

OUR INSPIRATION NEVER FORGOTTEN

CLARE



Clare was shot dead by Michael Pech, a man she had dated a few times, in Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge in September 2005. After their brief three-week relationship ended, he began stalking her, spying on her at work, loitering outside her house and bombarding her with phone calls and text messages. After following and grabbing her on a train he said 'If you report me I will kill you' and 'If I can't have you, nobody will'. He was charged under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act and breached bail on a number of occasions. Awaiting sentencing, he went to the Czech Republic and purchased a gun. He returned to London where he killed Clare before turning the gun on himself.

RANA



Rana was stabbed to death in August 2003 by a former boyfriend, Stephen Griffiths, who had been stalking her for many weeks. Rana reported the stalking to the police on a number of occasions over a three month period. Griffiths received numerous police warnings after spying on her, taking photographs of her and harassing her by sending e-mails and text messages. Two weeks before she was murdered, he cut the brake pipes on her car. Griffiths attacked Rana while she was tending to her horse. Moments before she died she had dialed 999.

SURVIVING STALKING - TRACEY MORGAN

It cost Tracey her marriage, home, job and sanity.

Tracey was 22 years old when she befriended Anthony Burstow, a colleague at a nearby Naval establishment. She then kept bumping into him wherever she went and very soon realised that it was no coincidence.

His behaviour then started to become more frightening with sightings, notes, silent phone calls, unsigned cards through the mail, her home being broken into and underwear and possessions going missing and turning up in different places. Tracey felt she was going mad. Burstow appeared to know everything about her life and was everywhere she went.

This was the start of a terrifying ordeal that would last for nearly ten years.

To read more about Tracey's story go to www.protectionagainststalking.org

OUR FUNDING

PROTECTION AGAINST STALKING is a national charity that relies on donations and fund raising activities to meet the cost of working with victims and communicating our message to government, police, local authorities, crown prosecution service, judges, magistrates, the media, relevant charities, agencies and the general public. If you would like to contribute towards our work please go on to our website and use the Paypal facility or you can send a cheque to:

PROTECTION AGAINST STALKING

PO BOX 4001, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL60 1BH

www.protectionagainststalking.org

Protection Against Stalking is a registered charity no. 1136189

Company registered in England No. 6982944

LOOK FORWARD NOT BEHIND

PROTECTION AGAINST STALKING



Protection Against Stalking (www.protectionagainststalking.org) is a national charity which aims to help create a consistent, professional and effective response to the problem of stalking in the UK and to support stalking victims, in particular those at high risk of harm. Our vision is to educate society about the dangers of stalking, improve the safety of victims and to promote the effective management of perpetrators through prosecution and treatment.

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THROUGH AWARENESS COMES PROTECTION

WHAT IS STALKING?

There is no legal definition of stalking. However, it is generally accepted that it includes repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and/or contacts on another in a manner that could be expected to cause distress and/or fear in any reasonable person.

TYPES OF STALKING BEHAVIOUR

Taken in isolation behaviours might seem unremarkable. But in the particular circumstance and with repetition, they take on a more sinister meaning. The context and details of the behaviours and the underlying motivation are crucial to understanding the risks that the stalker poses to a victim.

Unwanted communications may include telephone calls, letters, e-mails, faxes, sms text messages, sending or leaving unsolicited materials/gifts, graffiti, and/or messages on social networking sites. Unwanted intrusions include following, waiting for, spying on, approaching, accosting and going to a person's home.

In addition to unwanted communication and intrusion, the stalker may engage in a number of associated behaviours including ordering or cancelling goods/services, making vexatious complaints (to legitimate bodies), cyberstalking, threats, property damage and violence.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT STALKING?

According to the British Crime Survey (2006), up to 1 in 5 citizens will experience stalking in the UK in their lifetime and approximately five million people experience stalking in any given year.

