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Agreement. For more details on the kinds of behaviour that can result in restriction, refer to the "Do's and Don'ts" section of our User Agreement.

know if the account restriction has been lifted. Customer Support representative will reach out to you to let you know if it has been restricted in error. If you are eligible, a Customer Support representative will reach out to you to let you know if the account restriction has been lifted.

WRITING ABOUT FEMINISM AND TOXIC MASCULINITY

Gerard Nicol



ABSTRACT

We will probably never know the extent of female-on-male violence because even before the perpetrator ponders accusing her victim of abuse, society does so on her behalf. It would appear that a simple unfounded accusation that a man sought the comfort of another woman, is enough to blame the victim for his own injuries. Feminists argue that male violence towards women exists because society tolerates violence against women, but some feminists clearly condone violence against men. Governments should allow access to the data they collect because every citizen has a right to know the truth about violence and crime; especially when those statistics are being used to justify hatred against a group of people in that society.

Keywords: male victims, female perpetrators, domestic violence, toxic masculinity, feminism

A few weeks ago, I published an article, “Feminism: toxic masculinity,” which initially resulted in my temporary suspension from *LinkedIn*, and then went on to be read by over 11,000 people. When my articles are well read, I like to write a debrief article to discuss what I learned from writing the article, and also to capture some of the comments, which for some reason disappear over time. The two comments discussed after the article are a great indication of how readers responded to my argument.

FEMINISM: TOXIC MASCULINITY

On the 14th of June this year, a forty-six-year-old Sydney woman was charged with burning her ex-boyfriend to death last October.¹ It is alleged that she disabled the water mains, to ensure that the fire could not be put out, and then set the granny-flat at the back of the man's parent's house alight to ensure that he perished. The man died two days later from his burns, in the arms of his mother and father. Three weeks before the woman was charged, another woman had doused her male partner in gasoline and set him alight, all while their eleven-year-old son was in the next room listening to his father scream. How many women initiate violence against men? We will probably never know, because even before the female perpetrator ponders accusing her victim of being abusive to her, society is already doing it on her behalf. Even if there were no abuse, it would appear that a simple unfounded accusation that the man sought the comfort of another woman, is enough to blame the victim for his own injuries.

In the eyes of Katie Kurly, for example, if a man cheats on a woman, that's reason enough. Responding to a Facebook posting, Ms. Kurly wrote, “I’ve got \$20 that he either abused her or cheated on her. Women don’t set their husbands in fire for no reason 😊”² There is no accusation that the man did anything to deserve being set on fire, but if he had been having an affair, perhaps the woman would have been better off trying to run down her husband in her car

¹ See <https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/news/sydney-woman-charged-over-fatal-house-fire/news-story/144ce2f24a6c95d682cdaafi812c5f72> and <https://thewest.com.au/news/7-news/woman-charged-over-house-fire-that-killed-ex-boyfriend-bc-579776829001>.

² Katie Kurly, *Facebook*, May 23, 2018, viewable here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=137830580413334&set=p.137830580413334&type=3&theater>.

because the media seems to think that's pretty amusing.³

But, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (the ABS), this violent behavior is not typical of women; it is typical of men. The ABS claims that “79% of intimate-partner homicide victims in 2012-14 were female.”⁴ This has resulted in the accusations, that men are inherently violent, that masculinity itself is toxic, and that all female violence can be explained as self-defense against a violent majority. The evidence seems irrefutable; murder is murder, there is a dead woman, and a man killed her, but as we can see from the comments of Katie Kurly, even when a man is burned alive, he has to be at fault because women don't do anything to men unless they have good reason. If the ABS are simply reporting domestic violence deaths from murder convictions, and we know that women are half as likely to be charged, and half as likely to be convicted, one could argue that these figures are not reflective of anything other than an anti-male, pro-female bias that exists, not only in the legal system, but in the wider community.⁵

Feminists argue that male violence towards women exists because society tolerates violence against women, but the comments of some feminists clearly demonstrate an acceptance of violence against men: for example, *Huffington Post* editor, Emily McCombs, desired to “band together to kill all men” as one of her new year’s resolutions for 2018; and author, Clementine Ford, has repeatedly asserted a similar imperative to “kill all men.”⁶

Recently, a grass roots Australian group calling itself *Domestic Violence Australia*, started collating news reports of domestic violence deaths, and over the past two years they have found the ABS statistics are not reflective of domestic violence deaths as a whole.⁷ Here is one of the group’s graphics:⁸

³ See, for example <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/justice-story/mercedes-madness-wife-runs-cheating-hubby-article-1.1259905>.

