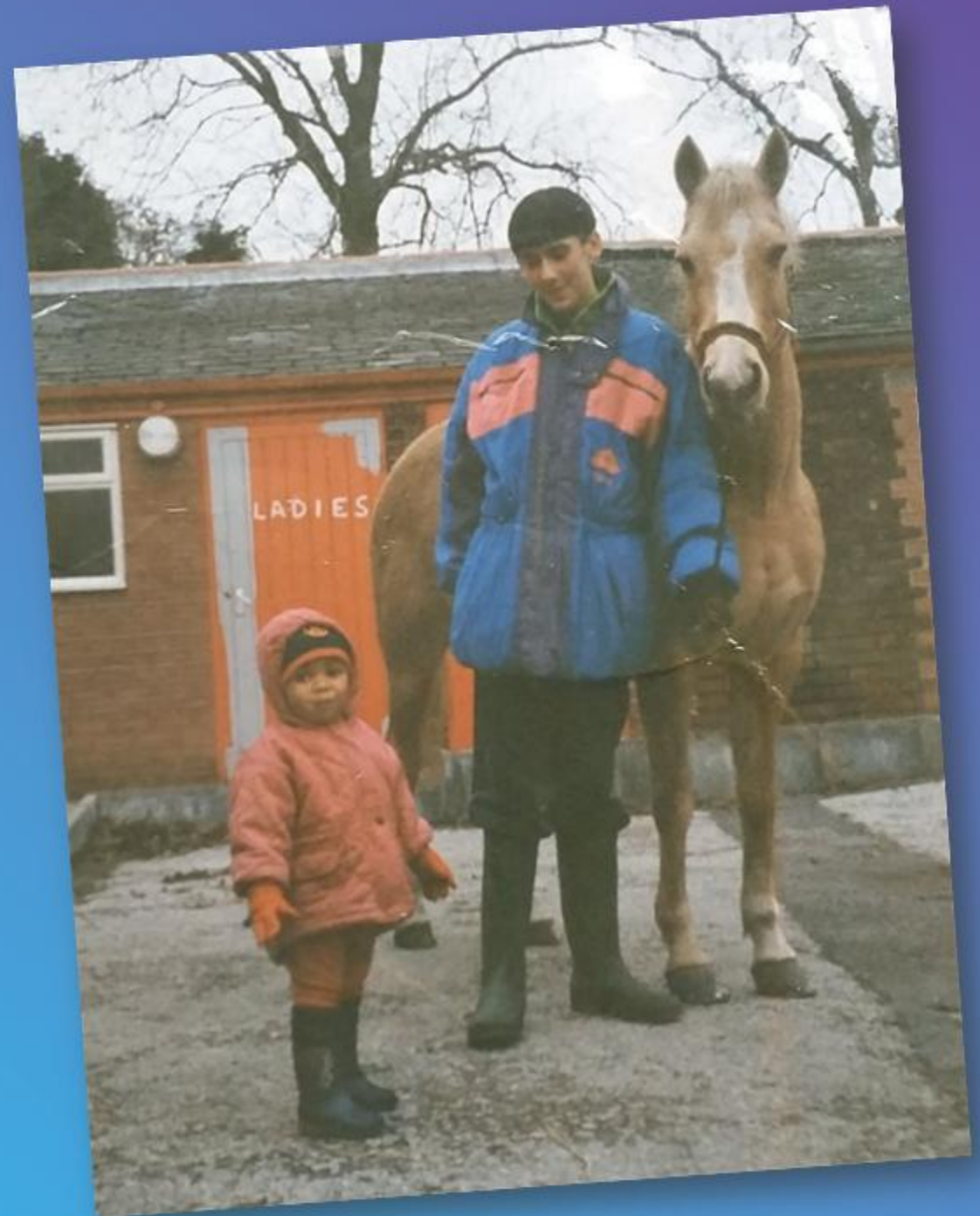
I'm not embarrassed to talk about what I went through. I do still sometimes find bits of it difficult but for the past 18+ years I have been putting myself and my experiences at the front and centre of all my work conversations.

I spent time in New Zealand working with Maroi communities; in America working with male survivors of online exploitation; in Africa with soldiers and men who have experienced sexual violence in war; in Germany with Olympic Athletes, footballers and sportsmen who experienced abuse in childhood. The embarrassment is not mine!



