



Equal Rights for Men and Women

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PARITY NEWS BRIEFING – FEBRUARY 2021

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A CASE FOR MORE MEN IN EARLY YEARS EDUCATION

By Martin Ward

PARITY's AGM attendees were treated to an hour-long presentation by David Wright, founder of Paint Pots nurseries and pre-school education centres in Southampton, followed by a Q&A.

David was keen to share his own learning and observations with us, gleaned from nearly 30 years in the business.

The theme of the presentation was the importance of male role models in a child's life, in providing different experiences and activities for young children, leading to greater emotional security in later life.

However, in the UK, Early Years childcare and education is seen as a low status, traditionally female occupation, attracting only 2-3% of male staff. Research indicates that this industry, as well as attracting fewer men, also sees men staying in the job for less time than women. One key reason for this is concerns about allegations of child abuse. Despite around 95% of respondents to one survey saying they thought more male workers would be beneficial, many also worried about the safety of children.

Government funding and targeted campaigns over the last 20 years have increased female representation in some traditionally male occupations, such as science and technology. But the percentage of men in the early years industry has remained static in the UK. over the same period, due to lack of focus in our society. This is in contrast to many of our European neighbours whose male representation is significantly higher.

In Norway, for example, men make up 9% of early years workers, due to Government focus and specific recruitment campaigns targeting men.

During the Q&A, it was suggested that male volunteers could be an interim answer to increasing male staff numbers. David Wright said this is a good idea and already happens in Paintpots. He had a child psychologist volunteer for a year and also student volunteers. He said volunteering would be good experience for prospective parents thinking of adopting. It was commented that male educational attainment has worsened compared to female over the last 30 years and said that boys do better with the additional involvement of male teachers during their education. A change of culture, with the general public seeing Early Years education and care as a female role, is required.

FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

By Mark Brooks

The Domestic Abuse Bill has been on a long journey and is aimed to become law by the end of March. The battle does not stop there of course. The law applies to all but will it be applied to all?

There will be the Statutory Guidance –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896640/Draft_statutory_guidance_July_2020.pdf that will underpin the law and be the driver for its delivery and also wider culture change in society and in public services. This is crucial if we are to make sure that far more of the 750,000 men who suffer from domestic abuse are able to escape these toxic relationships and family settings.

This Guidance is currently in a draft format and will be published for consultation in early Spring and I am sure Parity will want to make its voice heard. The Home Office has been talking to organisations like the ManKind Initiative for some time but we are one voice against many – David versus well-funded Goliaths with paid lobbying professionals.

There is a lot to like in the Guidance albeit more can be and will be fleshed out in sections around male victims – especially as it errs onto male victim blaming “if only men would change” territory. The key issues we have objected to is firstly the lack of “equivalence” whereby there are lots of explanations, models and research as to why heterosexual women are victims but no equivalent explanation of why men and LGBT+ people are victims.

The second issue is the narrative especially at the beginning which in effect, whether on purpose or not, minimises male victims and relegate them to be second class victims. It sets men up in a false competition with women by comparing between genders which because of the volume of victims will always minimise men. This will have the chilling effect of ensuing that stereotypes around victims (“it is only really heterosexual women who are victims”) remain in the minds of the public but also the police, health professionals, social services, judges, politicians etc.

This can be seen where the Home Office has been lobbied very hard on a key paragraph (23): "Domestic abuse most commonly takes place in intimate partner relationships. The vast majority is perpetrated by men against women, but men are also subject to abuse by female partners, and both men and women experience abuse from same sex partners."

The key issue here is the use of the word "vast". Given that the Office of National Statistics figures have consistently shown that one in three victims of domestic abuse are men, the use of the "vast" cannot be justified. In April last year, we asked for it to be removed but the Home Office refused.

Taking a leaf out of Parity's books in 2009 where John Mays had successfully complained - https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/keir-starmer-to-sir-roger-jowell-domestic-violence_tcm97-25978.pdf to the UK Statistics Authority about the CPS' use of domestic abuse data (led then by Kier Starmer no less), we did the same last year.

I wrote a similar letter - <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/mark-brooks-obe-to-ed-humpherson-draft-statutory-guidance-framework-july-2020-domestic-abuse-act-bill/> and was similarly successful - <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/ed-humpherson-response-to-mark-brooks-obe-draft-statutory-guidance-framework-july-2020-domestic-abuse-act-bill/> . When this news came through in August we were magnanimous with the Home Office and did not cause too much of a fuss. Partly, there are new civil servants looking at the Guidance and they were somewhat surprised that our reasonable request in April had been turned down. Plus they promised they would deliver on it and remove the word when the Guidance is next published. The usual suspects who wanted the word in were somewhat shocked to hear – obviously because it was an ideological defeat. Such are the battles in the domestic abuse sector.

As ever, and as Parity led the way on free bus passes, TV licences and pensions – the fight for equality for men goes on. Why we have to go to such lengths because the Government and other powers ignores quite reasonable requests which are based on inclusion and equality continues to be startling. Persist we must – men's lives depend on it!

NEWS FROM MEN AND BOYS COALITION

Winners of the world's first Men and Boys Awards Announced

Winners of the world's first awards celebrating those who support the well-being of men and boys were announced by the Men and Boys Coalition on International Men's Day 2020.

The National Men and Boys Awards, founded by the Men and Boys Coalition charity, recognise individuals and organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to promoting care, compassion and social change for men and boys in the UK.

The winners include fatherhood champions; campaigners for men and boys' health; academics researching male victims of domestic abuse; grassroots support for isolated older men following the coronavirus pandemic and leading practitioners supporting male victims of rape.

It is understood that these were the first such awards to have taken place not just in the UK, but anywhere in the world.

The National Men and Boys Awards took place as an online event, with videos of each of the three shortlisted nominees for each award category, shared on Twitter in the days running up to November 19th.

Dan Bell, CEO of the Men and Boys Coalition, said: "There is an incredible network of charities, practitioners and academics in the UK who are doing crucial, unsung work on the ground to support men and boys and raise awareness of the many issues they face — often on a shoestring budget and with a lack of support from policy makers.

"The Men and Boys Coalition was founded to champion the men and boys sector in the UK — and what better way to do that than to shout about this work with our inaugural National Men and Boys Awards.

"I am absolutely delighted to announce our award winners, whose work is quite literally re-shaping the understanding of, and provision for, issues of disadvantage that disproportionately affect men and boys in the UK."

Videos announcing the winning nominees were shared on International Men's Day itself:

Winners:

<https://twitter.com/MBCoalition/status/1329346493728296961?s=20>

Nominees:

<https://twitter.com/MBCoalition/status/1327545779582627841?s=20>

Winners in each of the six categories were:

Activist of the Year — For an individual showing outstanding achievement in providing care, compassion or social change for men and boys.

Peter Baker, Director, Global Action on Men's Health, HPV Action campaign to secure gender-neutral HPV vaccination for boys and girls.

Project of the Year— For a charity, organisation or project showing outstanding achievement in providing care, compassion or social change for men and boys.

Survivors Manchester, actions in support of the survivors of serial Manchester rapist, Reynhard Sinaga.

Award for Public Understanding — For a writer, academic or media creative who has made an outstanding contribution to our understanding of men and boys and their needs this year.

Dr Elizabeth Bates, Senior Lecturer in Psychology University of Cumbria, for research into experience of male victims of domestic abuse.

Diversity and Inclusion Award — For any individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to combatting unfair prejudice and discrimination against men and boys in all their diversity.

