

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 June 2026 10:46
To: +Comm Justice Public Email <committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Domestic Abuse-Related Suicide Recognition and Recording in Northern Ireland

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Dear Members of the Justice Committee

I am writing to ask for the Committee's consideration and support regarding an issue that I believe requires greater attention in Northern Ireland: the recognition, recording and review of suicides where domestic abuse or coercive control may have been a contributing factor.

Northern Ireland has taken important steps in recent years to recognise the devastating impact of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 acknowledged that abuse is not always physical and can include coercive control, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, financial abuse and other patterns of controlling behaviour.

However, while domestic abuse homicides are recorded and reviewed, there appears to be no equivalent system for routinely identifying, recording or reviewing deaths by suicide where domestic abuse or coercive control may have played a significant role.

This raises important questions:

How many victims of domestic abuse have died by suicide in Northern Ireland?

How many of these deaths may have occurred following prolonged coercive control or abuse?

What opportunities to learn, improve support services and prevent future deaths are being missed if these cases are not identified and reviewed?

My campaign is not seeking to predetermine the cause of any individual death, nor to make assumptions about specific cases. Instead, it is calling for a conversation about whether Northern Ireland should do more to recognise and understand the potential link between domestic abuse and suicide.

Research has consistently shown that victims of domestic abuse are at a significantly greater risk of experiencing suicidal thoughts, self-harm and suicide attempts. Yet without any formal mechanism for recording these cases, the true scale of the issue remains unknown.

The Domestic Abuse Suicide Recognition Law Campaign is calling for:

- Recognition of domestic abuse-related suicide as an issue requiring further understanding.
- Improved recording and data collection where domestic abuse or coercive control may have been a contributing factor.
- Greater research into the scale and impact of the issue.

- Review processes to identify lessons that may help prevent future deaths.
- Improved support for victims, survivors and bereaved families.

This issue affects women, men, children, families and entire communities. Behind every statistic is a person, and behind every person is a family searching for answers.

I would be grateful if the Committee would consider this issue and advise whether it may be appropriate for further discussion, evidence gathering or review.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I would welcome the opportunity to provide further information, research, correspondence received from public bodies, or to discuss the campaign further.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Founder – Domestic Abuse Suicide Recognition Law Campaign

💜 No More Invisible Victims
Recognise • Record • Prevent

[REDACTED]

"When domestic abuse leads to suicide, the law must recognise it." 💜