

Souls of Our Shoes Comments

**Strong & sturdy
but reduced to vulnerability**

**These shoes are not comfortable –
a bit like my life**

Relentless abuse left me tired & empty

After 30 years I walked to Freedom in these shoes.

**These shoes walked with me
“out of the shadows”**

Evidently these shoes attracted the wrong kind of attention

God walked beside me when I made my choice

**I was protected from the cold -
nothing else**

I had high expectations of my relationship – I was sorely disappointed

Shiny and full of hope, but they represent shattered dreams

**My old faithfuls
They were there for me when no-one else knew**

**I am glamorous –
don't judge by how I look**

These shoes helped me to keep up appearances despite the agony

**I love to dance –
The magic stops when the key turns in the lock**

**These shoes remind
me of home.....**

**Frances –
a disabled woman –
I am no exception**

These shoes may be glamorous but my life is not

I didn't think I could walk away

These were the shoes that kicked me

I thought of holiday times when I bought these.

It was a nice dream

Red shoes always raise a smile

I love these shoes but they hurt me now

These trainers were good friends to me. I could run quickly in them.

It happens to Grandmothers too

I feel warm and safe when I wear these slippers

Would you like to walk in my shoes?

**These were made for walking –
away from abuse**

I wore them to the office – never went anywhere else

I was allowed to wear these as they were not feminine

**I chose these shoes because the stripes
looked cheerful –
it covered up how I felt**

**These sandals are
worn and ragged -
just like me**

**I wore these shoes at my daughter's wedding. She will never suffer the abuse I
did**

My favourite winter shoes I thought I could tackle anything while wearing them

Bedroom slippers denote a time of comfort & rest

These flip-flops remind me of the one happy holiday we had

**I used to feel smart in these, now I feel sad
These shoes never hurt anyone**

These are the shoes I walked away in

**These shoes were for wearing to Church.
I was ashamed to attend**

These shoes don't look much but they were kind to my sore feet

Comfort was not an issue when I bought these

These shoes show how ragged I felt

These were my only shoes for a long time

When these trainers were new and shiny they gave me confidence

I didn't think this could happen at my age

Boots to walk hills and glens in solitude and peace

This was the shoe that left a mark on my leg

I wore these shoes to church and pretended everything was OK

The enduring love of God sustained me in dark places

**I feel really cosy & safe
in these.**

These were the shoes that kicked me.

Would you like to walk in my shoes?

These are the shoes I walked away in.

**When I grow up
I want to be like my Mum.**

I liked these so much I brought two pairs, but I couldn't walk in them.

**I love these pink laces, they make a statement
When I'm feeling down, these shoes cheer me up**

I can hop, skip and jump when I go out in these

Souls of our Shoes Exhibition

The shoes in this exhibition speak on behalf of abused individuals who suffer and some who die at the hands of their partner. Other comments come from those who journey with them. Their reflections represent a faith perspective.

“It is God’s intention for all human beings, male, female, child and adult, to enjoy safety, freedom, dignity and fullness of life. Abuse in the home is a violation of God’s wish for humanity as it can adversely affect an individual’s relationship with God and also creates substantial damage in the family, in the community and in society as a whole.”

(From the Scottish Inter-Faith Group Statement)

SCOTTISH INTERFAITH GROUP ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

A useful video to accompany a ‘Souls of Our Shoes’ Exhibition, *Walking Through domestic Abuse*
(A gentle warning that you may feel upset by the content of this film)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98OFTrTqae8>