



**Registered Charity No. 1107795**

## **Equal Rights for Men and Women**

*Patrons:*

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Mr Mark Brooks OBE

## **PARITY News Briefing – September 2019**

•	PARITY AGM Open Session – Talk by Neil Lyndon – Has the Age of Feminism Brought About a Form of Totalitarianism?	1
•	Shoppers Help PARITY Funds at no Cost to Them!	6
•	The Domestic Abuse Bill	9
•	What is "Equality"? Part 1: The Pay Gap	10
•	What is "Equality"? Part 2: Equality is Unequal Treatment	11
•	What is "Equality"? Part 3 – Politician's Equality	13
•	Men, Mental Health and Suicide	15
•	Women Pension Age Case Goes to High Court	18
•	From Russia with Love	19
•	From Gillette to "Jill"ette	20

### **NOTES OF OPEN MEETING SESSION HELD ON SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019 AT 2:00pm IN DISNEY ROOM, UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET, LONDON SE1 8UJ**

#### **A Talk by Neil Lyndon: Has the Age of Feminism Brought About a Form of Totalitarianism?**

##### **1. Introduction and Welcome.**

Chair opened the open session by introducing our guest speaker Neil Lyndon (NL). He highlighted NL's various past contributions to the gender equality debate outlining the many publications NL has contributed to. He was in 1965 the first pupil from a comprehensive school to be offered an unconditional place at a Cambridge college. Following university, he worked for the BBC and the Sunday Times. He then became a columnist for The Times, Sunday Times, Daily Mail, Sunday Telegraph and The Scotsman. NL's book *No More Sex War: the Failures of Feminism* was republished in an unexpurgated, uncensored edition in 2014 in the anthology *Sexual Impolitics*. He added that whatever NL will have to say will be most entertaining and interesting. All applauded and welcomed NL.

##### **2. Neil Lyndon's talk**

NL opened with few adjustments to make, inviting an alternative speaker – Rick Bradford of Empathy Gap (in NL's view far more erudite on this subject than him). Rick responded to the kind invitation and politely declined and NL commenced and proceeded to deliver a very thought-provoking talk on the subject of feminism, its evolution and current place in contemporary society.

His lecture was titled "*Has the age of Feminism brought about a new form of totalitarianism?*" Had he been given more time to provide title of the talk, which had a deadline for including in the AGM Notice, he said he would have changed the wording *fostered, engendered or spawned* to replace "brought about" in explaining his narrative.

NL explained that the new "ism" is very different to the classic definition of totalitarianism. Usually, the rules are imposed from above by the state, employing the whole apparatus available to impose its authority. We must not confuse what's happening today with the extremes of the last century, be it Marxist, Leninist, Stalinism or the Nazis. We must be careful not to confuse the grotesque with the simply extreme. He explained the classic explanation of Marxist and, indeed, National Socialist doctrine. The many oppressed by the few. The two classes and the eventual redistribution of wealth and creation of an idealistic classless society. Interestingly, all have been disproved and proven false by modern 20<sup>th</sup> century Capitalism.

In his 1992 book *No More Sex Wars*, NL devoted a whole chapter to forensic excavation of the ideology of feminism.

Sheila Rowbotham, leading author on history of feminism, had explicitly laid out similarity in connection between their thinking and Marx. Feminists drive in the 1960's had adopted and absorbed this Marxist form of totalitarianism and primarily searched for the class enemy. For one class to be liberated, then it is essential that the other class is the openly oppressed one. This is the origin of class war that poisoned politics and social life throughout the whole world for two centuries. Could any formulations be more totalitarian? You are with us or against us and you are part of the problem or you are part of the solution.

But skip forward to the mid-20th century and these philosophies, albeit in a different guise, live on and in one case have become accepted as a defacto truth. In the mid-sixties we had the rise of the Black Panther movement (Stalinist Marxist). It transferred the conflict from one of class and exploitation of the poor by the rich, who due to social change had largely moved concentrations of wealth, not class, to one of race. Irrespective of your personal views, if you were white by definition you were a member of the oppressive class. This led to a number of reactions, the Paris riots in 1968 and the black power movement etc. So we got totalitarianism based on race. This has largely disappeared now and we have a much more balanced, if not perfect, society.

A much more pervasive "ism" was spawned in its shadow at the same time - Feminism. The same logic applies as that between races. Birth colour creates a ruling class and, by default, an oppressed class. As that has balanced out, you are left with one fundamental division. Men and Women. A class war redefined as a gender struggle with men as the oppressors and, therefore, the enemy! Interestingly, Feminism has now become the fundamental "ism" across the west. Academia, broadcasting, journalism, the law etc etc all accept the narrative that men are by their nature oppressors of women. For the first time since the crusaders, we have one true faith and any deviation is heresy and to which all sane people must adhere.

Like traditional Communism or Fascism, membership of the party gives you a fast track into politics, the media and the law. The title Feminist gives to its beneficiaries a fast track to titles, appointments, careers, honours and income.

Check out the women appointments in universities, number of awards and prizes, in every

field of poetry to astronomy, musical composition to medicine, add the number of NGO's, charities and causes devoted to women's interests. Count up the number of declared feminists running departments publishing and media companies, all these carry salary, pension and prestige. Nobody with any sense of self-preservation would raise any dissent to Feminism as they would lose their jobs like the speaker, James Damour of Google, Noel Clapham, Jordan Peterson at Cambridge, Mike Buchanan or they can't get published at all.

NL has been working on a compilation of 20 essays – *Epiphanies*, which will show how egalitarian people came to have second thoughts, but NL cannot get it published. Top selling agent have told him to steer well away from this subject. An old friend copy editor told him that this subject does his head in. There is an echo of totalitarianism in work, it is beyond criticism, where dissent cannot be expressed.

Roger Scruton said what was most destructive about the Nazi regime was not so much the expressions of nasty opinions but the suppressions of those who sought to refute it and lack of free speech that allowed the opinion to rampage out of control. If we agree these are characteristics of totalitarianism, you would say they are discreet and unobtrusive, because there is no enforcement by uniformed thugs roaming the street to beat up ideological ends or someone like gestapo or KGM staging dawn raids on political opponents. There is the appearance that freedom of speech, no arbitrary arrests and presumption of innocence and rights of fair trial. But totalitarianism does not allow these rights. He questioned how far these rights extend today and to what extent the exception to this may be. For example under the tenets of Keir Starmer and Alison Saunders as Directors of Public Prosecution has seen (inspired by Feminist propaganda) wholesale shift in CPS and police forces, which had set targets for rape and sexual assault prosecutions, and having licence to withhold exonerating evidence in pursuit of these ideological inspired targets.

Rights and freedom of individuals under the law have been suspended or brushed aside and hundreds of innocent men have gone to prison. This can be seen unmistakable as imposition of sentence of totalitarianism with ratification by state of lies, fictions, myths about the perceived enemies of the state. The extent and uniformity of state aspired and sponsored propaganda about men in our own time and in our culture can be argued to be a system of totalitarianism.

