

Press Red and Restored present

# C O N T R O L

PRESS RED  
Turn the silence off



**Restored**  
Ending Violence Against Women

*the* **message.**

Christian *Arts* Trust

# C O N T R O L



Welcome to CONTROL

**The impact of domestic abuse on the relationship of a church-going couple, and the chance to discuss and learn more**

Written by Matt Britton

Performed by Matt Britton and Emily Lawson

The performance will last approximately one hour,  
followed by time for discussion.

Due to its content, this event is not suitable for the under 16s.

**PRESS RED**  
Turn the silence off



Educating, equipping and  
empowering on worldwide violence  
against women.

[pressed.org](http://pressed.org)

An international Christian Alliance  
that aims to transform relationships  
and end violence against women  
by working through and with the  
church and Christians worldwide.

[restoredrelationships.org](http://restoredrelationships.org)

## MATTHEW BRITTON

Matthew Britton wrote, directed and performed in his first professional play in 1996, and has since produced theatre across Germany, Italy and the UK. From 2001-16, he fronted 'In Yer Face Christian Theatre Company', working in schools, prisons, festivals and the wider community. His play, 'In Bloom,' was produced by the Bolton Octagon and won the BBC best short, 2011.

He first became engaged with the issue of intimate-partner violence working alongside the probation service delivering applied drama workshops for male perpetrators.

## EMILY LAWSON

Emily Lawson trained in musicals before working in fringe, community and commercial theatre. She also recently graduated from Iris Global film school, Los Angeles, and is developing a screenplay. Another former leading company member of 'In Yer Face' she is passionate about using the arts to see social change, particularly issues affecting young women.

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

According to the UK government, domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional harm.

There are a number of different criminal offences with which abusers can be charged, but the multiple difficulties and challenges involved in bringing a case prevent many offenders ever being brought to justice.

## HOW COMMON IS DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE UK?

Domestic abuse is shockingly common. It is estimated that one in four women in the UK will suffer abuse at some point in her life<sup>1</sup>, with this harm also affecting her family, community and wider society as a whole.

## HOW COMMON IS DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE CHURCH?

A recent study at the Universities of Coventry and Leicester revealed that levels of domestic abuse within the church are just as high as those outside of it, with two-thirds of churchgoers surveyed agreeing that churches should do more to raise awareness of the problem<sup>2</sup>.

Press Red and Restored both believe that the UK church should be a place of safety and support for all those affected by domestic abuse, demonstrating God's love and justice in the face of suffering.

## WHAT ABOUT MEN? <sup>3</sup>

Every case of domestic abuse should be taken seriously and each individual given access to the support they need. Whilst both men and women may experience incidents of interpersonal violence and abuse, women are considerably more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of abuse, including sexual violence. They are also more likely than men to experience sustained physical, psychological or emotional abuse, or violence which results in serious injury<sup>4</sup> or death<sup>5</sup>. Further to this, women are more likely to experience higher levels of fear and are more likely to be subjected to coercive and controlling behaviours<sup>6</sup>.

## Press Red

Across the world women and girls face many different forms of abuse at every life-stage, from sex-selective abortion through to child marriage, female genital mutilation and trafficking. Press Red is a Christian CIO which works to initiate change through raising awareness of these abuses and their impact on women, their families and communities, and signposting opportunities to get involved in making a difference.

Our vision is of a world in which no individual, society, or culture accepts abuse and violence against women, and where they can lead full and meaningful lives in safety and security.

### We do this through:

- working in partnership with the church to help it become an example in respect of how it supports, counsels, and protects those affected;
- bringing the stories of the abused and their abusers into the light;
- educating individuals and influential institutions, supporting them to reduce levels of gender violence and inequality in their communities and globally; and
- enabling like-minded agencies and support organisations to increase their impact.

Women and girls account for  
**71%** of trafficking  
victims

**137** women are killed  
by a family  
member each day

Almost  
**1 in 4** female students in  
the USA reported  
having experienced  
sexual misconduct  
or assault in 2015

At least  
**200,000,000**  
women alive today have undergone female  
genital mutilation and 650,000 were  
married before the age of 18<sup>7</sup>

## Restored

Domestic abuse is a scourge in our society and in our churches. With 1 in 4 churchgoers having experienced one abusive act, increasing to over 42% if past relationships are included, domestic abuse is in our churches too. Restored, established in 2010, works with Churches and Christians to break the silence, shame and stigma of domestic abuse and to get the help and support they need.

Restored's vision is of a world where women can live free from, and fear of, violence and abuse.

Restored's mission is to educate, train and equip Christians and churches from all denominations, and all parts of the world, to be able to play a significant part in preventing and ending domestic abuse and violence against women.

### We do this by:

- 1 Raising awareness on violence against women and domestic abuse by providing excellent practical resources.
- 2 Providing training for churches and Christian organisations on domestic abuse.
- 3 Engaging men to make a difference through our First Man Standing campaign.
- 4 Providing a network for female Christian survivors of domestic abuse.

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[1] Office for National Statistics (2016)

[2] [https://restored.contentfiles.net/media/resources/files/churches\\_web.pdf](https://restored.contentfiles.net/media/resources/files/churches_web.pdf)

[3] Text taken from [www.womansaid.org.uk](http://www.womansaid.org.uk)

[4] Walby & Towers, 2017; Walby & Allen, 2004

[5] ONS, 2017

[6] Dobash & Dobash, 2004; Hester, 2013; Myhill, 2015; Myhill, 2017

[7] <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

# Domestic Abuse

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

- Pray for all those affected by these issues: freedom for and for your response as a church and as individuals;
- Ensure that there are people in your church other than ministers who are trained and available to help with disclosures of domestic abuse;
- Build relationships and links with your local domestic abuse service providers: support them through fundraising, prayer and practical help;
- Talk about these issues and make it clear how they are harmful and unbiblical;
- Download or order Restored's free Church Pack and explore all of their other resources, available at [www.restoredrelationships.org/churchpack](http://www.restoredrelationships.org/churchpack);
- Consider supporting Press Red and its campaigns: see [www.pressred.org](http://www.pressred.org) for more details.

## WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

- If you are in an emergency situation, always call 999
- If you would like more general advice, call the police non-emergency number on 101
- Refuge run a free 24-hr national helpline on 0800 2000 247
- The National Centre for Domestic Violence can help you obtain emergency injunctions on 0800 970 2070
- Help is usually available locally via the council. Check your local council's website for info.
- The Samaritans are always available to talk through your situation, on 116 123
- Join Restored's Survivors' Network by emailing [info@restoredrelationships.org](mailto:info@restoredrelationships.org) (this is not a helpline service)

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[pressred.org](https://pressred.org)



Patron: Revd. Margaret Sentamu | Registered Charity No. 1180339

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[restoredrelationships.org](https://restoredrelationships.org)



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