

From: Grant R (Rhoda), MSP
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Response to Proposed Civil Protection Orders & Access to Justice (Scotland) Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 11:26:18 AM
Attachments:

-----Original Message-----

From: edwomensaid@aol.com [mailto:edwomensaid@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 11:23 AM
To: Grant R (Rhoda), MSP
Subject: Fwd: Response to Proposed Civil Protection Orders & Access to Justice (Scotland) Bill

-----Original Message-----

From: edwomensaid@aol.com
To: Rhoda.grant.msp@scottishparliament.uk
Sent: Tue, 23 Feb 2010 11:19
Subject: Response to Proposed Civil Protection Orders & Access to Justice (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed bill. Our response is brief, simply because we are in complete agreement with all the measures proposed. They seem so logical, obvious and just that one has to question why it has taken so long for someone to suggest them. We are very grateful that you have had the vision to do so.

If put in place these measures would afford women improved protection (one of the keystones of the National Strategy) and would also hold the abuser much more accountable. They would remove a huge amount of fear and worry from vulnerable women, especially around the need to evidence suffering continuing abuse in order to establish a "course of conduct", rather than having the original offence taken seriously and dealt with as such. In addition the removal of financial constraints would open up protection to all women.

More effective legal protection could also have a positive affect on women's choices about whether they remain in their own homes or have to go down the route of homelessness, with all its attending trauma.

Making breach of interdict a criminal offence would reinforce to abusers that their behaviour is unacceptable and will be treated with the seriousness that it deserves. It would make abusers visible and accountable, thereby affirming to survivors that what is happening to them matters.

We wish you every success with the bill.

Best wishes

Janice Straiton

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A registered charity providing information, support and
refuge

to women and children affected by domestic abuse

Scottish Charity Number SC903311