Music.Football.Fatherhood, fatherhood and lifestyle platform, for their work creating a space for men to explore what it means to be a man and a father and in offering a platform and voice for black fathers in the UK.

Lifetime Achievement Award — For any individual or organisation that has made a significant lifelong contribution to supporting men and boys.

Prof Phil Rumney, Professor of Criminal Justice at De Montfort University, for his 25 years of research and writing into male victims of rape and sexual assault.

2020 Special Crisis Award — A one-off award for the individual or organisation that has demonstrated exceptional response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Crisis.

UK Men's Sheds, for their outstanding and innovative response to supporting the well-being of their community of older men following the outbreak of Covid-19

Global Action on Men's Health report -- 'From the margins to the mainstream: Next Steps'
<https://t.co/YsgaQPvLQv>

'Male, Failed, Jailed: Masculinities and 'Revolving Door' Imprisonment in the UK'
<https://t.co/9fdJ1IX7np>

LBC presenter Iain Dale raises funds for the Mankind Initiative on BBC's Pointless
<https://t.co/sTBkjTQyn7>

Mankind Initiative launches National Quality Service Standards for Male Victims / Survivors of Domestic Abuse.

The Mankind Initiative have launched National Quality Service Standards for Male Victims / Survivors of Domestic Abuse. They are aimed at helping services and commissioners to better support men who are victims and survivors of this crime. A copy of the Standards can be downloaded here: <https://mdan.org.uk/service-standards/>

They have been created by the ManKind Initiative, the national charity supporting male victims of domestic abuse, alongside partners Hestia, the charity that supports adults in crisis including victims of domestic abuse.

Whilst independent, they are also aimed at forming a parallel set of Service Standards to those developed by the Male Survivors Partnership for boys and men affected by sexual abuse, rape and sexual exploitation. They therefore form an additional part of the overall quality and policy framework for supporting male victims of these crimes. The standards were also produced by LimeCulture and are in the same format.

If you would like to receive further information about these Standards, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Brooks, Chair of the Mankind Initiative: chairman@mankind.org.uk

Suicides among British troops more than double in decade with 17 this year alone
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/suicides-among-british-troops-more-23193743>

Shocking male suicide figures prompt launch of new mental health service for men
<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/18988065.shocking-male-suicide-figures-prompt-launch-new-mental-health-service-men/>

Reminder: Campaign for a National Strategy on Intimate Violence Against Men and Boys

In November, we announced the official launch of our campaign for a National Strategy on Intimate Violence Against Men and Boys.

Now, the Government is undertaking a review of its policy framework for addressing these crimes and we are working hard to ensure the voices of male survivors are properly heard in these discussions.

We invite you to join us in calling upon the UK government to adopt a National Strategy on Intimate Violence Against Men and Boys.

Please follow the links below for a full explanation of the campaign and why it is so necessary.

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/ivamb-strategy/>

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/fag/>

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/IVAMB-Briefing-Final-Oct2020-.pdf>

To support this campaign, please visit the [Change.org](https://change.org) petition and add your name, tell your friends, family and colleagues, and share it on your social media.

Locked Down, Locked Out: Dads in the pandemic

<https://dadbloguk.com/dads-in-the-pandemic/>

The benefits of gender-neutralising parental leave: How brands are making it work

<https://www.marketingweek.com/brands-gender-neutralising-parental-leave/>

Call for papers -- Special Issue on Men as victims of violence and abuse in Intimate Relationships for the Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma.

Contact Dr Liz Bates with expressions of interest [@DrLizBates](https://twitter.com/DrLizBates) / <http://elizabethbates.co.uk/>

TEACHER CALLED 'FREE-SPEECH MARTYR AND MISOGYNIST' AFTER BEING SACKED BY ETON COLLEGE INSISTS DISMISSAL WAS 'NOT A MATTER OF FREE SPEECH'

Zoe Tidman Thursday 07 January 2021 13:00

Eton College has been at the centre of a row over free speech following the sacking of a teacher, who posted a video on Youtube criticising feminist thinking

A teacher says he has been called "everything from a free-speech martyr to a misogynist" following his sacking from Eton College for posting a video that claimed [patriarchy](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/patriarchy?CMP=ILC-refresh) - <https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/patriarchy?CMP=ILC-refresh> was rooted in biology.

The school said Will Knowland was not fired on the grounds of free speech but as a matter of "internal discipline" after he refused to take the video down despite being asked to half a dozen times. The video lecture posted on Youtube - called "The Patriarchy Paradox" - also taught women would not be able to survive without men and criticised feminist thinking.

Writing in *The Spectator*, English teacher Mr Knowland claimed his video was meant to be "half of a debate on the new gender orthodoxies at the College, which never saw the light of day". In a piece titled [Why I was sacked from Eton](https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/why-i-was-sacked-from-eton) -

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/why-i-was-sacked-from-eton>, he said "the boys" who first came to his defence "correctly pinpointed free speech the principle at stake". "Otherwise, why was it so essential the video should come down?" he asked. Eton has insisted Mr Knowland's sacking was "not a matter of freedom of speech".

A letter to parents over the case, the headmaster said the school "makes no apology" for teaching its students about the importance of "treating each other's differences with understanding, tolerance and mutual respect".

Eton has insisted Mr Knowland's sacking was "not a matter of freedom of speech".

In a letter to parents over the case, the headmaster said the school "makes no apology" for teaching its students about the importance of "treating each other's differences with understanding, tolerance and mutual respect".

Writing in *The Spectator*, Mr Knowland said neither the College's initial legal advice nor his dismissal letter made claims he had breached the Equality Act. "It was not new legislation I'd transgressed, just a new religion with an old-time zeal to suppress dissent and punish

heresy," he said. The teacher also said he will miss the "ironic riposte from one of the boys" following his dismissal.

"'Cheer up,' I told one who looked un-enthused by Milton in my first week at the school, nine years ago," Mr Knowland wrote. "'Two hundred years ago, you'd have been down a mine!'

"'Sir,' he replied deadpan, 'we'd have owned the mines.' The class erupted in self-deprecating laughter."

Eton College said in a statement: "Mr Knowland's dismissal was not a matter of freedom of speech, but was the outcome of a disciplinary hearing related to his repeated refusal to observe a reasonable request to temporarily remove his video lecture while Eton considered advice that its contents could well breach a number of the school's policies as well as the school's legal and regulatory responsibilities."

The statement added: "Eton believes passionately in free speech. However, as in any school, there are limits to the freedoms that teachers have and there are professional obligations that must be respected."

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/eton-teacher-will-knowland-free-speech-b1783516.html>

WHAT IS BEATSTRESS.UK?

Online stress support for men.

The [beatstress.uk](https://www.beatstressuk.com) service offers online support for men of all ages. <https://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/mid-life-crisis-faqs> is the most visited mental health page on the Men's Health Forum website and we know, through the other searches on our site, that we're all searching for ways to better manage stress. The [beatstress.uk](https://www.beatstressuk.com) service is about tackling the niggling hassles, frustrations and angers we all feel before it becomes something more serious. [Beatstress.uk](https://www.beatstressuk.com) is free, confidential and anonymous.

When's it open?

The webchat is open on Wednesdays from 7pm to 10pm with the email service available 24 hours a day offering a 48 hour turnaround.

Who will I be chatting to?

It is staffed by experienced professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds including the NHS and all with expertise in supporting people with their mental health and wellbeing. They really have heard it all before.

Anything else?

From the [beatstress.uk](https://www.beatstressuk.com) page you can also link through to the Men's Health Forum's acclaimed content on male mental wellbeing, developed in line with the NHS England Information Standard by and for men in the target group, and also find online signposting.