The radical feminism view of domestic violence by men has effectively been taken over by the entire apparatus of state. All modern politicians from USA fight their campaigns on this ticket – Violence Against Women that has been adopted by 17 other countries, including UK. Women as a whole subject to violence by men. No dissent from this is allowed. None of this evidence is allowed or permitted by media establishment for over thirty years - Domestic violence is mutual between men and women, that domestic violence between homosexual couples is more likely than heterosexual couples. How this state sponsored propaganda is to be described if not as totalitarianism? Dawn raid on people suspected of sexual assaults are not now infrequent. The suspect is branded for life and amongst them are 12-14 year old boys. Instructions from the superiors is to believe the complainant. Also from next month new laws require those wishing to watch erotic pornography to register and prove their age. How long before they will have to wear a badge to signify they are sexual perverts? In a number of American states, those convicted of sexual offences have this fact recorded on their Driving Licences in red. To think that the present implementation of laws against sexual offenders by the police and justice systems is impartial, judicious and scrupulous, is like living in a fool's paradise. It is far nearer the truth to say the state system of justice is operated under the influence of totalitarian ideology and implemented uncritically, but they would say it is in the public interest.

Today in the UK under the hate crime legislation, charge of misogyny is being considered. Charge will require no evidence or motivation, but will be governed by the perception of the victim or any witnesses. This is straight out of Feminist playbook. The apparatus of state is lining up a presumption that if a man gives a lecherous look to a woman, he is committing an assault on the person. European Parliament has considered a bill to outlaw the expression of doubt or dissent about Feminism.

On the topic of Ideology Commissar – one who makes sure everything is in accordance with law, Australia military is employing Gender Advisers integrated into military staff to advise commanders eg. where to drop bombs so they do not have adverse effect on women. Australia has an Office of Women, which reviews all legislation to give OK regarding consequences for women. Feminist Commissars operate an entire independent justice system for Cause for Women. A man can be indicted solely on the testimony of his wife that he is not doing 50% of housework!

Since the introduction of the Third Children Act in 1989, it is estimated that some 80,000 children a year in England and Wales are separated from their fathers by the family courts, that is total of 5 million children! In NL's view the misfortunes of these children constitutes the gravest injustice and most flagrant abuse of Children's Rights in our time as they are the victims of totalitarian ideology practice.

The Children Act 1989 and thereafter states the paramouncy of children, but under the explicit guidance of the succession authorities, the courts have for thirty years routinely systematically equated the interests of the child with the interests of the mother. In so doing, they have operated under the automatic Feminist presumption that a mother can do no wrong to the children, whereas the father is likely to be a menace.

According to Sir Mark Potter, former President of Family Division, England and Wales, in a private conversation, had said: *"As a feminist, I tend to believe that women are less inclined to behave badly than men. The broad consensus of view of judges was therefore the care was best provided by mother; the mother therefore held all cards in the court proceedings, the absolute priority of the court was to sponsor the best possible relationship of the child with both parents, but the rulings of ??? I will have to accept that the dice was all loaded against men"*. That sweet well-meaning old chap would never believe, in a million years that in his distinguished career in law, in the service of the queen, he had been guilty of antics, under the influence of totalitarian ideology, placing the injustices on millions of children based on nothing more than Feminist superstitions.

One of the characteristics of totalitarianism in action is invariably that its agents believe that they are doing good. In that sense Feminism may be the most insidious totalitarianism of them all because the whole world believes it to be for the good. If you are not going to apply the word totalitarian on the outlook of Sir Mark Potter and the actions of the courts he led, what would you call it, NL questioned in his concluding remark?

### **3. Q & A Session**

The forum was opened to questions from the floor. As always with a subject as emotive as this, a number of questions were actually opinions and the person/persons acknowledged this.

**1.** Interesting point from the David Hyatt was that most serious domestic violence is between lesbian couples followed by gay men. He also sought an explanation of the **Page4**

irony that the Russians are free of Feminism totalitarian ideology, whereas as we in the west are in the grips of it?

**Comment from the speaker:** Although this may be difficult to explain in brief, it might be something to do with the advent of oral contraception. With these innovations which were so revolutionary that they presented women with enormous challenges and the Feminist interpretation of the relationship between men and women took hold. In some countries abortion is considered the primary form of contraception and the pill came where very late in the Soviet Union.

**2. James Williams** asked about the right age for a man to get married as most young men are living at home and do not wish to get married until late? Has the totalitarian Feminism something to do with this and not wanting to commit to marriage?

**Comment from the speaker:**

With assistance from Rick Bradford, speaker confirmed that some 25% of young men in America have not had sex in the last year and there is a feeling amongst them that there is risks in relationships with women: allegations of misconduct, whole system of family courts loaded as Sir Mark Potter said, losses they are likely to endure which all may outweigh the benefits.

Barry Worrall commented giving example of the BBC Teletext services that the LGBT and especially transgender reassignment have become such a central issue and this seems to him be to do with undermining our inherent culture.

**Comment from the Speaker:** This is the tyranny of the minority. It's clear that even where Feminists in the west have a minority view, they hold a disproportionate power in terms of airtime and it is unlikely to change.

There doesn't seem to be a chink in the armour or a compelling event to enable a balanced debate.

Chair commented that he does not believe that human nature has changed much since when he was in his 20's, young people like him thought 50% of their waking time about sex. He also mentioned freedom of expression, which is not just frowned upon but positively discouraged. There has been some success with the Crown Prosecution Service especially with the mechanics of rape cases where the disparity of treatment between the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator. There is also a mini scandal in the number of rape trials that have been discontinued. Finally, he said we have to very careful that we do not allow our freedoms to be circumscribed.

**3. Brian Robertson** asked a tongue in cheek question – What is the safe age for a man to get married? This highlights the possible pitfalls and risks of marriage today. Has marriage been reduced to a transaction which needs to be planned for in terms of risk rather than reward.

**4. Tony Upton** asked if holodomor would be a better example of totalitarianism than the Holocaust?

**Comment from the Speaker:** Connection between both Narcissism and Socialism is expressed in its name as these barbarities originate from the same source – insiders and outsiders and enemies of the state, who share a common guilt because they share a

common birth.

Tony Upton clarified his question – Whether NL is as optimistic as him that Generation Z will push the boundaries of this topic because there seems to be a cultural change going as they are rejecting the culture of identity politics, that has been prevalent over the last 40 years?

**Comment from the Speaker:** He gave example of his sixteen year old daughter who is very much politically switched on and is downright Corbynite and will be studying International Relations at University and therefore unlikely to be rejecting this, but he may be more hopeful for his younger daughter, who is thirteen, as her current interests are clothes and boys.

**5. Rick Bradford** complimented the speaker on the excellent talk and was glad that he did not take over the offer to do the talk. He said NL covered a wide range of points. He questioned - Only a very small proportion of people would identify as Feminists? Does the speaker agree that this is largely irrelevant and our problem now, irrespective of Feminism or Marxism or any other political movement, is about social psychology because of the public's view of where the moral right lies.

