

Medal of Honour Presentation & Dinner, Wednesday 27 April 2022

Medallist: Duncan Craig OBE

Presenter: Professor Kieron Flanagan

Distinguished Guests,

Duncan Craig has made remarkable contributions to the support of male survivors of sexual abuse, rape and sexual exploitation across Greater Manchester - and well beyond.

A survivor himself, the charity he founded - *Survivors Manchester* - now delivers support to over 950 men every year, and Duncan has worked with Government, the Police, the NHS and the Crown Prosecution Service, influencing the development of the UK Victim Strategy and other policies and strategies.

Duncan has also designed a trauma-focused service for survivors within prisons and secure units, and has delivered a 2-year pilot project with the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner on aspects of sexual trauma and young people's behaviour.

He and his team have worked with soap operas such as *Coronation Street*, *Hollyoaks* and now *Eastenders*, on ground-breaking storylines dealing with male rape and sexual abuse.

Since founding *Survivors Manchester*, Duncan has been a strong advocate of tackling sexual violence. He has published widely on the topic and has worked with scholars and activists around the world: in Iceland; in the USA; in New Zealand; and more recently in Uganda, focusing on male victims/survivors of sexual violence in war and conflict.

Duncan was a co-founder of the Men and Boys Coalition, a network focusing on addressing the health needs of boys and men; and is a Trustee of *Sick Festival*, the arts festival that faces up to the complexities of mental and physical health.

Duncan spent the first 10 years of his working life in the theatre, arts and entertainment. A proud Mancunian, his first job was at the former Granada Studios Tour (so was mine!) and he later worked at the Palace Theatre, Opera House, and People's History Museum.

After that he worked as Director of PR and Marketing with a major showbiz company, putting on some of the best productions out of the West End and Broadway.

Duncan is a graduate of the University of Manchester, graduating with a Diploma in Counselling in 2008 and an MA in Counselling in 2010.

In 2005, he began training to become a qualified counsellor and embarked on a complete career change after volunteering in a busy city centre needle exchange. Whilst a student here at Manchester he worked with male and female sex workers, people affected by HIV and Hepatitis C, and with other sexual health issues, in a voluntary sector drug service on harm reduction and treatment, particularly.

Duncan's training as a therapist led him to uncover, raise his awareness and finally disclose his own childhood and teenage experiences of sexual abuse and rape. This, plus the difficulty he found in getting the support he needed, was the catalyst for the launch of Survivors Manchester.

In 2020, Duncan's achievements were recognised with the award of an OBE for services to Male Victims of Rape and Child Abuse.

Duncan, your achievements so far have been remarkable, and surely there are many more to come.

It's my great pleasure to present you to the Medal of Honour. Congratulations!