

December 12, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Governor Haley:

There have been a number of prominent politicians and well known celebrities commenting about the ills of domestic violence nationally. In South Carolina we are ranked among the highest for domestic abuse in the country. Several months ago, I read a news article identifying a congressional committee being formed to address public policy on this very issue. I am writing your office in an attempt to persuade your administration to take a more active role in domestic violence against men in regards to better data collection.

My purpose in writing is predicated on the misinformation about domestic violence against men and to encourage legislation in this regard. To that end, in many publications, news reports, and public statements define domestic violence as a female only crime when in fact it is not! Domestic violence affects women and men, and public policy should be used to accommodate both. The truth is that **fifty percent** of all domestic violence is committed by women against men. This is either a little known fact or under publicized statistic. The major problem in this chasm is poor data collection i.e., the statistics about abuses that happen to men.

I have reached out to Representative Rep. Eddie Tallon and Rep Gilda Cobb-hunter and shared with them this misinformation and the lopsided figures about the percentage male abuse in the hopes of making a change. My primary objective is to improve data collection on domestic violence against men and to increase awareness within law enforcement/hospital, and lack of housing as it relates to domestic violence against men.

Sincerely,


Ray Hopkins

Enclosure

1. Reference sheet

Domestic Violence

1. <http://www.witnessjustice.org/news/stats.cfm>

(National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, - July 2000).

Approximately 1.5 million women and 835,000 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. (National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence — July 2000)

2. <http://newscastmedia.com/domestic-violence.htm> Harvard study says 70 percent of domestic violence is committed by women against men

3. <http://www.mensactivism.org>

Out of State.

4. <http://www.clarkprosector.org/html/domviol/men.htm> Unable to defend because no data available.

Out of Country/Overseas.

5. More than 40% of domestic violence victims are male, report reveals. United Kingdom

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2010/sep/05/men-victims-domestic-violence>

6. http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/Introduction-Chapter1-Chapter2.pdf

Book.

Cook, Philip,

Abused Men "The Hidden Side of Domestic Violence"

Westport, Connecticut

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmPG6s0WO24> "Men Don't Tell CBS"