

June 2021

### **An Garda Siochana cancelling of emergency calls statement**

**Men's Aid is deeply concerned about the cancelling of calls for help from vulnerable victims experiencing domestic violence.**

**Commenting, Kathrina Bentley CEO *“Every call could be a life threatening situation or a victim finally finding the courage and strength to make the call, sometimes after years of being subjected to domestic violence. This can never happen again”.***

**Research from 2005 shows for every 3 victims of domestic violence 1 is male and sadly that 95% of men do not report the abuse to members of An Garda Siochana.**

**Men's Aid has worked in collaboration with all stakeholders especially AGS over the past 18 months to give confidence and build trust in order to encourage male victims to come forward and seek support.**

**We have been in contact with Assistant Garda Commissioner's and members of An Garda Siochana Domestic Violence unit to arrange face to face meetings. These meetings will hopefully address the issue of training in order for members to respond in the appropriate manner going forward. Our training academy offers specialised training ensuring an understanding of the complexities of coercive control.**

**These meetings are confirmed and are taking place next week and the week after.**

**In the first three months of 2021 our service received 1,641 contacts from men seeking support regarding domestic violence and coercive control.**

**Last week alone we experienced the highest volume on our Helpline actively speaking with 105 men between Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm. Supporting a total of 161 contacts when including all our services.**

**We look forward to the meetings with An Garda Siochana and working with them to ensure this never happens again.**

**Kathrina Bentley  
CEO  
Men's Aid.**

**ENDS.**