**Comment from the Speaker:** The speaker agreed that this is a valid point and has no answer to it, as he cannot see how it is to be countered. However, on reflection he said it may be countered by growth of direct democracy, because we have the capacity through the internet for forms of direct democracy in which whole lots of people vote on the issues that come up thereby to supplant the political institutions.

Although we don't know when this may come about (in 30 to 50 year?), but through this route an elite liberal left may impose its own values.

Chair added this was a whole new subject and the evidence of the last three years suggests this will be a principal possibility.

Chair gave NL a vote of thanks on behalf of the audience and all applauded.

**E&OE**

**SHOPPERS HELP PARITY FUNDS AT NO EXTRA COST TO THEM!**

**Easy Fundraising:**

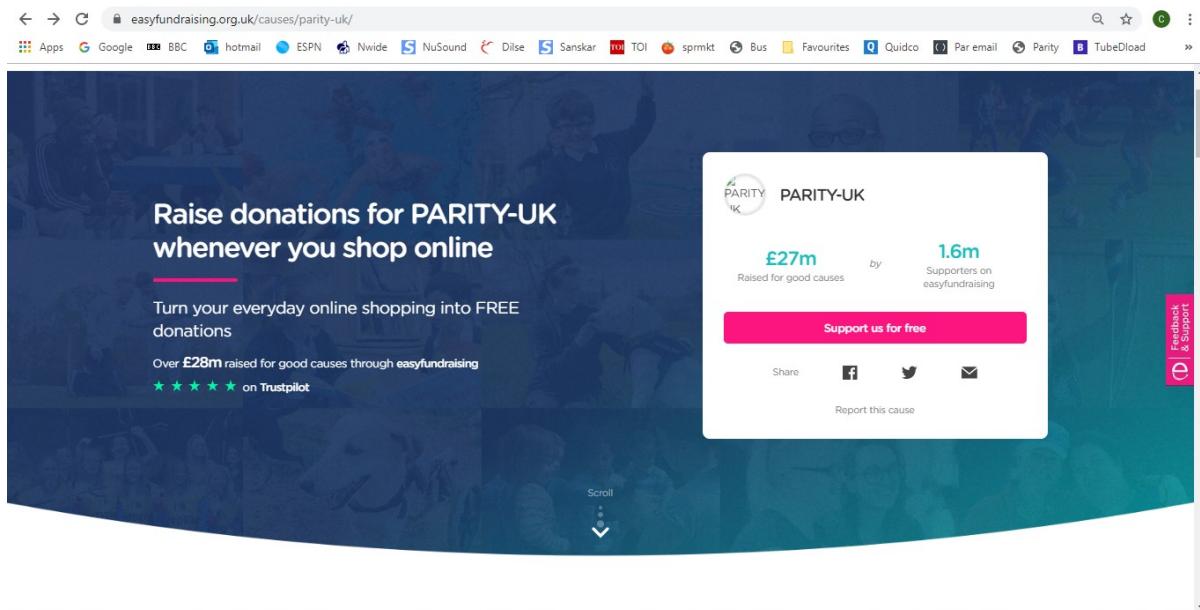
PARITY is raising money with @easyfundraising and we'd love you to help us. Visit our easyfundraising page to make a donation to PARITY-UK or **raise money for us for FREE** just by doing your everyday online shopping with all your favourite online retailers. However you choose to help us, we'll be very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

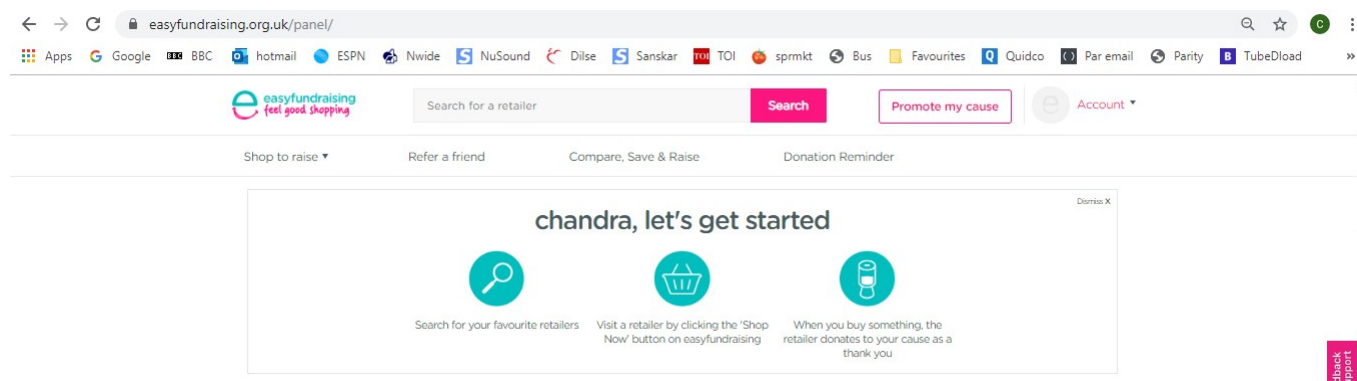
## Join the 1.6 million others

- ✓ It's 100% free to use
- ✓ You can raise money for your favourite cause every time you shop online
- ✓ 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**

### 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](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

[Change 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: [f](#) [t](#)

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



## THE DOMESTIC ABUSE BILL - Rick Bradford

In March 2018 the Government set out its intentions for a new Domestic Abuse Bill and invited responses in a Consultation exercise. In January 2019 the [Government reported on the Consultation exercise](#) (**Ref.1**), and published the draft Bill. All Bills pass through a Committee stage on their path towards Royal Assent. Committee membership is confined to the Houses of Parliament, in this case six from the Commons and six from the Lords (eight women and four men). On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 the [Committee published their report](#) (**Ref.2**). There are a number of radical changes proposed by the Bill, but the recommendations of the Committee are far more radical still.

The Committee is insisting upon a “gendered” definition of domestic abuse. The gendered definition holds that domestic abuse is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men upon women, that women perceive the harm of such abuse far more acutely than do men, and that domestic abuse is specifically a tool used by men to maintain patriarchal power and control over women. All these claims are refuted by empirical evidence, e.g., **Refs.3 and 4**. [Mankind Initiative](#) has responded to the “gendered” definition, stating that it would make men second class victims, **Ref.5**.

Simply put, the “gendered” definition of domestic abuse is grossly inequitable – which is why it must be of concern to Parity. It seems to me that we are doomed to lose this battle as the Government has reiterated its intention to ratify the Istanbul Convention as soon as possible, and the Istanbul Convention is based upon this gendered understanding of domestic abuse. Mankind Initiative made a strong appeal in their [Consultation submission](#), **Ref.6**, that Parental Alienation be recognised within the Bill as a form of domestic abuse. But neither the draft Bill nor the Committee report make any mention of recognising this form of serious abuse.