Sounds useful.

Think it's a good idea? Please let others know by sharing on social media and elsewhere.

<https://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/what-beatstressuk>

THE FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

Five tried and tested ways to feel better right now.



CONNECT



ACTIVE



LEARN



GIVE



NOTICE

There is good evidence that five specific things can make a big difference to someone's sense of wellbeing. They're called the Five Ways To Wellbeing. The Five Ways are valuable in their own right. They'll improve your health and wellbeing. But it is also likely that if you're feeling good about yourself, you will find it easier to make the other changes in your life that will improve your physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are:

CONNECT

Feeling close to, and valued by, other people. Some ideas to help feel more connected:

- Talk to someone rather than texting or emailing
- Talk to someone new
- Ask someone something about themselves that you don't know
- Offer someone a lift or suggest you travel together
- Contact someone you have not spoken to for over a year
- Join a club or group

BE ACTIVE

Taking part in regular physical activity

- Take stairs, not the lift
- Get off the train or bus a stop earlier or park the car further away
- Do stretching exercises
- Do an activity (eg. cycling or swimming) that you have not tried for a while
- Combine being active with connecting: sport, walking, gardening

TAKE NOTICE

Being aware of what is taking place in the present.

- Look up at the sky rather than down at the pavement
- Take a different route on a familiar journey
- Go somewhere new for lunch
- Spend time in parks, forests and at the seaside

LEARN

Continuing to learn throughout life

- Sign up for a class
- Read a book
- Do some puzzles
- Research something you are curious about (eg. your family tree)
- Take up a language or a musical instrument

- Learn some practical skills (eg. how to fix your bike)

GIVE

Participating in social and community life.

- Volunteer for a charity or community group
- Visit an elderly relative or neighbour
- Do someone a favour
- Smile and say thanks

If you want an easy way to remember the five ways, try CAN DO: C(onnect), A(ctive), N(otice) and D(iscover) and O(ffer). Works for me.

The Five Ways were developed by the New Economics Foundation.

<https://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/five-ways-wellbeing>

UNDERSTANDING THE MALE MENOPAUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Male menopause can be a difficult time for older men, with symptoms beginning to affect their well-being; and with the COVID-19 pandemic halting normal life, it can have an even bigger impact on mental health.

<https://www.optimale.co.uk/male-menopause-mental-health-guide/>

It covers important topics such as:

- **Understanding "male menopause"** - separating facts from fiction, and why it can be misleading (and harmful) to group the different changes and conditions affecting men as they age under this label.
- The **physical and emotional changes** associated with male menopause why men should always seek a proper medical diagnosis for said symptoms.
- **The effect on men's mental wellbeing** - from memory loss and lowered libido to secondary effects like fatigue, insomnia, and irrationality - and their impact on daily life.
- **Helpful tips and advice** for managing symptoms, lifestyle changes, and treatments that can help, and other useful information.

One of our Ex-Trustees who is a counsellor therapist dealing with peoples' emotional distress, but not medically trained has reviewed the information and says the following:

This talks a lot about physical change and has lots of handy tips, advice about diet, vitamins, etc. (Vitamin D and Zinc helps the immune system especially if you get covid).

Although the phrase "Male menopause" in men has been used, it is part of the natural aging process which both sexes experience and the related psychological effects that it can have on us. The advice helps people feel as if they are doing something to help themselves, empowering people and helping them come to terms with what's happening, in this case too their body and self-image are important to mental health. At the end of the day we cannot stop time, we have to make the most of what we have got in the moment and try and understand any distress we are suffering.

However, it is noted that there is a promotion for a test on this website. PARITY is providing information to readers in good faith and NOT endorsing the advice or treatment contained in this article.

OPEN LETTER TO MAJID NAWAZ

By David Hyatt

Dear Maajid,

I am definitely one of your biggest fans - in what must be a crowded field!

Your debating and interviewing skills make Jeremy Paxman seem like a shrinking violet. Your championing of both the Uyghrs and Rohingya make you a true humanitarian (would love you to look at Tibet though). Your fearless manoeuvring around the New Totalitarianism make

you a national hero. Your conversation a few weeks ago with the man who attacked you for your family's Asian origin was a masterclass in patience, tolerance and a desperately needed attempt to understand the roots of prejudice and ignorance. Any other presenter would have got angry, cut him off, refused to engage at all with his views, and rounded off with a smug homily about the dangers of "hate speech". Your attitude is a breath of fresh air at a time of increasing demands for censorship to "protect" us from views we dislike. If we want to understand history and human psychology, surely, it's better to read Mein Kampf rather than ban it or burn it.

As for our present situation I was thrilled that you referred on air several times to "Darkness at Noon" based on the 1930s Soviet Union, though personally I think that "Brave New World" is a better comparison. (I was amazed to see posters promoting Sky TV's version of Brave New World around the UK last summer; someone at Sky obviously has a sense of humour)

Unfortunately, in November you said on air something which really surprised and offended me. Sorry I didn't make a note of the date but at the time I didn't realise that two months later I would still be feeling hurt by your comment. I appreciate that you didn't intend to be in any way offensive, but it was the first time I realised that this thing called "unconscious bias" really does exist. I would be please if you could connect with me about this

So I am writing to a radio/TV presenter for the first time, not only because it is cathartic but because, uniquely among public figures, I think you will respond to this seriously. Having followed you for years, I know that you are brave enough to regularly examine your own views, in order to prove to yourself that you are indeed right in what you believe. The tragedy is that few people in the media have the intellect or conscience to do this.

You said on air that "the overwhelming majority of victims of domestic violence are female".

In fact, according to The British Crime Survey (Office of National Statistics) about one third of domestic violence victims are male. Personally I believe it to be closer to one half as many male victims are too humiliated to openly admit to being a victim. I myself kept quiet for many years because of the stigma. In my case the violence was so bad that I twice had to go to hospital.

There are misconceptions about this because most men are physically bigger and stronger than most women. But in my experience the violence began a couple of years into the relationship. I could not bring myself to hit back as I was confused disorientated and above all still loved her. Another problem is that if men hit back then they can be arrested for domestic violence, even if they are the victim. On one occasion my partner was in a foul mood and started punching and slapping me on a bus (because of a minor matter; frustration over a delay receiving documents that she needed). The driver then called the police. They quickly turned up and wanted to arrest me. Fortunately witnesses told the police that I was the one being assaulted so they reluctantly let me go with a warning!

By a curious coincidence later in that same programme you told of an incident as a teenager growing up in Southend when you were racially abused and punched. I was sickened to hear your story and I thought at that moment how glad I am that we now live in a society where such racism is universally condemned.

I also wondered what needs to be done to raise awareness of the suffering of millions of male victims of domestic violence.....

Yours sincerely

THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEN'S ISSUES (ICMI20) – A REVIEW, AND THE FUTURE OF ICMIS INCLUDING ICMI21

NOVEMBER 23, 2020 BY MIKE BUCHANAN

It's been four days since International Men's Day (19 November, 2020) and the end of the largest ICMI to date, the five-day-long <https://icmi2020.icmi.info/>. It was a resounding success on every level, everyone seems to agree, and I thought I'd post a final blog piece on the matter.

Firstly, I'd like to thank my fellow organizers – Elizabeth Hobson, Tom Caulfield (J4MB Technical Director), Paul Elam, Robert Brockway and Tom Golden. They were all a pleasure to work with throughout the months before ICMI, and during it.

