

# Child-to-Parent Violence Practitioners' Forum

Centre for Criminal Justice Studies

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# Welcome and Introduction

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# What is child-to-parent violence?



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‘Parent abuse is any act of a child that is intended to cause physical, psychological or financial damage to gain power and control over a parent.’ (Cottrell 2001: 3)

‘Parent abuse refers to *a pattern of behaviour that uses verbal, financial, physical or emotional means to practise power and exert control over a parent.*’ (Holt 2013: 1, emphasis in original)

Condry and Miles (2013: 1) defined APV as ‘Physical violence, threats of violence and criminal damage towards parents / carers by their adolescent children (aged 13-19 years).’

# Is CPV a form of domestic violence?



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*'Today has been horrendous and I am now wishing I was dead. I am too soft with him and he always gets his own way. Today he has kicked, thumped and battered me. Today I had to get out of the house so I did, he proceeded to lock the door behind me. All I did was sit over in the local park, cried, thought, cried, thought and cried some more.'*

(Parent, UK, cited in Holt 2013: 47)

'Indeed, there are many similarities between domestic violence and parent abuse since both entail a constellation of abusive behaviours embedded in the family relationship.'

(Wilcox 2012: 282)

# The government's definition of DV:



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'[Domestic violence] can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional'

(Home Office 2013)

# Why has CPV remained hidden?



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- ‘It’s one of the biggest taboos in family life. It happens – we know that – but no one talks about it.’

(Hilary Chamberlain, cited in Wilcox 2012: 277)

- ‘[I]t’s shameful, isn’t it, that you’ve been hit or abused by your own child.’  
(Practitioner, cited in Galvani 2010: 1)

- Academic concerns about the over-criminalisation of young people
- CPV contradicts dominant narratives around ‘parental responsibility’ ...

# Where are we now?



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- HOLES IN THE WALL - blog by Helen Bonnick
- Holt, A (2013) *Adolescent-To-Parent Abuse*. Bristol: Policy Press
- Condry, R. and Miles, C. (2014) 'Adolescent to parent violence: Framing and mapping a hidden problem', *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 14(3): 257-275.
- Wilcox, P. and colleagues - *Responding to Child to Parent Violence* (Daphne III) (ongoing)
- Routt, G. and Anderson, L. (2014) *Adolescent Violence In the Home*. New York: Routledge.
- And policy developments ...



APV  
Adolescent to Parent Violence Project



# References



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- Cottrell, B. (2001) *Parent abuse: The abuse of parents by their teenage children*. Ottawa, Canada: Family Violence Prevention Unit, Health Canada.
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