In the family courts, many fathers are obliged to represent themselves (Litigants In Person). In about 50% of child contact cases these men face domestic abuse allegations. This has led to men cross-examining their accuser themselves. The Bill will prohibit this practice. To be precise, the prohibition will apply if the accused has been charged, convicted or accepted a caution for domestic abuse, or if there is a protection order against him. The Committee was concerned that in some cases these conditions would not be met. They recommended that the mandatory ban on cross-examination of (alleged) victims by LIPs be extended to apply if the legal aid “DV Gateway” evidencing criterion is met. This Gateway is as wide as the Grand Canyon.

The Bill proposes to make national Government funding of refuge charities a statutory obligation. The Committee goes further to demand that such funding be extended to other support services such as advice and counselling. This is where the “gendered” definition of domestic abuse has bite: it would cause funding to be channelled disproportionately to women’s charities, thus perpetuating the prevailing gross imbalance in service provision by sex. (Men are at least 33% of victims but receive about 2% of the service provision). Much has been made of the promise of £0.5M funding for male victims in the Bill. But this is a drop in the ocean of the approximately £300M total funding of the women’s domestic abuse charities, [Ref.7](#).

Moreover, it remains to be seen who gets this £0.5M. It seems likely that Women’s Aid affiliated charities will bid for much of it by offering helpline service for men. However, they would certainly deploy the Respect Toolkit for male callers. This procedure “vets” male callers by asking them questions designed to test their trustworthiness, an attitude of suspicion that they may be perpetrators masquerading as victims. In stark contrast, the mantra for women callers is “believe the victim”. This inequitable treatment has

already been ruled unlawful by the EHRC in Wales. This is another inequality issue which should be of concern to Parity and its members.

The Bill will further strengthen existing powers to constrain, restrain and criminalise those accused of domestic abuse. The escalating sequence of protection notices, protection orders and non-molestation orders can see a man ejected from his home with immediate effect and kept out of it without limit. The new Bill will make breaching the terms of a protection notice or protection order a criminal offence. These arrangements mean that a man may be formally branded a criminal, with a criminal record, and imprisoned, without ever facing trial or any other meaningful test of the accusations against him.

Sanctions against the accused will include electronic tagging, electronic surveillance and the use of polygraph ("lie detector") testing. All these arrangements are expressed in gender-neutral language, but the "gendered" perception of domestic abuse will continue to ensure that it is men who are on the receiving end of this draconian treatment in the overwhelming majority of cases.

The Bill would create a new Domestic Abuse Commissioner, together with an Advisory Board. This would give domestic abuse a heightened status within Government and the Commissioner would be able to directly influence public bodies. The Committee goes further, recommending that the Commissioner report directly to the Cabinet Office and have the power to force rulings on both public authorities and also upon Government departments (including the Home Office). If adopted, this would give the Commissioner super-legal and super-Governmental powers to enforce the policies outlines above, and many more. Once again the key feature is the "gendered" perception of domestic abuse which will ensure that it is men against whom the Commissioner's powers will be primarily directed.

## References

- [1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-consultation-response-and-draft-bill>
- [2] Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill, <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtddab/2075/2075.pdf>
- [3] Written Evidence submitted to the Committee by Dr Elizabeth Bates CPsychol CSci AFBPsS SFHEA, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Cumbria (DAB0400). <http://data.parliament.uk/WrittenEvidence/CommitteeEvidence.svc/EvidenceDocument/Draft%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Bill/Draft%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Bill/Written/100852.html>
- [4] The Illustrated Empathy Gap, UK PV Perpetrator Programmes – Part 2, <http://empathygap.uk/?p=1870>
- [5] Mankind Initiative, New Parliamentary Report on the Domestic Abuse Bill will have the effect of treating male victims of domestic abuse (and their children) as second class, <https://www.mankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2-Domestic-Abuse-Bill-Parliamentary-Report-will-have-the-effect-of-treating-male-victims-and-their-children-of-domestic-abuse-as-second-class-1.pdf>
- [6] Mankind Initiative, <http://data.parliament.uk/WrittenEvidence/CommitteeEvidence.svc/EvidenceDocument/Draft%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Bill/Draft%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Bill/Written/100831.html>
- [7] The Illustrated Empathy Gap, UK Domestic Violence Charities' Finances, <http://empathygap.uk/?p=1261>

## WHAT IS "EQUALITY"? PART 1: THE PAY GAP – Rick Bradford

The gender pay gap – mythical? Surely not. The median gender pay rate gap for full time employees is just under 9% in favour of men (based on gross hourly pay excluding overtime). Yet some people are inclined to describe this pay gap as "mythical".

Such people may point out that the pay gap does not arise as a result of discrimination: it is not "less pay for the same work" as others falsely claim. They may also point out that the pay gap is essentially zero below the age of 40 and clearly arises after that age from women's free choice in the matter of prioritising childcare over paid work, perhaps opting instead for part-time working.

Yet that 9% figure remains stubbornly there. It is not mythical.

Should we declare the counter-arguments as invalid and insist that the 9% pay gap be eradicated regardless, as the dominant narrative demands?

Beware the law of unintended consequences!

Here is another pay gap which is also not mythical but receives no attention from the lobby pressing for the 9% to be eliminated. Concentrate upon net pay instead of gross pay and a central issue becomes the amount of income tax paid. In 2016/17, men paid a total of £127B in income tax compared to women's £47.6B, i.e., men paid 167% more tax than women, an income tax gap of 167%. This is also not a mythical figure. It is equally stubbornly real.

Some may say that the tax-gap figure does not represent discrimination either, because it arises from the fact that men work 52% more paid hours than women, and also work for more continuous years. But if you evaluate the average tax paid per hour worked it is £3.94 for men but only £2.27 for women, a tax-rate gender gap of 74%. The nay-sayers will then emphasise that this is also not discrimination ("inequality") because it is men's free choice to work longer hours and thus to be more likely to fall into the higher tax brackets.

Yet the 74% (or 167%) figure remains stubbornly there. It is not mythical.

And I note that 74% (or 167%) is rather larger than 9%.

So why is it that the smaller figure receives such obsessive attention in the media and by our political class, whilst the larger figure goes unremarked by all? In what way can this selective attention be regarded as an attitude of concern about "equality"?

There is a profounder question lurking here. What lies behind these numbers and the reason why they are not zero – numerical "equality"? Actually both result from persistent aspects of gendered behaviour. Women prioritise direct childcare whereas men prioritise resource provision to the family. The dominant narrative's obsession with eliminating the gender pay gap is therefore an indirect means of social engineering in which the ethos is that women should no longer prioritise childcare and men should no longer prioritise resource provision. Behind the ostensible drive for "equality" lurks the dominant narrative's profound disdain for both men's and women's contributions to family.

I suggest a healthier perspective on equality would be an attitude of equal respect for both men's and women's contributions – to family or society generally – however they freely wish to arrange their affairs, rather than an obsession with numerical measures which act as a smokescreen for the disrespect of the freedoms of both sexes, especially within the family.

## **WHAT IS "EQUALITY"? PART 2: EQUALITY IS UNEQUAL TREATMENT – Rick Bradford**

When is equality not equality? When it is unequal treatment.