I'd like to thank everyone who provided a video, or was interviewed on Zoom for the event. The technical quality standards of the videos were generally higher than we were expecting, given that the vast majority of the speakers were not professional video makers, some had never made a video in their lives. It surely goes without saying that the quality of the content of the videos was high, and we've had very few negative comments.

125 videos were published in the end. A number of contributors failed to supply the videos they'd promised, for a variety of reasons. 108 of the videos were original videos recorded for ICMI, and in the final 24 hours I posted 17 previously-published videos, or "mirror" videos, selected by Elizabeth and myself, from among our favourites. The list of speakers and interviews and mirror videos is: <https://static.j4mb.org.uk/2020/11/201123-confirmed-speakers-FINAL.pdf>

The mirror videos are numbered 109-125. With the exception of the mirror videos, all the videos were released simultaneously on dedicated playlists on the J4MB YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjMscR0TpRqgzZSIxFCxDwCxVBzyakCMu> and on Paul Elam's "An Ear for Men" YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOXfnai0-o0I8BtOpmjbn_3FGYBHiV64S

Paul's channel has 103,000+ subscribers, more than the J4MB channel, so there are more comments there. And what of future ICMIs? Given the continuing impact of restrictions on travelling and meeting due COVID-19, ICMI21 will be another online event, ending – as did ICMI20 – on 19 November, International Men's Day. At the moment I envisage ICMI21 will be on a similar scale to ICMI20, but with a higher proportion of Zoom interviews – they all went down very well at ICMI20 – and more high-profile speakers and interviewees. Work on ICMI21 will start in January in earnest, but the conference website is already up <https://icmi2021.icmi.info/>

I shall be the Conference Director and chairman of the organizing committee.

I am responsible for future physical ICMIs in Europe and North America, and I plan to organize the next one in Canada, when Covid-related restrictions are relaxed sufficiently to make that a possibility. Contender cities include, in alphabetical order:

- Calgary (shortly before or after the Calgary Stampede)
- Edmonton (Karen Straughan's home city)
- Toronto
- Vancouver (Professor Janice Fiamengo's home city)

I shall be devoting more of my time and energy in future organizing and running ICMIs and other offline and online events (conferences, gatherings, meetings...) because I feel I can best support the fast-growing MRM that way. I worked as a business consultant for the Conservative party over 2006-8, developing and executing a new commercial model for their conferences including the main autumn conferences which have for long been the largest such events in Europe (12,000+ attendees). I've just established a limited company, [MRA International Ltd.](#), to support my events-related work.

<https://j4mb.org.uk/2020/11/23/the-sixth-international-conference-on-mens-issues-icmi20-a-review-and-the-future-of-icmis/>

Gender parity in the UK

We are now linked with <https://genderparity.uk/>, an alliance of groups and individuals working towards gender parity in the UK. Take a look. If you or your group would like to join the alliance, please check out the Manifesto and Statement of Values. Members of the alliance meet online each week to share what each campaign is doing, learn from each other and offer help.

Volunteer: Would you like to help compile The Equalogist?

Would you join a small team to make suggestions for content, bounce ideas off, proof-read the draft etc?. Please contact equalogist@genderparity.uk

Messages for Men and ICMI 2020: **The international conference was held over several days this year in the run-up to International Men's Day on Nov 14th-19th.**

December 12: *Split the Difference* March in Edinburgh

Following the successful Split-the-Difference march in London in September, Edinburgh march was held.

Myth: Suffragettes won women the vote

Please check-out this 'Myths' tab on the gender parity website <https://genderparity.uk/myths/>. We are compiling short refutations of common myths which prop up the anti-male narrative. As you **will see, we do not need to create alternative points of view – we simply link to the evidence.**

"*Suffragettes won votes for women.*" I blame it on Mary Poppins! Everyone I have spoken to about this believes a well-rehearsed myth: that women had to struggle and be militant because men opposed votes for women. Read what actually happened.

<https://genderparity.uk/suffragettes-votes-women/>

Petition: Equality – Review of law

This petition entitled: '*Equality - Review all law, policy and strategy to meet the needs of men and boys*' asks Parliament to review all Legislation, Policy & Strategies to ensure men and boys are represented equally in the narrative or they are gender neutral.

Started by <https://split-the-difference.com/>, they want both genders to have equality and their human rights served through services designed based on evidenced need. They have evaluated over 15 laws and the services they deliver, and believe the UK government has written these in favour of women and girls often excluding men and boys.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/331312>

Video 2: Masculinity isn't toxic. Peter Lloyd on Triggernometry.

Peter Lloyd is a journalist and author of *Stand by Your Manhood: A Game-changer for Modern Men*. In this interview for [Triggernometry](#), he covers nearly the whole range of men's issues in a direct and unapologetic way:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiAWoWFUdW0&feature=youtu.be>

The comments on Amazon and on the YouTube video are overwhelmingly positive. These are not just a good interview and a good book, they both illustrate the silent majority who do not support the current anti-male narrative. These people need a voice.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Stand-Your-Manhood-Game-changer-Modern/dp/1849547432/>

Group: Parental Alienation UK

Parental alienation is a form of domestic abuse, where one parent or main care-giver effectively takes 'exclusive possession' of the child and systematically erodes the other parent from the child's life. Parental Alienation UK welcomes any parent or grandparent who is being erased from their children's lives. Their website has been developed just for you.

<https://parentalalienationuk.info/>

Facebook Group for Abused Men:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/288242619049187/?ref=share>

EQUALOGIST - NO 8 DECEMBER 2020

International Men's Day

Mark Brooks reports that <https://ukmensday.org.uk/> in 2020 was a great success.

- 195,000 tweets (the biggest trend in the UK for 14 hours) and the "hottest trends of the day"
- Over 150+ events <https://ukmensday.org.uk/organisations-supporting-international-mens-day/>
- Hundreds and hundreds of brilliant charities, public services, businesses big/small, football clubs, politicians, police, NHS and the public.
- Phenomenal support through Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter

Media Articles:

- Telegraph: [International Men's Day is a Counter-Culture Success Story](#), [Why the pandemic is weighing heavily on midlife men](#) and [The unsung event which champions men's rights around the world](#) (You need a subscription)
- Independent: <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/international-mens-day-date-mental-health-b1740314.html> and <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/international-mens-day-mental-health-male-suicide-b1743299.html> (No subscription needed)
- BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-55001925>

House of Commons debate

The debate this year was led by Ben Bradley MP. Philip Davies, who, in the past, has been something of a lone voice, was joined by about 6 other MPs who were all promoting action on men's issues such as suicide, mental health, boy's school underachievement etc. Only 1 hour long, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVLf1z1PgCg&feature=youtu.be>, it is worth a watch to get a feeling of how things are moving on. Note an important new ally: Kemi Badenoch, Minister for Equalities.

The House of Commons library compiled a report for the session:

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2020-0138/>

which Philip Davies recommended MPs read. It's actually quite good! We can use extracts as references as it will be more likely to be believed than simply stating things ourselves.

Minister for Men

During his speech, Bradley asked "*Why have a Minister for Women, but not one for Men?*" In her reply, Kemi Badenoch said she would raise the issue with the PM. Sounds like progress to me. Here's the two clips (40 secs) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aLf1o8dwUM&feature=youtu.be>. Gender Parity UK are in contact with both these MPs and will be working with Bradley to promote a Minister for Men.

Dad-friendly adverts

A couple of ads which are really dad-friendly: The [latest Coca-Cola one](#) is really positive (if a bit OTT in places), but [this older Cheerios one](#) could even be used to help young men see how to be a great Dad (without the cheesy Cheerios bit at the end).

Are these a sign that the woke-narrative is starting to falter?