# LIVED SILENCE

1. Grooming / Manipulation... In some way I think the perpetrator met a need, one maybe two or even more?
2. It felt like 'friends with benefits' or rather I never for one second thought this was anymore than friendship
3. I 100% knew this was a secret because it was always done in secret, never spoke about, etc
4. I didn't want to be called gay
5. I just knew that I'd be the one in trouble
6. I thought "I liked it"



# COMMON REACTIONS



## Mental Health

Anger, Anxiety, Boundaries, Confidence, Depression, Dissociation, Fear, Flashbacks, Guilt, Issues with Intimacy, Isolation, PTSD, Self-Worth / Self-Respect, Shame, Trust

## Physical Health

Anorexia, Bulimia, Counter-phobic Activities, Insomnia, Neglect of Physical Needs, Self Harm / Suicide.

## Sexual Health

Erectile Dysfunction, Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, STI, Sexuality / Sexual Orientation, Sexual Performance Anxiety, Unsafe and Unhealthy Sexual Behaviours.

## Crime & Disorder

Authority, Hate Crime (homophobia, racism), Substance Misuse (tertiary factors), Violence

# WHAT TRIGGERS DISCLOSURE?



- A significant life change such as – considering becoming a parent, or birth of first child. Their child may be the age they were when first abused
- A trigger at work – for example a training on child protection
- A death (e.g. Parent, partner, abuser)
- Something in the news e.g. football scandal, Operation Yewtree
- The support of a loved one – it might finally feel safe enough to tell someone
- The feeling that “it’s now or never” – someone may have hit rock bottom (lost their job, family etc) and may not be able to avoid dealing not dealing with their past any longer
- After going through rehab or stopping an addiction, they may be more in touch with their feelings
- Marriage or commitment to a relationship
- TV show, drama, film

# HOLLYOAKS

- In 2016, ex Professional Footballers spoke out about the sexual abuse they experienced at Crewe Alexandra, Manchester City, Chelsea.
- Over 20 UK police forces investigating 300 people who had been accused by 849 lads for 2,807 incidents involving 340 different clubs.
- Channel 4 producers recognised how important this real-life story was.
- The team behind Hollyoaks contacted **We Are Survivors** to ask for help in writing/directing a storyline which sensitively depicted this type of abuse.

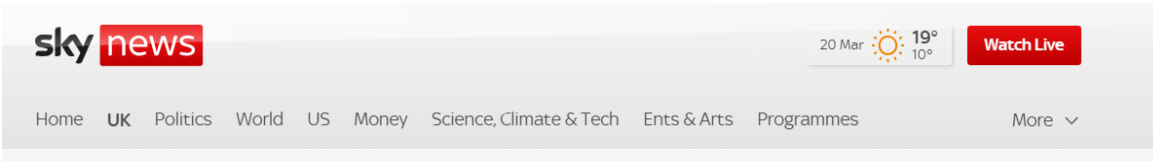


# IMPACT



- Discussions on social media increased, themes of masculinity
- ISVA queries from 18 – 25 year olds increase 150%
- Print media stories increased, resulting in referrals for support from adult male survivors of CSE increase 63%
- 4 x High Schools engaged us in developing and delivering an Assembly for boys using Hollyoaks