To those not well versed in the manner in which policy narratives have changed in the last dozen years, this may seem like a paradox or riddle. Prepare yourselves, then, for the radical revision of the meaning of the word "equality" which is now politically and judicially established.

My first encounter with the brave new world of "equality" was in [The Corston Report](#), **Ref.1.** quote,

*"Equality does not mean treating everyone the same"*

The Corston Report was addressing the issue of imprisonment. The context of the above quote was that "equality" does not mean treating men and women the same. I was rather shocked. Perhaps you are too. Hopelessly unreconstructed antediluvian that I am, I *do* regard equality as meaning that one treats everyone the same. I have a suspicion that the overwhelming majority of the public would too. But not our political and judicial classes.

The Government's [Quick Start Guide to the 2010 Equality Act](#), **Ref.2**, specifically cautions against treating everyone the same in relation to the public sector equality duty. The advice on the interpretation of the Act is,

*"The Equality Duty does not require public bodies to treat everyone the same"*

*"Complying with the Equality Duty may involve treating some people better than others, as far as this is allowed by discrimination law"*

[The Equal Treatment Bench Book](#) is the formal advice given to judges by the Judicial College on how matters of equality are to be addressed in court. I quote from the 2018 edition, **Ref.3**,

*"true equal treatment may not always mean treating everyone in the same way"*

This begs an obvious question: just how differently must you treat two people in order for true equality to be achieved?

The Equal Treatment Bench Book includes the following quote from Baroness Hale (now the President of the Supreme Court and the most senior judge in the land),

*"It is now well recognised that a misplaced conception of equality has resulted in some very unequal treatment for the women and girls who appear before the criminal justice system. Simply put, a male-ordered world has applied to them its perceptions of the appropriate treatment for male offenders.... The criminal justice system could ... ask itself whether it is indeed unjust to women."*

This remark claims that treating women in the manner deemed appropriate for male offenders is "very unequal treatment", i.e., treating them the same way is unequal. All these examples illustrate how the meaning of the word "equal" has been changed.

Since Parity is all about equal rights for men and women, any change in the meaning of the word "equality" is rather important.

Nor should one be unconcerned on the grounds that these are mere philosophical niceties without import in the real world. On the contrary, they have a profound impact on the lives of at least tens of thousands of people annually. For example, this change in the meaning of "equality" drives who is incarcerated in prison, and who is not.

In June 2018 plans to build five new women's prisons to replace Holloway were cancelled. Then [Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary, David Gauke, announced](#) a new policy to "*divert the most vulnerable women in the criminal justice system away from custody*" so as to "*break the cycle of female offending*", **Ref.4**. This will involve sending women to prison only as a last resort, more often putting the emphasis on rehabilitation in community-based women's centres. This policy has been reconfirmed in June 2019.

Personally, I have no great difficulty with a more compassionate approach to offenders, concentrating upon rehabilitation (though some people do need locking up for the public's protection). My difficulty is that this change in policy as regards offender punishment applies only to women. In contrast, it is still planned to build up to six more prisons for men, with the potential to expand the current male prison population by a further 10,000.

In truth, women have enjoyed a far more lenient treatment in respect of imprisonment for a very long time. Women are far less likely to be sentenced to prison than men even when convicted of the same offence, and when they are they will generally receive a substantially shorter sentence, **Ref.5** and **Ref.6**.

Those who follow these things are well aware of the huge number of cases reported in the press where women escape imprisonment for offences which would have sent a man to gaol. Sometimes this is put beyond doubt because the judge actually says as much. For example, the case of serial drunk driver, Victoria Parry, who repeatedly caused serious crashes, where the judge said,

*"If Miss Parry was a man, there is no question it would have been straight down the stairs, because this is a shocking case of dangerous driving against a background of two previous convictions for excess alcohol."* ([Ref.7](#))

In the brave new world announced by the Justice Secretary, this different treatment by sex will be given formal sanction. This is where "equality does not mean treating everyone the same" gets you. This dictum is, of course, semantically identical to,

*"Some animals are more equal than others"*

## References

- [1] Baroness Jean Corston, "A Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System – The Corston Report", <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130206102659/http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/corston-report-march-2007.pdf>
- [2] UK Government Equalities Office, "Equality Act 2010: Public Sector Equality Duty What Do I Need To Know Quick Start Guide for Public Sector Organisations", [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85041/equality-duty.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85041/equality-duty.pdf)
- [3] Judicial College, "Equal Treatment Bench Book", February 2018, <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/equal-treatment-bench-book-february2018-v5-02mar18.pdf>
- [4] UK Government, "Secretary of State launches dedicated strategy to 'break the cycle' of female offending", <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-launches-dedicated-strategy-to-break-the-cycle-of-female-offending>
- [5] The Illustrated Empathy Gap, "Sex Bias in Criminal Justice", <http://empathygap.uk/?p=2561>
- [6] Ministry of Justice, "Associations between being male or female and being sentenced to prison in England and Wales in 2015", [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/571737/associations-between-sex-and-sentencing-to-prison.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571737/associations-between-sex-and-sentencing-to-prison.pdf)
- [7] Serial drink driver, 30, who was twice limit when pulled from horror crash is spared jail 'because she's a WOMAN', <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7224457/Serial-drink-driver-30-spared-jail-shes-WOMAN.html>

## WHAT IS "EQUALITY"? PART 3 – POLITICIAN'S EQUALITY – Rick Bradford

To virtually all politicians, "gender equality" is equated with "women's equality" – that mathematical absurdity, the equality of one thing. This is exemplified by arrangements within Parliament. The relevant All-Party Parliamentary Group is called the '[Women and Equalities Committee](#)', **Ref.1**, a title which reflects its focus of concern. The UK Government has a '[Minister for Women and Equalities](#)', **Ref.2**, whose remit is policy on women, sexual orientation, transgender equality, and cross-government equality strategy and legislation. The present incumbent, Penny Mordaunt, is no different from her predecessors (always women): there is zero interest in equality issues adversely affecting men and boys. And yet gender inequality issues are massively skewed to male disadvantage. It is beyond doubt that men and boys are extensively disadvantaged across many areas of life, including in education, healthcare, genital integrity, criminal justice, domestic abuse, working hours, taxation, paternity, homelessness, suicide, sexual offences, and fathers' access to their own children after parental separation. This claim can be, and has been, justified by empirical evidence, e.g., **Ref.3**.



So it comes as no surprise whatsoever that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 the Minister for Women and Equalities published her policy document "Gender equality at every stage: a roadmap for change" **Ref.4** which contains no acknowledgement of any male inequalities at all, not one.

Men and boys feature in this policy document only as broken creatures who need to improve their game in respect of assisting women and girls, thus,

*"We will publish research and practical advice on what works to engage men and boys on gender issues and how best to tackle gender stereotypes in relationships, work and wider communities. We will use these findings to inform the work of policy experts, educators, community influencers and advocates working to promote positive masculinities."*

That girls do better in education is noted, more than once, but only in the context of how much more egregious that makes women's subsequent lower earnings.