Misogyny, Hate Crime legislation

There is a well-funded, well-organised campaign which aims to make misogyny a hate crime. If you are found guilty of a hate-crime, you receive a longer/harsher sentence than for the same non-hate offence.

This sounds OK doesn't it? Except when you look at the definition they are promoting for misogyny (hatred of women): they claim that all abuse/violence against women is motivated by hate!

There are two initiatives at the moment:

A private members [Hate Crime \(Misogyny\) Bill](https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/hatecrimemisogyny.html) <https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/hatecrimemisogyny.html> by LibDem MP Wera Hobhouse which has its Second Reading on 15th Jan 2021. A consultation by the Law Commission on Hate Crime - <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/#hate-crime-consultation-paper> This is potentially much more dangerous. Chapter 12 (50 pages!) aims to prove that all male abuse of females is motivated by hate. If this is to become law, if, for example, you had an argument with your partner which escalated to mutual abuse, the male would be charged with a hate crime and the female would not. Writing to your MP would be helpful – some may not have even noticed what's happening.

Myth: Fathers are abusive to their children

(The anti-male narrative is supported by myths. Gender Parity UK is creating pages to refute them.)

All the evidence points to the benefits of shared parenting: the child having a proper relationship and quality time with both parents after separation. Of course, there are very rare occasions where things go wrong and the child is hurt by one parent. Campaigners pick on these isolated incidents of a father hurting his child during court-ordered contact and are putting pressure on the government to remove even the existing, limited assumption of shared contact by the father.

<https://genderparity.uk/fathers-are-abusive/>

LADBROKE SAGA

During the summer of 2020, one of the PARITY Trustees visiting Ladbroke bookmakers was startled to see the presence of "Refuge" in Ladbrokes recently. This feminist organisation is now campaigning against domestic violence in Ladbrokes shops. But as we know they only care about SOME kinds of domestic violence while ignoring others. The Refuge slogan in Ladbrokes is the same as elsewhere; "Protecting Women and Girls". Refuge helpfully provides their helpline for the benefit of Ladbrokes punters - who are almost all male!

He wrote to Ladbroke Customer Care in early September about their thinking behind this campaign. He was soon advised that his comments had been forwarded to the relevant department so that this can be addressed

Twice in October, he enquired about progress and a response. In November Ladbroke responded saying his comments have been forwarded to the relevant department for their consideration. He quickly responded back as below and is awaiting patiently for a response! I wonder if his correspondence has been lost amongst the pile of betting slips and complaints.

Dear Kopallen

Thank you for your assurance that I will finally get a response to the issue I raised.

As I originally wrote to you in the summer and it is now December can you give me an update on the progress in answering my complaint

Thank you

However, he was pleased that the campaign he had written to Ladbroke about has ceased in the Ladbroke shops.

In addition, Hon. Secretary and Chair, PARITY wrote on 24 November to Equality and Human Rights Commission about complaint relating to advertisement in Ladbroke outlets, but they failed to investigate and, which in turn advised:

Unfortunately, we are not resourced to directly advise individuals who are seeking our help on an issue. Although we have a range of legal and enforcement powers at our disposal, we cannot take on all the potential cases of alleged discrimination that are brought to our attention. We have to take our available resources into account and ensure our actions are in keeping with the published priorities in our current [annual Business Plan](#).

We do conduct legal work, but this is focussed on a relatively small number of test cases which have the potential to advance or clarify the law on equality and human rights. This criteria is set out in our [Litigation and Enforcement Policy](#).

And suggested that PARITY contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service, which in turn advised:

The purpose of EASS is to provide advice and guidance to individuals looking for informal resolutions to their complaints of discrimination. We are not legally qualified and are unable to provide opinions on the merits or strengths of an individual's complaint. We always advise that individuals seek independent legal advice if they are considering more formal action.

For more information on the remit of the service please visit www.equalityadvisoryservice.com

DOMESTIC ABUSE, FAMILY JUSTICE AND HATE LAWS 2020: A SUMMARY

There has been such a lot of legislative/judicial activity on domestic abuse, family justice and hate crime laws in the last six months of 2020 that it has been difficult to keep up – and prohibitively difficult for individuals to read, digest and critique all of it. Here I pull together a summary of sources.

Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21 has completed its passage through the House of Commons. It had its first reading in the Lords on 7th July but still awaits scheduling of its second reading as I write (12/12/20). As it stands now it is https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/58-01/124/5801124_en_1.html The Bill has a long history. It's second reading in the Commons was way back in October 2019, and the prelude to the Bill was the consultation initiated in March 2018.

You can read my precis of key parts of this long Bill <http://empathygap.uk/?p=3061>, with an update <http://empathygap.uk/?p=3320> All Bill documents can be found <https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/domesticabuse/documents.html>, and in particular the 95 submissions to the Public Bill Committee in 2020. Ten of these were male-friendly, the other 85 were overwhelmingly feminist (with a few nominally neutral). The male-friendly ones were,

- [The ManKind Initiative](#)
- [Families Need Fathers](#)
- [FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru](#)
- [Men & Women Working Together \(MWWT\)](#)
- [Equi-law UK](#)
- [Mark Tierney](#)
- [Tim Tierney](#)
- [Andrew Pain](#)
- [Philipp Tanzer](#)
- [Ian McNicholl](#)
- (There was also [this submission by Parity](#) to the 2019 incarnation of the Public Bill Committee, which I foolishly failed to resubmit this year, not appreciating that such submissions were “reset” by the change of Government).

The 10% representation by male-friendly voices in written submissions to the Committee may seem poor, but it was infinitely better than the 0% invited to give evidence in person. The Public Bill Committee took evidence from, and only from, the following,

- Nicole Jacobs, Designate DA Commissioner
- Southall Black Sisters
- Latin American Women's Rights Service
- Somaliya Basar / Saliha Rashid
- Women's Aid Federation of England
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- Refuge
- Safelives
- Hestia
- Gisela Valle, Step Up
- Migrant Women UK
- Dame Vera Baird QC, Commissioner for Victims & Witnesses
- Local Government Association
- Welsh Women's Aid
- Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)

The [Draft Statutory Guidance Framework](#) associated with the Domestic Abuse Bill was published in July'20

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896640/Draft_statutory_guidance_July_2020.pdf.

One rare potential gain for fathers is in the "Examples of controlling or coercive behaviour" which includes, "*parental alienation, including preventing children from spending time with one parent or grandparents*". This is very welcome, but it remains to be seen if it is retained longer term, bearing in mind that the Guidance can be amended unilaterally by the Home Office at any time.

Another potentially useful clause in the draft Guidance is: "*Domestic abuse perpetrators can be particularly adept at manipulating professionals, agencies and systems and may use a range of tactics in order to perpetuate contact with and control over the victim. These can include causing or creating vexation or using the system against the victim by making false or vexatious allegations*". The phrasing clearly has in mind an abusive man wanting to maintain "contact and control" over his female (ex)partner. But we may reinterpret it alternatively as, "*Domestic abuse perpetrators can be particularly adept at manipulating professionals, agencies and systems and may use a range of tactics in order to perpetuate frustration of contact with, and monopolise control over, the children. These can include causing or creating vexation or using the system against the victim by making false or vexatious allegations*".

