

Kim: Guest Speaker Tree of Angels 2017

3-years, 4-months and 21 days
2 broken doors
Graphic and detailed threats to kill
Countless sexual assaults
6 pregnancies
The birth of one son
1 hospital in lockdown

4 AVOs
30 plus breaches
Charges of stalking and intimidation
1 conviction for common assault.
6 good behaviour bonds

And these statistics don't include what he did to my daughter.

Good Afternoon,
I'm a mother of two (almost three) and I am a survivor.

Between June 2011 and October 2014, I was in a "relationship prison". In that 3 years, 14 months and 21 days I was subject to emotional, physical, financial and sexual abuse. Isolated from family and friends.

I was meticulously stripped of everything of joy in my life. I lived in constant fear. One sexual assault leading to the conception of my son, and when I was 7 weeks pregnant I fought for my life in ICU. Even at my weakest, I was subjected to violently graphic threats to kill me and his unborn child. These threats were overheard and the hospital went into lockdown and I was issued an AVO. I was moved to a private secure room for my safety and that of other patients.

My ex was taken and held at Raymond Terrace Police Station overnight and just 3 months later the AVO I had to protect me was amended and he turned up on my door step one day, announce we were leaving for a "holiday in Queensland" in 2 days, without my consent or knowledge. So 7 months pregnant, sick and scared of any hope of freedom was gone and I accepted that this was my life and I would never escape.

I gave birth to our son and within 6 weeks, the violence started again. Again, I found myself in a position before the court, a slug for protection, he initiated family court mediation and – trying to do the right thing for my son – he was granted 3 access visits a per week.

Within a month, he was pushing the boundaries and turning up more frequently, saying he was willing to help with the children. I believed he was a changed man. I thought fatherhood would make him a better man.

What I was not fully aware of at the time was that he has manipulating my 9 year old autistic daughter with gifts that he had previously take away from her.

One afternoon, my brave little girl told me what he had done to her the night before. It was one thing to hurt me, but another thing to hurt my daughter.

I again called the police and after a 5 hour interview at the Joint Investigation Response Team and 2 weeks of trying to avoid him, my ex was questioned, charged with several sexual assault offences. His reasoning was "She came onto me". However, when it came to the court process He refused to plead guilty and there 22 court dates as my daughter and I waited to give evidence. After an "agreement of facts" saw 4 charges condensed to 2, was amended he pleaded guilty. Again my objections were ignored.

During this time my ex had lodged an application the family court as he attempted to have visitation access to not only "our son" my daughter - his victim.

With my daughter and I being diagnosed with PTSD, I was petrified as to what he would do next. The Family Court Report Writer described him as of low intelligence, with both sociopathic and psychopathic tendencies. I slept with a tomahawk under the bed and all the lights on. The TV and fans provided white noise. Finally, in June 2016 our time in both courts ended.

For his crimes against my daughter he was sentenced to 7 months in jail (the maximum penalty was 10 years for each count) However, he appealed the sentence and it was instead given a 2 year suspended sentence and put on the sex offenders registry for 3 years. The appeals Judge's comment was "it wasn't the worst of the worst".

During this time, my ex has spent only two nights in custody. We are not his first victims nor, I suspect, will we be his last.

My daughter and I have been seeing a PTSD counsellor and have had the unwavering support of Kerrie at VOCAL whom I can honestly say I would not have gotten thru this. I lost the majority of my family and friends through this process but we've also been blessed with a new family through BACA (Bikers against child abuse)

We have come out the other side of our horrific experience, and so have all of you here today. You would all know that some days are harder than others but as the sun rises every day and I urge you be grateful for the little victories you have. Things like going shopping without having a flashback or making it through a day without crying. I encourage you to give yourself love and grace. Ask for help if you need it. Connect with others who will listen and provide unwavering support.

It's a journey, your journey and we are all here today to honour that journey. You survived that which was meant to destroy you. You are a phoenix rising from the ashes. God, bless you all and thanks for listening.