- The majority of stalkers are known to their victims either as ex-partners or acquaintances, but some people are stalked by complete strangers.
- Around 80% of stalkers are male. However, stalkers and their victims can be of either gender.
- Stalkers come from all backgrounds and do not form one 'type'. Stalkers are not homogenous and the motivation for stalking can vary.
- Understanding the motivation is important when assessing the risks the stalker may pose.
- Many victims will experience multiple, repeated stalking behaviours before they report this to the police.
- Stalking is life changing. It is frequently injurious to victims' psychological, physical and social functioning, irrespective of whether they are physically assaulted. The majority of stalking victims experience symptoms of traumatic stress and other forms of psychological, social and vocational damage.

WARNING SIGNS

A number of warning signs have been identified as being associated with serious violence and murder through researching many cases. Please be aware of the warning signs, whether you are being stalked, know someone who is or if you are a professional working with victims:

1. Is the victim very frightened?
2. Is there a history of domestic abuse or harassment?
3. Has (name of stalker(s).....) destroyed or vandalised any property?
4. Has (name of stalker(s).....) turned up unannounced or uninvited more than three times per week?
5. Has (.....) followed the victim or loitered around their home, workplace etc?
6. Has (.....) made any threats of physical or sexual violence?
7. Has (.....) harassed any third party since the harassment began? (e.g. friends, family, colleagues, partners, neighbours)
8. Has (.....) acted out violently towards anyone else within the stalking incident?
9. Has (.....) engaged other people to help him/her? (wittingly or unwittingly)
10. Has (.....) had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life?
11. Has (.....) ever threatened or attempted suicide?
12. Do you know if (.....) has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history for violence or anything else?

If you think you have become a victim of stalking, tell your family and friends and contact your local police, providing them with as much information as you can. If they fail to take you seriously tell them about Clare, Rana and Tracey and contact us for further advice.

You can also call the **National Stalking Helpline** on **0300 636 0300** weekdays between 09:30 – 16:00 (except Wed 13:00 – 16:00) or e-mail advice@stalkinghelpline.org www.stalkinghelpline.org



WHO ARE WE?

Protection Against Stalking was initially established by Tricia Bernal and Carol Faruqui whose daughters were both murdered by their stalkers. The Board of Trustees include experienced professionals from diverse backgrounds such as police, psychology and psychiatry. PAS also set up the National Stalking Helpline in collaboration with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and Network for Surviving Stalking.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Protection Against Stalking believes 8 key changes are required:

- 1 Greater awareness and training on stalking and harassment** – for key agencies including the police, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), probation, judges and magistrates.
- 2 Early risk identification and assessment by police and partner agencies using standardized and accepted risk models such as DASH, S-DASH and Stalking Risk Profile.**
- 3 The provision of advocates/caseworkers for victims of stalking** – there are currently Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs). Dedicated case workers for stalking are also needed, given the number and seriousness of stalking cases.
- 4 Specialist prosecutors and police officers trained in stalking** – the CPS already have violence against women specialists and the police have specialist public protection staff. Their training and remit should also include the management of stalking cases.
- 5 Review of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and sentencing guidelines for stalking** – Review of the Act is needed to reflect changes in communication technology, to introduce the word ‘stalking’ into the legislation and to add clarification. Clearer sentencing guidelines are needed to ensure more appropriate use of sentencing options at court.
- 6 National Helpline for Victims** – this has now been established by the collaboration between Protection Against Stalking, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and the Network for Surviving Stalking. It began at the end of April 2010 but must continue to be resourced.
- 7 Mandatory psychiatric assessment of stalkers** – it is clear when people fixate and stalk that they are psychologically unstable and a significant minority are psychotic. However, currently they do not routinely get assessed once they come into contact with the criminal justice system. If they do not have access to mental health services they will just continue their behaviour, which is detrimental, costly and dangerous to those that they stalk, as well as to themselves.
- 8 A national police specialist anti-stalking resource unit** – a “threat management unit” for all victims.