[This detailed deconstruction](#) of the Guidance was sent to the Home Office by GenderParityUK - <http://empathygap.uk/DABillGuidanceCommentsbyGenderParityUK.pdf>

Family Justice Review 2020

The composition of the Panel conducting the Ministry of Justice's Family Justice Review caused some consternation when it was announced in 2019. I can't imagine why; it was every bit as balanced as the other panels & groups you will find listed here. The panel was chaired by MOJ and consisted of,

- Melissa Case & Nicola Hewer, Joint Directors of Family and Criminal Justice Policy, MOJ (Chair)
- Professor Rosemary Hunter FAcSS, University of Kent
- Professor Mandy Burton, University of Leicester
- Professor Liz Trinder, University of Exeter
- Neil Blacklock, Development Director, Respect
- Eleri Butler, former Chief Executive at Welsh Women's Aid
- Lorraine Cavanagh QC & Dierdre Fottrell QC (joint representatives), Association of Lawyers for Children
- Mr Justice Stephen Cobb, Judiciary
- Nicki Norman, Acting Co-Chief Executive, Women's Aid

- District Judge Katherine Suh, Judiciary
- Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for England (Children & Families)

Not listed above is Dr Adrienne Barnett, author of the Literature Review, whose works are critiqued [http://empathygap.uk/9.2 Bradford Proof.pdf](http://empathygap.uk/9.2%20Bradford%20Proof.pdf) The review was (ostensibly) focussed on assessing the risk of harm to children and parents in private law children cases. The press releases following completion of the review are <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-overhaul-of-family-courts-to-protect-domestic-abuse-victims>. In particular the reports produced are,

- [Final report](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/results/assessing-risk-harm-children-parents-pl-childrens-cases-report.pdf) - <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/results/assessing-risk-harm-children-parents-pl-childrens-cases-report.pdf>
- [Literature review](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/results/domestic-abuse-private-law-children-cases-literature-review.pdf) - <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/results/domestic-abuse-private-law-children-cases-literature-review.pdf>
- [Implementation Plan](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/results/implementation-plan-assessing-risk-children.pdf) - <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/results/implementation-plan-assessing-risk-children.pdf>

So appalling is the bias, prejudice and outright dishonesty in the above reports that an application has been launched for a Judicial Review. Terry White must be congratulated on his energy and persistence in this matter. Key documents as they stand at the time of writing (12/12/20) are (noting that the MOJ is the Defendant in this context),

- [Statement of Facts](http://empathygap.uk/Statement%20of%20Facts.pdf) - <http://empathygap.uk/Statement%20of%20Facts.pdf>
- [Statement of Grounds](http://empathygap.uk/Statement%20of%20Grounds.pdf) - <http://empathygap.uk/Statement%20of%20Grounds.pdf>
- [Government Legal Department initial response](http://empathygap.uk/Gov%20Legal%20Dept%20initial%20response%2012%20Oct%20.pdf) - <http://empathygap.uk/Gov%20Legal%20Dept%20initial%20response%2012%20Oct%20.pdf>
- [MOJ's Grounds for Resistance](http://empathygap.uk/MoJ%20Grounds%20for%20Resistance.pdf) (i.e., against the application) - <http://empathygap.uk/MoJ%20Grounds%20for%20Resistance.pdf>
- [Supplementary Response to the Defendant's Grounds for Resistance](http://empathygap.uk/Supplementary%20Response%20to%20Grounds%20for%20Resistance.pdf) - <http://empathygap.uk/Supplementary%20Response%20to%20Grounds%20for%20Resistance.pdf>
- [Second Supplementary Response to the Defendant's Grounds for Resistance](http://empathygap.uk/Addendum%20to%20the%20Response%20to%20Grounds%20of%20Resistance.pdf) - <http://empathygap.uk/Addendum%20to%20the%20Response%20to%20Grounds%20of%20Resistance.pdf>

Meanwhile, the MOJ has started to progress the issues raised in their June Implementation Plan. On 9th November'20 it was announced that, under the title "[Child protection at heart of courts review](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/child-protection-at-heart-of-courts-review)" - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/child-protection-at-heart-of-courts-review>" that this latest review would examine how courts balance child safety and the right to family life. Specifically they state,

"The review...will assess whether the right balance is being struck in private law cases between the risk of harm to a child and their right to have a relationship with both parents. Currently, the presumption of 'parental involvement' which the courts are required to follow in their judgements encourages a child's relationship with both parents, unless the involvement would put the child at risk of harm. A recent review into harm in the family courts system found this presumption 'detracted from the focus on a child's welfare and safety – causing harm to children in some cases'."

Does that sound like they have made up their minds already to you? And why is 'parental involvement' in scare quotes? The Advisory Group to the review consists of,

- Rachel Thomas, Welsh Children's Commissioner's Office
- Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Peter Jackson LJ
- HHJ Michelle Corbett

- Jacky Tiotto, CEO Cafcass
- Matthew Pinnell, Cafcass Cymru
- Tammy Knox, Resolution
- Michael Lewkowicz, Families Need Fathers

Not to be outdone, the judiciary themselves have their own process of reform of the same issues in play. The Private Law Working Group, chaired by the omnipresent [Mr Justice Cobb](#) - <http://empathygap.uk/?p=2928>, is the group which advises the President of the Family Division. The Family Solutions Group, formed this year, is a subgroup of the Private Law Working Group. Just three days after the MOJ launched its latest review, the Family Solutions Group published their report, "[What about me? Reframing Support for Families following Parental Separation](#)" - https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FamilySolutionsGroupReport_WhatAboutMe_12November2020.pdf-final.pdf, with a Foreword by Mr Justice Cobb. Para 35 reads, *For cases that do not engage the court process, the starting point should be a presumption that involvement of a parent in the life of a child will further the child's welfare, provided that parent can be involved in the child's life in a way that does not put the child at risk of suffering harm. Where there is **any allegation** or admission of harm by domestic abuse to the child or a parent, or any evidence indicating such harm or risk of harm, **then the presumption should not apply.***¹⁹ (my emphasis)

Footnote 19 which is referenced above reads,

"Where there are proceedings, Practice Direction 12J provides that, where such allegation or admission has been made, the court must consider carefully whether the statutory presumption applies. Since the MoJ 'Risk of Harm' Report found evidence that within court proceedings Practice Direction 12J is being implemented inconsistently (p6), we take the view that the presumption should not apply to cases that do not engage the court process where abuse is alleged or admitted."

The 'Risk of Harm' report referred to above is the MOJ's June family justice review report, the very same for which there is an outstanding application for Judicial Review. Put the above stipulations together and you arrive at this summary: if there is an allegation then the presumption (that involvement of a parent in the life of a child will further the child's welfare) is to be set aside. This sounds like an attempt to overturn primary legislation to me, but it is not the first time Cobb J has tried it.

Membership of the Family Solutions Group is,

- Helen Adam (Chair) – Mediator, Solicitor (non-practising)
- Karen Barham – Mediator, Parent Coordinator, Solicitor
- Caroline Bowden – Mediator, FMC board member, Solicitor (non-practising)
- Charlotte Bradley – Solicitor, Mediator
- Brian Cantwell – Family Therapist, Resolution Family Consultant
- Elizabeth Coe – National Association of Child Contact Centres
- Mike Coote – Cafcass Adrienne Cox – Mediator, former FMSB board member, Solicitor (non-practising)
- HHJ Martin Dancey – Designated Family Judge for Dorset
- Jan Ewing – University of Exeter
- Claire Field – Parenting Apart Programme
- Dickie James MBE – Staffordshire Women's Aid
- Mary Mullins – National Youth Advocacy Service (prior to August'20)
- Patrick Myers – DWP Reducing Parental Conflict Programme
- Chris Palmer – Ministry of Justice
- Beverley Sayers – Mediator, FMC board member, Therapist
- Anna Sinclair – Cafcass Cymru
- Debbie Singleton – National Youth Advocacy Service
- Judith Timms – National Youth Advocacy Service
- Jane Wilson – Mediator, Solicitor-Advocate, FMC board member

Reassured? There is also a higher level Statement from the Family Justice Board (the group that actually matters and to which the lower Groups report). The "*Family Justice Board Statement: priorities for the family justice system*" is supposed to be linked from [here](#) – but it isn't as I write (appears to be a cock-up). I'll insert the correct link as and when I find out what it is. However, it does link to a [document from the lower Private Law Advisory Group - https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Family-Justice-Board-statement-Dec-2020-1.pdf](https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Family-Justice-Board-statement-Dec-2020-1.pdf) dated 9/12/20.