It is truly remarkable that having noted that girls do better in education, the only action on education issues is this,

*"We have invested in programmes to increase participation in STEM subjects, particularly for girls, including behavioural insights trials to test interventions for girls' uptake of STEM A levels. These trials will help us understand and develop the evidence base for what works to tackle barriers for girls' progression into STEM and ensure action is effective."*

I say "remarkable", but it isn't really because precisely the same sex-biased policies have featured in policy documents produced by previous Ministers for Women. (We can dispense with the "and Equalities" bit, can't we?).

I expect that Penny Mordaunt is as ignorant as her predecessors as regards young women being already dominant as undergraduates in the pure sciences (by 26%, [Ref.5](#)). So her protestations about women-in-STEM are inappropriate. The document notes,

*"Girls tend to outperform boys in STEM subjects at GCSE. Despite this, male students are almost twice as likely to take maths at A Level, over four times more likely to take physics and over eight times more likely to take computer science."*

Quite right, and I can explain why. It is because UK education so woefully fails to teach boys literacy skills that boys are very keen indeed to flood into precisely those subjects where the dreaded **word**, which has plagued them all through their school career, features least. In maths, physics and IT, practical skills and numeracy are to the fore, and verbal skills far less relevant than in other subjects. Girls who are good at STEM subjects, on the other hand, tend to be equally competent at other subjects which demand literacy skills. So the girls have a choice, the boys do not.

This idea has been quantified in an excellent paper by [Stoet and Geary](#), **Ref.6**. Girls have been encouraged into STEM for decades but with little impact. But Ref.6 implies, paradoxically, that a more effective means of increasing girls' participation in STEM might be to improve boys' literacy skills. In addition, the more gender equal a society (strictly, the more women's equality issues are promoted) the smaller women's participation in STEM areas (Ref.6).

In any case, these days one talks, not about STEM, but about STEMM – science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine and subjects allied to medicine. As university students, women dominate over men both in the pure sciences and in the second M, i.e., medicine and subjects allied to medicine. Moreover, women dominate in STEMM as a whole, and have done for several years now. I expect the Minister is unaware of this too. But were she better informed, it would make no difference.

Women dominate in 70% of university subjects, but you will never see that referred to in any Government policy documents. Parity is concerned about equality, but the Government is not. Politicians use the narrative around equality only as a lever for other

purposes. The focus of the policy document is emphatically clear: the objective is not equality. That is a smokescreen. The objective is to get greater participation of women in paid work, and especially in STEM jobs which are perceived to be better paid. A clue as to why a Government of any political complexion would be keen on this was included in Part 1 of this series of articles. The Government has noticed how little income tax is paid by women compared to men. Increasing women's participation in employment, especially in higher paid jobs, would have the double benefit of increasing GDP and increasing tax revenue. Mordaunt's policy document is not a policy to promote gender equality: it is a policy document about money and how to lever the narrative on equality to implement social engineering to improve financial flows.

## References

- [1] UK Parliament, Women and Equalities Committee, <https://www.parliament.uk/womenandequalities>
- [2] UK Government, Minister for Women and Equalities, <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers/minister-for-women-and-equalities--3>
- [3] William Collins, "The Empathy Gap: Male Disadvantages and the Mechanisms of Their Neglect" (Ips publishing, to be published July 2019), <https://lpspublishing.wordpress.com/our-books/>
- [4] Penny Mordaunt, Minister for Women and Equalities, "Gender equality at every stage: a roadmap for change", 3/7/19, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gender-equality-at-every-stage-a-roadmap-for-change>
- [5] The Illustrated Empathy Gap, "University Entrants 2017 (UK)", <http://empathygap.uk/?p=2051>
- [6] Gijsbert Stoet and David Geary, "The Gender-Equality Paradox in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education", March 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797617741719>

## MEN, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE – Phillip Turner

### Success in Shetland

In 2017 I holidayed in Shetland, an absolutely wonderful place to visit, but with a suicide rate twice the national average at 7 suicides a year for a population of 22,000. At tourist leaflet distribution points and public buildings, I noticed lots of leaflets about mental health issues with support for young and old alike. There had been a mental health initiative called "Mind Your Head" that included training 50% of front line staff in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) scheme (Ref 1), and a work place scheme called "Grubby Hut" (Ref 2), and over the 18 months, the suicide rate had fallen to zero, an absolutely remarkable result, showing that every suicide is potentially preventable.

Contact with the worker that runs the program in Shetland rightly pointed out the figures for Shetland cannot be seen as representative. Saying "We thankfully for the first time since the 1980's have the lowest number of suicides per 100,000 (although this somewhat skewed as our population is only 22,000, and this is done over a 3-5 year rolling average)" they had a number of suicides since and a marked increase in the number attempted, highlighting that suicide is complex.

### Is there a crisis in masculinity?

The rate of suicide is actually going down, although it does fluctuate from year to year hitting a high in 1988; from 1981 to 2018 men's rate has dropped from 19.6 per 100,000 to 17.2, up on the previous year 16.2. Women's rate has dropped from 14.8 to 5.4 (Ref 3). We also have to be aware that suicides in the past were not always reported as such because of the stigma for the surviving family. Each suicide is one too many, we know the devastating impact it has on the family and friends.

So if suicide is going down, is the demonising of men and boys just unhelpful and actually muddying the waters, men per se are not in crisis, but marginalised men are. As **Page15**

has been known for decades, women actually attempt suicide at a much higher rate than men (Ref 4) but do we say women are in crisis? No! We treat them with compassion. There was a trend starting a few years ago talking about Toxic Masculinity (Ref 5), which seems to have grown, that there is something inherently bad about men and they need to change, leaving the feeling that men cannot be themselves any more but have to conform to some new standard. Men seem to be blamed as men from "man spreading" to killing themselves. Is this modern and almost Orwellian narrative of all things male being bad, damaging men? As Jordan Peterson says, "the idea of patriarchy and that young men should be seen with suspicion is an appalling doctrine" (Ref 6); men are not broken, we should focus on the many good aspects of men, yes we need to encourage men to use mental health services. The video of Robert 'Grubby Hut' is a good example of this (Ref 2). Shaming is not the way to do this, the crisis seems to be the lack of empathy in what is being called the "male empathy gap" (Ref 7) and be aware of this bias and its origins (Ref 8).

In today's society, what it is to be a man has a much broader meaning and expression to even 10-20 years ago, but essentially men are individuals and should be treated as such - the group doesn't define them. If men want to open up, they shouldn't be expected to do so in particular, by expecting them to open up and demand they cry, which is a way of expressing feelings but isn't that just as dictatorial like "old fashion" stoic masculinity? Encouraging men to just talk, and to actually listen, but does society want to hear what men have to say?

As a man and a counsellor, I find it easy to cry, my depth of feelings is not expressed by outward signs of emotion but inner ones and how I process those feelings and realising I can feel vulnerable but strong at the same time. There is this thought that services should be tailored for men and not for men to fit the service (Ref 9), but this is a conversation for another day.