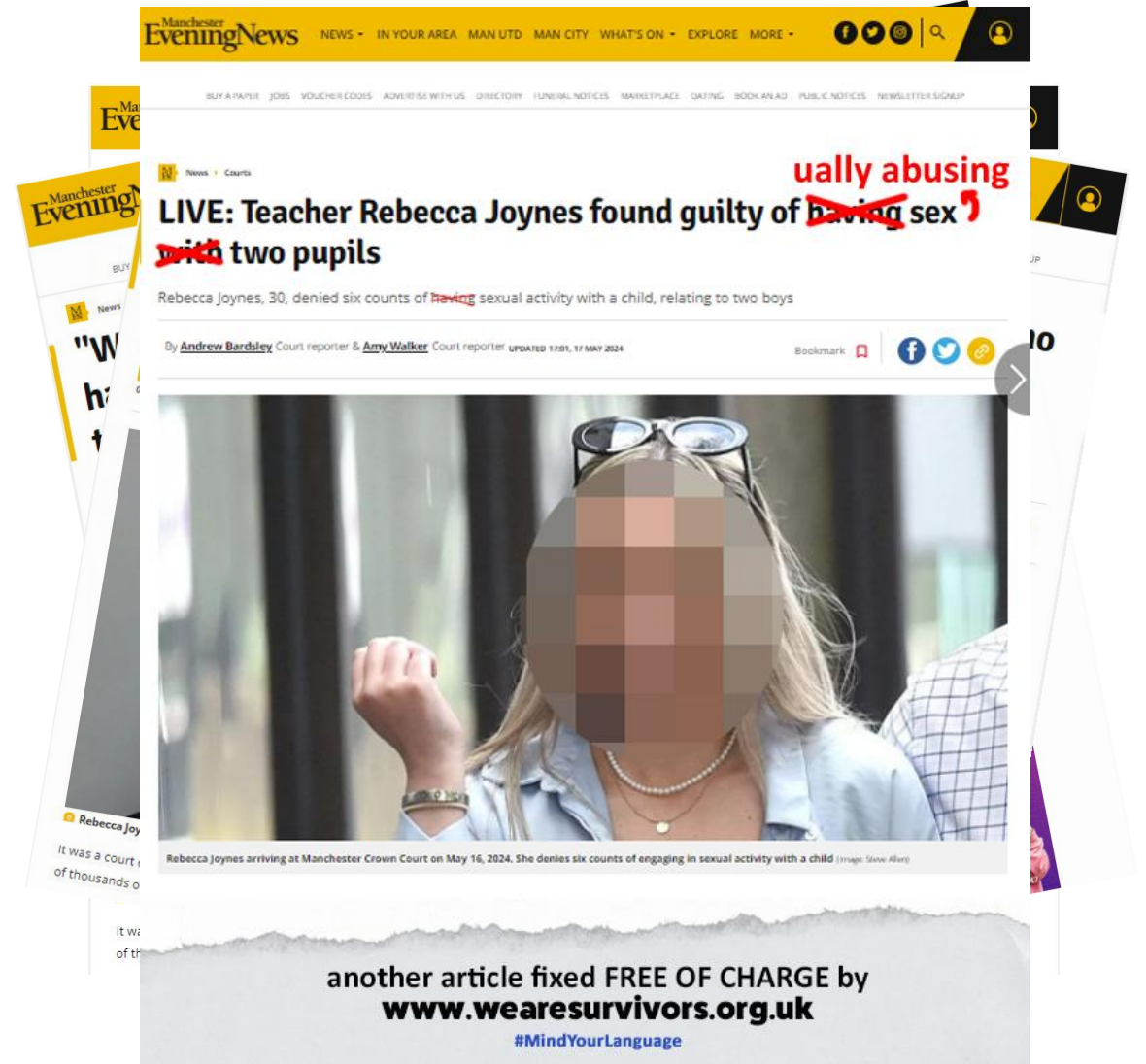
# NEWSWORTHY



## Nigerian crime gangs are targeting young British boys in 'sextortion' scams

The National Crime Agency says boys as young as 14 are targeted into sextortion over social media platforms like Snapchat and Instagram. Once tricked into sending sexual images, they are blackmailed into sending payments of up to £100.

© Thursday 20 March 2025 04:33, UK



# NEWSWORTHY



## Operation Island

- Reynhard Sinaga
- 38 years old
- Indonesian National
- Studying at University of Manchester

Following a report from (Victim A)...

- 2 year investigation by GMP
- 4 separate trials over 2 years
- 48 men gave evidence
- Greater Manchester Police believe there may be over 200 victims, all male

# NEWSWORTHY



In January 2020, Reynhard Sinaga was convicted of:

- 136 counts of rape
- 14 counts of sexual assault
- 8 counts of attempted rape
- 1 count of assault by penetration

In the first two trials, Sinaga was given 88 concurrent life sentences with a minimum 30 year term before being considered for parole.

This was raised to 40 years by the Court of Appeal on 11.12.20.

He will be 77 before he is eligible for Parole.

Recent press stories about repatriation.

# So why The Silence?

research  
in practice



# DISCLOSURE 101

- a. Allow time for him to talk in a space he feel safe in
- b. Check out what support he has once he leaves you
- c. Be explicit with boundaries and confidentiality
- d. Be empathic and congruent
- e. When words fail him, think about creative techniques
- f. Be the active passenger
- g. Be careful not to be drawn into collusion, making promises you can't keep



# REFLECTIONS

- a. Gender: Yours and Theirs
- b. Transparency vs Opaqueness
- c. Overt Power vs Covert Power
- d. Use of Language
- e. Myths & beliefs: Yours v Theirs
- f. Promises, promises
- g. Boundaries
- h. Set and Setting
- i. To report or not



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**THANK  
YOU**

[www.wearesurvivors.org.uk](http://www.wearesurvivors.org.uk)