Nascent Hate Crime Legislation

I have posted previously on [my response](#) - <http://empathygap.uk/?p=3587> to the [Law Commission's Hate Crime Consultation](#) - <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/> .

Philipp Tanzer's detailed analysis of the Consultation report is [here](#) -

<http://empathygap.uk/Analysis%20of%20Hate%20Crime%20Law%20Consultation%20Paper%20Philipp%20Tanzer%20Dec%2020.pdf> .

There is a private member's [Hate Crime \(Misogyny\) Bill](#) - <https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/hatecrimemisogyny.html> , proposed by the ever-egalitarian Wera Hobhouse, currently scheduled for its second reading in the (Westminster) House of Commons on 15th January 2021. There is also a [Hate Crime \(Misandry and Misogyny\) Bill](#) - <https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/hatecrimemisandryandmisogyny.html> , proposed by Philip Hollobone, due for its second reading on the same day. That should be interesting, giving the usual culprits every opportunity to explain to us yet again why equal protection for both sexes is actually vile misogyny. (To avoid any doubt, I am equally opposed to both Bills, partly on principle because all so-called hate crime is thought crime and hence anathema, but also because the gender-inclusive approach will, in practice, be used only against men anyway).

There is also a [Hate Crime and Public Order \(Scotland\) Bill](#) - <https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced-hate-crime-and-public-order-bill.pdf> under consideration by the Scottish parliament. I have [discussed this in a previous post](#) - <http://empathygap.uk/?p=3529> . It does not include sex/gender but would give Scottish Ministers the power to do so (oddly bypassing their own Parliament).

In Northern Ireland, on 6 June 2019, the Department of Justice announced the commissioning of a (so-called) independent review into hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland to be conducted by Desmond Marrinan (a former judge). The [review was published](#) - <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/hate-crime-review.pdf> in November'20. I'll not attempt a summary, but it recommends inclusion of sex/gender in a neutral manner (not specific to misogyny) and also recommends the creation of a Hate Crime Commissioner (a suggestion also raised in the English Consultation, but not within the Scottish Bill).

I've avoided much in the way of commentary in the above summary of sources. However, it is fairly clear that the outcome can only be to further progress the feminist agenda – not surprisingly as all the initiatives originate from within that axis. We may have the odd small gain, but the overall picture is yet further deepening of male disadvantage, male social alienation and the destruction of fatherhood. Two thoughts on activism, Despite being largely/entirely ignored, it is still worth pushing back against these authoritarian measures – on principle. To do nothing is to be complicit. Standing up and objecting is an obligation.

But do not expect such action to be the road to success. Our pressing obligation is to make young men aware of the traps lying ahead of them, before they find out the hard way.

<http://empathygap.uk/?p=3601>

PARITY MEMBERSHIP

PARITY is one of few charities in the UK whose sole constitutional remit is to try to protect the equal rights of both men and women in our society. Our work is important despite ever more equality legislation which often creates unfairly new losers as well as winners.

PARITY is run entirely by volunteers and is wholly dependent on subscriptions and donations to fund its work. **Our subscription rate remains at minimum of £10 per annum. (Concessionary rates for younger members in Education and those in hardship).**

We hope therefore that you will join us or continue to support us, either by sending a cheque or completing a Standing Order Form. Please use the loose form enclosed and complete accordingly. Alternatively, you may pay online via DONATE button on our website with your Reference Number: your surname/ post code/ initials (if more than one member at the address).

If you are a tax-payer, please do consider also signing the Gift Aid form. **Please therefore send in your renewal subscriptions for 2020 now.** Please disregard this reminder if you have already renewed your membership for 2020 or pay by Standing Order.

In order to ease record keeping, it is hoped that members will agree to renew their subscriptions in future at the beginning of each calendar year rather than on their anniversary of joining.

FUNDING PARITY - GIFT AID

PARITY's work and effectiveness depends largely on the funds we have available. We are grateful to our current members and all those who have made donations in the past.

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Such income can be increased by applying to HMRC for Gift Aid, a method of giving tax relief for donations.

A donor must have paid tax at least equal to the amount being reclaimed by the charity. The donor is then entitled to tax relief on the amount of the donation plus the amount reclaimed by the charity (the gross amount).

In order to operate the Gift Aid scheme, charities are required to keep records, which can be audited by HMRC to show that their tax reclaims are accurate. In other words, they must keep records that enable them to show an audit trail linking each donation to an identifiable donor who has given a valid Gift Aid declaration, and that all the other conditions for the tax relief are satisfied. If a charity does not keep adequate records it may be required to pay back to HMRC tax reclaimed

Before a charity can reclaim tax on a donation by an individual, it must have received a Gift Aid declaration from the donor containing certain information and confirming that the donation is to be treated as a Gift Aid donation. Without this declaration, a donation from an individual will not qualify under the scheme.

Donors are able to give the charity a declaration in advance of their donation, at the time of their donation, or **up to four years after their donation**. It can cover a single donation or any number of donations. A declaration can be in writing (e.g. by post, by fax or electronically through the Internet) or orally (e.g. over the phone or face to face).

In order to keep PARITY's records up to date we would be grateful if Members could send a communication (by email or post) that includes the information and statement as shown on the last page. Such information will be kept securely in accordance with PARITY's privacy policy.

PARITY LEGACIES?

PARITY's work and effectiveness depends largely on the funds we have available. In this respect, we are grateful to all those who have made donations in the past. Funds for our work could also be helped, of course, with legacies. Perhaps members who are able to would like to consider remembering us also in this way when writing or amending their will.

Thank You

SHOPPERS HELP PARITY FUNDS AT NO EXTRA COST TO THEM!

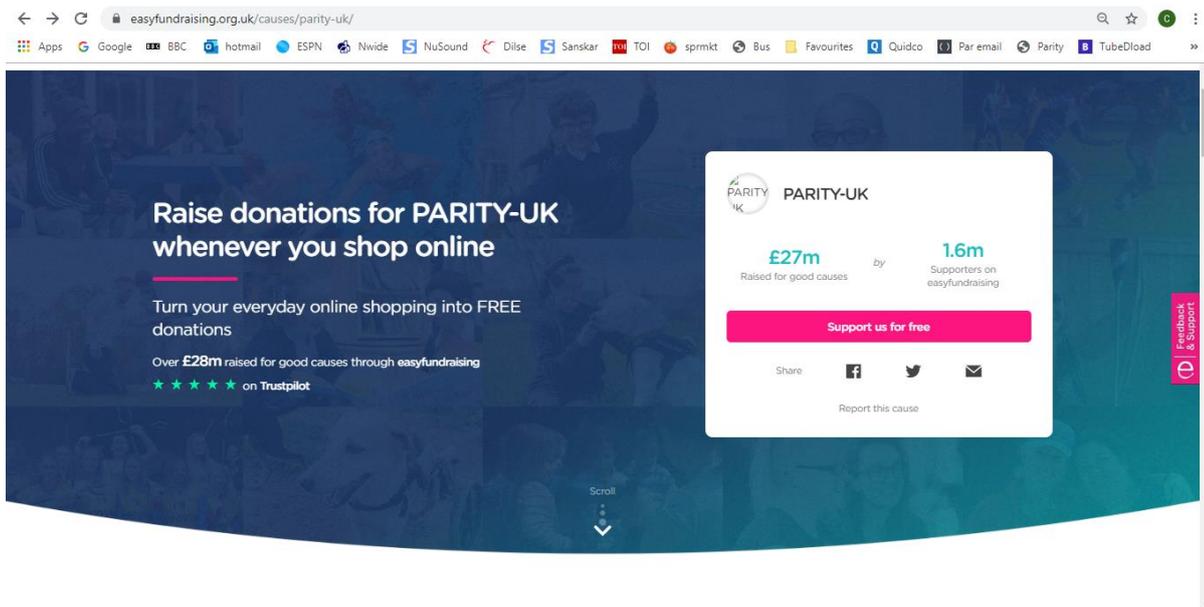
Easy Fundraising:

