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Press Release

Debt charity identifies insolvency gender divide

Men are more likely to become insolvent than women according to Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), the UK's leading debt charity. CCCS has released its insolvency statistics by gender which reveal higher rates of bankruptcy and Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) recommendations for men than women. Last year, of those it recommended an IVA to, 55.4 percent were men while 51.4 percent of those it recommended bankruptcy to were men.

The existence of an insolvency gender divide is supported by figures that CCCS has obtained from the Insolvency Service, with statistics from 2000 to 2008 showing that men have always taken out more IVAs or gone bankrupt more than women. In 2008, the most recent available figures by gender, show that 23,173 women went bankrupt in 2008 compared to 37,972 men, an increase of over 50 percent, while 17,300 women took out an IVA, four thousand less than the 21,318 men who did.

The levels of debt for CCCS clients gives an indication why there are higher numbers of insolvency among men. While couples have more debt than single people, on average owing just over £30,000, single men owe on average £19,830, which is 17 percent more than the average of £16,937 for single women.

Commenting on the findings, CCCS spokeswoman Frances Walker says: "This may be the one equality which women may not want to aspire to. Whatever sex you are, I would urge anyone worried about their debt to seek help as soon as possible. Either call our helpline or if you prefer to be anonymous, use *Debt Remedy*, our online counselling tool."

The CCCS free phone helpline 0800 138 1111 is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday. CCCS operates *Debt Remedy*, an online counselling service available round the clock at www.cccs.co.uk for those who prefer an anonymous option.

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Notes for editors:

1. CCCS's ethos is to help the "can't pays", not the "won't pays", and does not condone debt avoidance. CCCS always aims to help its clients pay back what they owe, in a realistic timescale and manner that is suited to each individual's situation.
2. CCCS is self-funding. Lenders share with the charity the benefit they receive from its operation, making a donation from the money repaid to them. This allows CCCS to retain its independence and ensure that its advice is always in the best interest of the client. CCCS aims to separate the "can't pays" from the "won't pays".
3. Insolvency Service figures for bankruptcy and IVAs broken down by gender:

Bankruptcies by Gender

	Male	Female	Unknown
2000	14,838	6,042	390
2001	15,750	5,945	1,583
2002	15,741	6,641	1,645
2003	17,740	8,115	1,993
2004	21,509	11,517	2,674
2005	27,374	16,243	3,659
2006	35,320	21,941	5,684
2007	35,651	22,884	5,932
2008	37,972	23,173	6,320

Individual Voluntary Arrangements by Gender

	Male	Female	Unknown
2000	5,211	2,674	14
2001	4,191	2,072	9
2002	4,091	2,181	8
2003	4,805	2,762	7
2004	6,576	4,146	9
2005	11,667	8,582	10
2006	24,639	19,442	19
2007	23,440	18,733	67
2008	21,318	17,300	498