### **Report from Male Psychology Conference 2019**

These issues were discussed at this year's Male Psychology Conference at UCL London (Ref 10), and after years of hard work and some opposition, there is a newly formed male section of the British Psychological Society, to focus on men's issues thanks to the dedication of academics such as John Barry and Martin Seagar (Ref 11). Also this year the Minister for Suicide Prevention, Jackie Doyle-Price MP presented, which was quite a moment for the conference and a positive step in the right direction (Ref 12).

On the 12th June and 4th September this year there was a Women's and Equality Committee Meeting discussing male suicide (Ref 13).

The meetings gave a complex picture of how suicidal ideation potentially develops. The first thing that stuck out was the suggestion that men are not a homogenous group implying there is no simplistic answers. There are life events that make suicide more likely - deprivation and isolation (especially in mid-life affecting those around 45, just when you expect life to be settled) and also bereavement, relationship break-down or unemployment.

The discussion around young men and boys indicated that social and economic deprivation, abuse, neglect and bullying are predictors of poor mental health. Boys who are emotionally distressed tend to act out and it is seen as a behavioural issue and many end up in the criminal justice system rather than it being seen as a mental health issue, all these are predictors of negative mental health in the future.

The Committee acknowledged awareness that men, including veterans, are more likely to be homeless, have addiction issues and show non- typical mental health symptom's that remain as untreated. With this awareness, the good news is that £25m has been ring-fenced. It is known what works, or reduces suicide as in Shetland, are early intervention services that target the vulnerable groups. You could say men have to get help but if the services are not talking their language nor seem approachable, they are unlikely to get help (Ref 9). **Page16**

Suicide rates tends to increase when there is an economic down turn and has not been helped by cuts in addiction services, which are now being run by hard pressed local councils. It often can take years or decades for men who have been abused to come forward, and this adds pressure on the services and in some areas like Oxford there are only services for women (Ref 13), indicating a different presentations and coping strategy around distress.

Men and women are diagnosed with mental health difficulties differently, women typically have higher rates of depression, evidence suggests that women present more typically than men with depressive symptoms (Ref 14). *One thing that epitomises the difference is the statistic that 3 out of 4 suicides are men, despite women attempting suicide at a higher rate (Ref 15), we do not demonise them for that, we treat them with empathy.*

A large proportion, about 70% are not diagnosed with depression or even known to mental health services or have reached out to by anyone about what they are suffering (Ref 12). Suicide and self-harm are not mental health problems in themselves, but they are linked with mental distress (Ref 13, 14).

The commonly held belief is that if men expressed their feelings more, they would be less likely to kill themselves. This is a very simplistic view for something that is often extremely complex. Correlation does not imply causation, there appears to be this expectation that men and women should be the same, another myth that seems to be perpetuated by sections of society and the press, and in some quarters this appears to be more like victim blaming, if men were more like women and showed their emotions etc,

This appears to come out of the idea that men and women are the same, blank slates and that gender is just a social construct. The evidence is clear that gender is much more complex and has a biological aspect as well as societal (Ref 16), but this doesn't suits the prevailing narrative for some.

Do men open up and talk? In my experience and the evidence suggests definitely yes, if they feel safe to do so (Ref 14). They tend to take a little longer to build trust, and there may be some banter along the way, but if you want to see a man express feelings, treat him with empathy, respect and discuss what's important, and ask him about his children.

## References

- (1) No suicides in 18 months as training pays off, Shetland News. 22nd March 2017. <https://www.shetnews.co.uk/2017/03/22/no-suicides-in-18-months-as-prevention-training-pays-off/>
- (2) mental well-being and resilience for people living in Shetland. <https://www.mindyourhead.org.uk/mental-health-films>
- (3) Suicides in the UK: 2018 registrations, Registered deaths in the UK from suicide analysed by sex, age, area of usual residence of the deceased and suicide method. ONS <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/suicidesintheunitedkingdom/2018registrations>
- (4) The gender paradox in suicide. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9560163>
- (5) It's not Muslims or people with mental health problems who are most likely to kill you in a terrorist attack – it's men. The independent Wednesday 27 July 2016. <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/terrorist-attack-muslims-mentally-ill-japan-france-germany-men-its-toxic-masculinity-a7158156.html>
- (6) In May 2018, we recorded a special episode of the Intelligence Squared podcast in London, Jordan Peterson on Gender, Patriarchy and the Slide Towards Tyranny. Link at point. <https://youtu.be/7QRQjrsFnR4?t=160>
- (7) THE MALE GENDER EMPATHY GAP: TIME FOR PSYCHOLOGY TO TAKE ACTION. Martin Seager, Warren Farrell, John Barry. <https://www.newmalestudies.com/OJS/index.php/nms/article/view/227>
- (8) Gamma Bias: Cognitive Distortion in Thinking About Gender. By Martin Seager & John Barry, at UCL, 17 July 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHYRYKCIDxk&t=726s>
- (9) Reconnection: Designing Interventions and Services with Men in Mind 647 Roger Kingerlee. The Palgrave Handbook of Male Psychology and Mental Health, Palgrave McMillan.

- (10) Male Psychology Conference 2019, UCL, London, June 21-22  
<https://malepsychology.org.uk/male-psychology-conference-2019/>
- (11) Male Psychology Section, The British Psychological society. <https://www.bps.org.uk/member-microsites/male-psychology-section>
- (12) Male mental health – the government’s approach, by Jackie Doyle-Price, MP  
<https://youtu.be/TtyOyZC3cmc>
- (13) Women and Equalities Committee Mental health of men and boys inquiry.  
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/mental-health-men-boys-inquiry-17-19/>
- (14) Mental health statistics: men and women, The Mental Health foundation, UK.  
<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-men-and-women.Does>
- (15) The Times, More women than men attempt suicide, January 16 2016.  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-women-than-men-attempt-suicide-x6c7xhvv6t8>)
- (16) gender equality mean equality for men? Prof Guy Madison, Umeå University, Sweden. Male Psychology Network. Published on 19 Jul 2019  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPFKk4ibqGg&t=382s>

## WOMEN’S PENSION AGE CASE GOES TO HIGH COURT

“Back to 60” Campaigners have taken the government to the High Court for a judicial review into how ministers raised the retirement age for women and is seeking repayment of all the pensions people born in the 1950s would have received if they had been able to retire earlier. Women born in the 1950s claim the rise is unfair because they were not given enough time to make adjustments to cope with years without a state pension. The Campaign Group argues that the speed of the change and what it calls the lack of warnings has disadvantaged millions of women.