PARITY is raising money with @easyfundraising and we'd love you to help us. Visit our easyfundraising page to make a donation to PARITY-UK or **raise money for us for FREE** just by doing your everyday online shopping with all your favourite online retailers. However you choose to help us, we'll be very grateful for your support.

Step 1 – Start at Parity page at easyfundraising:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/parity-uk/> -

(Link to above is available from PARITY website too)



Press **"Support us for free" button**

Step 2 – Create an Account using Facebook or Email by pressing appropriate button:



Create an account

You have chosen to support PARITY-UK. Don't worry, you can change your mind later

Continue with Facebook

or

Continue with Email

Already registered?

[Log In](#)

Join the 1.6 million others

- ✓ It's 100% free to use
- ✓ You can raise money for your favourite cause every time you shop online
- ✓ Donations are available through over 3,700 online brands and retailers
- ✓ Download our helpful Donation Reminder and mobile app so that you never forget to collect a free donation

"We have raised over £12,500 and coming from a school with only 150 students this is a tremendous amount of money. Easyfundraising, this year, became our largest contributor."

Janene Scurfield - Bleasby School Friends Association

Enter your details on the form and press "Create my account" button:

Create an account

You have chosen to support PARITY-UK. Don't worry, you can change your mind later

Continue with Facebook

or

My first name is

Enter your first name here

My last name is

Enter your last name here

My email address is

Enter your email address here

We will never pass your details to anyone without your permission.

I want to use this password

Enter your password here

Your password needs to be at least 8 characters.

Hear from us

I agree to easyfundraising contacting me by email, phone or SMS with offers and updates to help me raise donations for my good cause.

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions and privacy policy.

Create my account

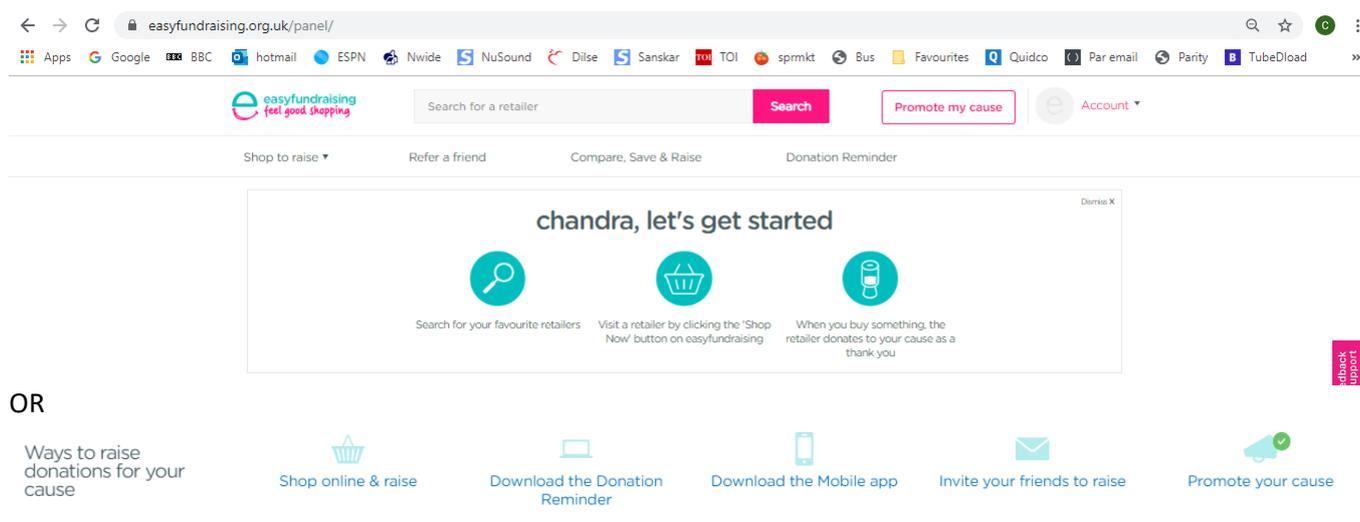
Join the 1.6 million others

- ✓ It's 100% free to use
- ✓ You can raise money for your favourite cause every time you shop online
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Step 3 – Login to your Account, Shop Plus More!!!



OR

Using Donation Reminder means you will never miss a donation when shopping! If you want further information about EasyFundRaising – How it works video, see link below:

https://youtu.be/Sn2dsQGae_w

Amazon Smile:

If you have already created an account with EasyFundraising, you will be able to access Amazon Smile through that. Otherwise, please follow the steps 1 -4 below.

PARITY is now registered as a charity that can receive donations with Amazon Smile and you may now nominate PARITY to be the charity of your choice to receive from Amazon 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT and returns and shipping fees) of your orders fulfilled.

Step 1 – Start at smile.amazon page - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>
(Link to above is available from PARITY website too)

Step 2 – Log into your Amazon account as normal

Step 3 – Under "**Your Accounts & Lists**" menu item, choose "**Your AmazonSmile**"

You will then be able to change to **PARITY** as your current charity.

There will be listed other charities.

Or pick your own charitable organisation:

Search for **PARITY**

Note: Do not be confused if there is more than one PARITY in the list of charities!
Our description is "PARITY" only.

Thank You

Your current charity

Parity

Location: London

Mission: (a) the association is established- (1) to promote and protect the equal rights of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights under the law. (2) to institute proceedings in the UK or appropriate european courts for the purpose of establishing or protecting any such equal rights as aforesaid.

Programmes: Activities, Beneficiaries, Purposes

Share your support:  

Step 4 – Shop as you normally do and PARITY will receive some money from Amazon!

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I want to Gift Aid any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:
PARITY

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Name (CAPS)

Address

Town Postcode

Tel No E-mail

TO :- **Honorary Treasurer PARITY, 10A Kennard Street, London E16 2HR.**

OR EMAIL **treasury@parity-uk.org**

Please notify PARITY if you want to cancel this declaration or change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

FUNDING PARITY - STANDING ORDERS

We would also take this opportunity to ask members to consider paying their membership and any additional donation by Standing Order if they are not already doing so – **preferably at the beginning of the year**. A suggested wording to be sent to your bank can be found below.

For payment by Standing Order please complete the following details:

To: The Manager,

.....
(Name and address of your Bank)

Please pay to the Santander Business PARITY Account No. 1909 1904, Sort Code 090154 from my Account No.....

The sum of £ on (date) / / and then the sum of £ on 5th January annually.

Date

Signature

Name (CAPS)..... **END**