



www.ukmensday.org.uk

#InternationalMensDay and @UKMensDay

c/o The Men and Boys Coalition charity (No. 1183014), Survivors Manchester, Unit 9 Brewery Yard, Deva City Office Park, Trinity Way, Salford, M3 7BB

House of Commons Briefing: International Men's in the UK Thursday 19 November 2020

(1) Background

International Men's Day has been part of the mainstream annual events calendar in the UK since 2010 (it was first created in 1992 in Trinidad and Tobago). The UK has the most International Men's Day events than anywhere else in the world.

In the UK, International Men's Day is overseen by the [Men and Boys Coalition](#), a registered charity consisting of 100 organisations, academics and professionals who believe in a society that values the wellbeing of men and boys.

The event gives everyone who wants to celebrate International Men's Day the opportunity to help work towards shared objectives which are applied equally to men and boys irrespective of their age, ability, social background, ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, religious belief and relationship status.

International Men's Day is fully inclusive. As well as supporting International Women's Day and supporting action on issues that women and girls face, a large number of the events are organised by women, attended by women and on the day itself, a large number are promoting it on social media.

"I am so fortunate to have so many wonderful men in my life. I am so grateful for all the love and happiness my fiancé, dad, papa and brother bring to my life. They all give me so much support and I treasure each moment we have together" Danielle, Scotland (2018) on Twitter

(2) Three Key Themes and Issues

In the UK, International Men's Day has three positive themes:

- Making a positive difference to the wellbeing and lives of men and boys
- Raising awareness and/or funds for [charities](#) supporting men and boys' wellbeing
- Promoting a positive conversation about men, manhood and masculinity

The International Men's Day UK lists [a range of charities](#) that organisations and people can support.

These core themes help to address some of the issues that affect men and boys in the UK such as:

- The high male suicide rate
- The challenges faced by boys and men at all stages of education including attainment and re-skilling
- Men's health (including male cancers), shorter life expectancy, infertility and workplace deaths
- The challenges faced by the most marginalised men and boys in society (for instance, homeless men, boys in care and the high rate of male deaths in custody)
- Male victims of violence, including sexual violence
- The challenges faced by men as parents, particularly new fathers and separated fathers
- Male victims and survivors of sexual abuse, rape, sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based crime, stalking and slavery
- The negative portrayal of men, boys and fathers

Annex 1 has ten key statistics about men and boys in the UK

(3) Events and Popularity

International Men's Day has grown in the UK (the UK has the most events anywhere in the world) with organisations and individuals hosting a wide range of activities. These include conferences, employer days, awards events, community events, business events, debates, student events, comedy nights and charity fundraisers. Despite the disruption of Covid this year (as at 13 November), there are over 110 known events and promotions so far (2012 there was 12).

As well as local and community based events, there are a range of large corporates/well-known brands taking part as well as those Government and football clubs: Lloyds Bank, Holland & Barrett, Royal Bank of Scotland, Legal and General, Virgin, Civil Service, HMRC, MOJ, Army Welfare Service, Newcastle United FC.

There is an events [listing page](#) alongside a rolling list of organisations [taking part](#).

For 2017 and 2018, #internationalmensday was the most popular # in the UK on International Men's Day itself (in 2019, its social media popularity was disrupted due to the General Election!).

Further Information: Contact Mark Brooks OBE, National Ambassador (International Men's Day) and Trustee/Co-Founder of the Men and Boys Coalition (07834 452357 and contact@menandboyscoalition.org.uk)

Annex 1: Ten Key Facts about Men and Boys' Wellbeing in the UK

(1) Prostate Cancer

[12,031 men](#) died from prostate cancer in 2017 (33 per day, over one per hour) – the most recent figures available. Up from 11,307 in 2014

(2) Suicide

[In 2018](#) with 4,903 men took their own lives (13 per day) in the UK at a rate of 17.2 per 100,000, the highest rate since 2013. Men make up three in every four suicides.

(3) Covid-19

[18,671 men](#) (from 30,742 deaths overall in England) have lost their lives due to Covid-19 up until 14 October 2020. They make up 61% of all deaths (for every ten Covid-19 deaths, six will be male).

(4) University Entry

[In the 2018 Cycle](#), 196,105 men/boys domiciled in the UK accepted places at university, compared to 263,180 women/girls — a gap of 67,075 and 35%. [In 2018](#), for 17 to 30-year-old English students domiciled who participated in Higher Education, there was a gap of over 30,000. Men: 150,085 (44.1%) and Women: 183,325 (56.6%) (2018).

(5) GCSEs

[In 2019](#), boys have had worse exam results than girls for 30 years. Girls are now 14 per cent more likely than boys to pass their exams in English and maths, with 64 per cent of girls doing so compared to 56 per cent of boys.

In 2019, 62.9% of males received Grade 1-4 (A* to C) GCSE grades whilst 71.7% of women received the same results. Only 54.2% of 16-year-old boys achieved a Grade C/4 English Language GCSE compared to 70.5% girls. 59.9% of boys achieved Grade C/4 in Maths as did 59.2% girls. [Joint Council](#)

(6) Exclusions

[Boys have more](#) than three times the number of permanent exclusions, with 6,000 permanent exclusions, at a rate of 0.14 compared to 1,900 for girls in 2018/19 (0.05).

(7) Rough Sleeping

85% of those who [slept rough in 2019](#) are male (where gender known)

(8) Prison

There are c79,000 people in prison, [96% of whom are male](#) (c75,750).

(9) Domestic Abuse

In 2018/19 – 786,000 men (1.6 million women) suffered from Domestic Abuse – one in three victims are [male](#), yet only 4% of those using [domestic abuse services](#) are male.

(10) Sexual Violence/Abuse

140,000 men were estimated to have been victims of sexual assault in 2017/18 (560,000 women). 12,000 men were raped or victims of attempted rape in [2017/18](#).

More Statistics can be found on the Men and Boys Coalition website.

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/statistics>