Under the 1995 Pensions Act, the female state pension age was to rise from 60 to 65 in a phased process between 2010 and 2020. The coalition government of 2010 decided to accelerate the timetable, and the 2011 Pension Act brought the qualifying age of 65 for women forward to 2018. The qualifying age for both men and women will rise to 66 by October 2020. The retirement age of both men and women will increase to 67 by 2028

The government said the rise had been "clearly communicated". A spokesperson for the Department for Work and Pensions said: "The government decided more than 20 years ago that it was going to make the state pension age the same for men and women as a long-overdue move towards gender equality, and this has been clearly communicated."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48520176> 5 June 2019

Campaign group Women against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) says it is not against equalisation: "But we do not accept the unfair way the changes to our state pension age were implemented with inadequate or no notice."

Government lawyer also says those affected had no right to expect notification of changes  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/06/no-duty-of-fairness-to-women-hit-by-pension-age-rise-court-told>

Sir James Eadie QC also argued that **the group had no right to expect either notification of the changes or legal remedy to soften its impact.** "Parliament has no substantive, freestanding obligation of fairness," Eadie told a courtroom so packed that many supporters of the action had to wait outside. "It's clear from case law that the enactment of primary legislation carries with it no duty of fairness to the public."

But Michael Mansfield QC, representing the protest group, argued that a "subclass – of women, not men – has been created by this discriminatory legislation." Eadie said there was no onus on the government to advertise changes to primary legislation or to individually inform the 3.8 million women affected by any changes.



Pressed by Lord Justice Irwin on whether there could be legal remedy for the women for the lack of notice of the changes, Eadie said there were no principles of natural justice or principles of fairness in play. "There can be no legal remedy," he said.

## **FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE – David Hyatt**

I still remember the surprise I got on my first visit to Moscow as a student in 1978.

On a freezing March day with deep snow everywhere we were rattling along from the airport in a dilapidated Soviet coach when we noticed a huge monument by the road. We were told that marked the furthest limit of the German advance on Moscow in 1941. We of course knew that the Germans had got "close to Moscow" but we hadn't realised they were well within the city limits. I tried to imagine the equivalent scenario of a German invasion attempt halted, not at the Channel, but around Streatham!

But nothing prepared me for my second big shock as we approached the city centre. There were a lot of roadworks as the Russians fought their endless battle with the elements. Lots of digging of course, mainly with shovels rather than mechanical equipment (this was the USSR after all) but what shocked me was the spectacle of who was doing the shovelling. They seemed to be mostly old women; we know them as "babushkas". While our western grannies were taking it easy in comfy armchairs, wearily coping with their rheumatism and allowing themselves nothing more strenuous than getting up to change channel, the Russian grannies were moving heaven and earth (well the earth at any rate) in order to demonstrate the dignity of labour and the inevitable march towards the triumph of Communism.

In many ways the Soviet Union was a miserable failure but it did produce some notable successes. Although nobody owned property and everybody rented, I'm sure many British today would be happy to spend only 5% of their income on rent, soviet-style. And in a society where brain surgeons earned the same as bus drivers, for every unhappy brain surgeon there were plenty of contented bus drivers. There was also a lot more actual "gender equality" - in the real sense of the word, rather than the modern western feminist sense.

Women just seemed to be achieving a lot, in a natural way rather than through aggressive quotas and "positive discrimination". The cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin was matched by the female Valentina Tereshkova. The great national Russian poets Pasternak and Mandelstam were matched by the women Akhmatova and Tsvetayeva. And there were women revolutionaries like Alexandra Kollontai. She certainly didn't advocate "more women directors in the boardroom" and in any case at that point all private companies had become state monopolies and all the company directors were hard at work in Siberia - and the work didn't involve scrutinising balance sheets with a view to acquisitions or mergers.

British feminists have good cause to complain - why are there so few women billionaires in the UK, why don't we have more female prime ministers, more female British monarchs, why does Trafalgar Square have a huge phallic monument to the dead white male Lord Nelson with no corresponding column to honour the woman/women in Nelson's life? Surely we should take seriously the latest feminist proposal to insert a female figure alongside Nelson on the top of his column.....

Unlike western feminism with its relentless assault on the real or imagined privileges of the enemy gender, soviet feminism ascribed no blame to "men" at all. While western feminists increasingly like to demonise males, the communists demonised "capitalists" instead, and concentrated on constructing a future utopia with "gender equality" as a necessary and inevitable by-product.

As a result, decades after the fall of Communism, Russian society today has more high-achieving women and, in complete contrast to the civil war being waged by our radicalised feminists (anyone for a Gillette razor?) Russia actually enjoys much more harmony empathy and cooperation between men and women.

For example the Russians have an equivalent of the International Men's Day that is marked in the UK on November 19th. While feminists here show at best indifference and at worst active hostility to the very concept, in Russia both men and women happily get together en masse on their "Men's Day" to celebrate men's identity and achievements. It's even a public holiday. Their attitude to Women's Day on March 8th (yes the west has copied it, they first instituted it) is equally positive and healthy. It's about celebrating together, about femininity and culture and romance. What it's NOT about is haranguing accusing and attacking men for being human.

"Feminism" started off here as a good thing, all about decency fairness and equality. The "Third Wave Feminists" have in recent years mounted a Novichok-style assault on those values. Let's re-claim gender equality. Just ask the Russians.

### **FROM GILLETTE TO "JILL"ETTE – David Hyatt**

There's no such thing as bad publicity, according to 19th century American circus showman P T Barnum. And that sometimes may well be true. A film might get such terrible reviews that eventually it attracts a large cult following on the "so bad it's good" principle.

But there was nothing positive at all about the international controversy over last year's one-minute man-bashing Gillette ad. I won't go into all the gory details but it's extremely offensive by being infantile and patronising to a degree never seen before in the world of advertising. You can find it on Youtube and anyway if you are reading this you are probably already well aware of what Gillette did.

This was quite simply the worst case of gratuitous self-inflicted commercial damage since the case of Gerald Ratner, boss of the once-popular high street jewellers chain Ratners. As you may remember he gave a speech nearly 30 years ago to the Institute of Directors in which he described his products as "crap" and claimed that his earrings were "cheaper than an M&S prawn sandwich but probably wouldn't last as long". His firm lost hundreds of millions in value, but it was only ever meant as a tongue in cheek, off the cuff remark which unfortunately leaked out into the public domain. He was unlucky.

But the egregious misandrist Gillette ad was deliberate self-inflicted harm. They didn't just shoot themselves in the proverbial foot, they took a chainsaw and gleefully amputated both legs. Contrary to all previous ad campaigns anywhere, Gillette made a calculated attempt to abuse and alienate its core market; men.

Such a stunt would of course be inconceivable the other way round. Try to imagine a firm that makes female sanitary products spending millions on ads pushing the idea that women are typically guilty of paternity fraud or domestic violence or false rape allegations or shoplifting. The militant feminists now apparently in control of Gillette decided that men deserve to be humiliated and publicly pilloried because.....because they're the wrong gender!

Gerald Ratner had a happy ending. He became a very successful motivational speaker based on his experiences, which are after all genuinely funny. But there can never be a happy ending for Gillette. and their wretched pandering to the worst excesses of militant feminist bigotry. Recently Procter and Gamble admitted a huge fall in the value of their Gillette brand. A mind-boggling 8 BILLION dollars. I wonder why.