

**Domestic Abuse Bill 2019 –
Third Reading approved**

The Speaker: Third Reading it is: Mr Malarkey to move.

Mr Malarkey: Thank you Mr Speaker.

I thank Hon. Members for supporting the suspension of Standing Orders to allow the Third Reading to be taken today.

Mr Speaker, this Bill defines domestic abuse for the first time and sets out legal measures that may be taken to protect people from abusive partners or ex-partners.

During the clauses stage, the Bill was improved through amendments designed to ensure it caught as many different accommodation arrangements as possible so that whatever protective measures may be made, the victim will always be sure that their right to reside in their premises will be secured.

I thank Hon. Members for their assistance and patience in respect to these amendments. I do accept that there were rather a lot of detailed amendments in this case, and with future Department Bills we are looking at ways to ensure that if there are any Government amendments, we will keep them to the bare minimum.

This Bill sets out the domestic abuse offence and the control of coercive behaviour. Offences with significant maximum penalty is available to the courts and provides that these offences are aggravated where children are in some way involved or any other circumstances specified by the Department in an order.

These offences and protective measures set out in the Bill send a signal to our community that domestic abuse is a very serious matter and will be addressed.

Mr Speaker, there is much to be done once this Bill is passed; but now I want to thank Hon. Members for their support at the various stages of this Bill and their patience.

I beg to move that the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019 be read for the third time.

Would anybody like to second it?

The Speaker: Mrs Barber.

Mrs Barber: I beg to second.

Mr Malarkey: Thank you!

The Speaker: Mr Shimmins.

Mr Shimmins: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank the Minister and his team and everybody who is involved in this important Bill for bringing forward this legislation, which hopefully will help the victims of domestic abuse in the future when it is passed. It very much is appreciated.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Minister to reply.

Mr Malarkey: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

It does give me a chance to thank my team behind me, with my political Members who have worked very hard on this Bill and several other Bills. We have heard not just the Domestic Abuse but the Sexual Offences Bill going through today, and not just the legislation team that I have in my Department, who have worked extremely hard ...

This Bill before you today is a brand new Bill. It puts us way ahead of the UK in many aspects, and I think we should be proud of what we are passing today within this Bill. It is much needed, unfortunately, on the Island and I think it is the way forward.

I thank the Hon. Member for his comments and I would like to duplicate my comments with regard to my team as well.

With that, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: I put the question that the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019 be read for a third time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.