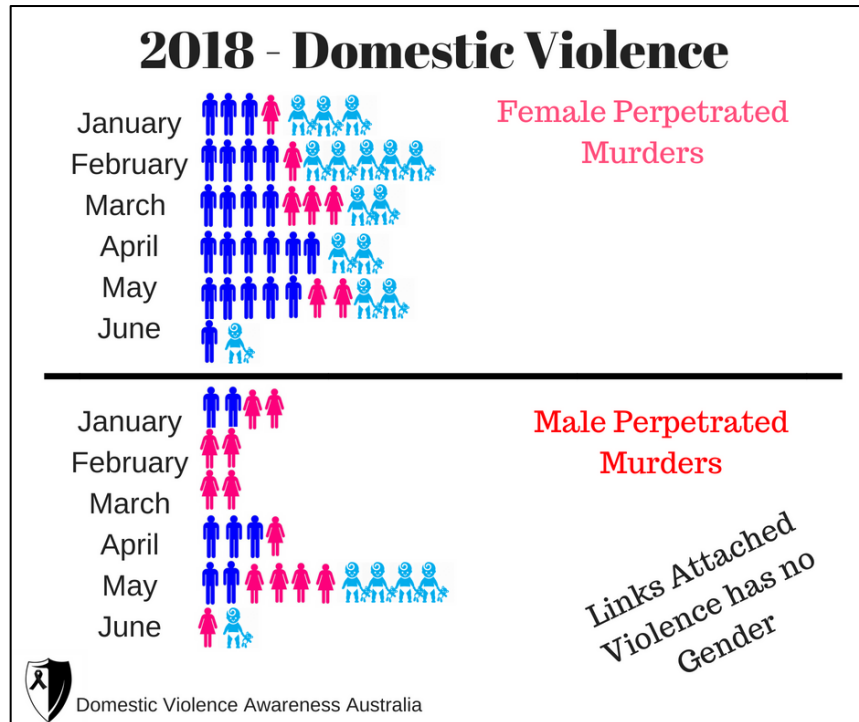
⁴ The data are presented here: <http://www.crimestats.aic.gov.au/NHMP/>.

⁵ See https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/11/men-women-prison-sentence-length-gender-gap_n_1874742.html.

⁶ See <https://criticathink.wordpress.com/2018/01/01/all-men-are-scum-and-must-die/>.

⁷ *Domestic Violence Australia* run an informative Facebook page that is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/domesticviolenceawarenessaustralia>.

⁸ This graphic is reproduced with the kind permission of *Domestic Violence Australia*. The original posting and



Let me explain what is going on here.

1. The ABS statistics are binary; they presume that every murdered woman was killed by a man, even though 7, of the 19 women killed this year were killed by women.
2. Children are excluded from the statistics. This year, of the 20 children killed, 75% have been killed by women; almost 1-in-3 domestic violence deaths are people below 18.
3. These statistics are based upon news reports of women being arrested for killing others. They do not reflect the possible innocence of the women (or men), or the possibility that the woman will be convicted of manslaughter, and not murder.
4. Each of the DVA deaths have a name attached to them, yet the ABS stats don't.

Unfortunately, the ABS do not publish their raw statistics so that a simple comparison can be done to determine if the DVA statistics have captured all of the reported deaths. In the

its links are available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/domesticviolenceawarenessaustralia/photos/a.1700359836858499.1073741828.170035533525596/2172688226292322/?type=3&theater>.

information age, there is no excuse for not releasing raw government data, there is no excuse for releasing manipulated data, and there is no excuse for using data that is half a decade old. Governments need to stop controlling access to the data they collect because every citizen, male and female, has a right to know the raw truth about violence and crime; especially when those statistics are being used to justify hatred against a group of people in that society. Given the negative attitudes towards men, and the positive attitudes towards women, one cannot determine that there isn't a serious legal and social bias at play here. For instance, it is unheard of for anybody to publicly suggest that a woman, who had been set on fire by a man, probably brought it upon herself because she was unfaithful; and even if someone did, society would be quick to point out that women should never be judged for infidelity. In an equitable society, we must ask ourselves whether or not, men face extreme levels of prejudice, both as victims, and accused perpetrators of violence, but instead, some in western societies are discussing their vision for a world where women are never imprisoned.⁹ Only time will tell if the women who set men on fire will be charged, convicted and imprisoned, but one thing is for certain: as a society we show no sympathy for male victims of crime. Instead, we now openly discuss masculinity as being toxic, and blame all violence, no matter who committed it, on men, based upon the belief that men have power, and exercise it through patriarchal violence.¹⁰

After all, the statistics from the above-mentioned Australian data show that men are 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime, and that in most of those cases, it is someone else's son who commits that violence. But has it ever occurred to anybody that male violence, is a product of a society that has no real value of male life; while at the same time, highly valuing the life of every woman? In a world where male life has no value, and feminists argue that it is completely OK to hate men, would it not seem more probable that male violence is a

⁹ See, for example, the following articles: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/01/why-we-should-close-womens-prisons-and-treat-their-crimes-more-fairly>, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-politics/10015766/Isnt-it-time-to-abolish-most-womens-prisons.html>, and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13666066>.

¹⁰ This document, produced by the Swedish Government, exemplifies typical popular assumptions about patriarchal violence: <https://www.government.se/49b730/contentassets/87a9c5e22afi4395aff341bdb197f58/patriarchal-violence---an-attack-on-human-security>.

manifestation of the low status of men? Boys in Australia are dragged into school halls and lectured by feminists not to ever hit a woman; all while their female peers look up at them as perpetrators of future violence.¹¹

In such an environment, is it any wonder that the statistics collected by Domestic Violence Australia have no resemblance to the statistics published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics? Even if only one in one million perpetrators of domestic violence were women, one would think that feminists would insist that girls also be forced to pledge to never to hit a man, woman or child; but feminism is not about gender equality, it is about shaming, reputation destruction, power and control. Feminists will always defend a woman accused of violence, while condemning every man, all before the legal process has even started; the very definition of prejudice.

Neil's comment

I read this article and found myself regularly shaking my head, so I went back and read it again. I'm not going to argue with the statistics, there's no point in that, but I think I was unsettled more by the tone and assumptions in the article AND by many of the polarizing comments. There is toxicity on both sides, and those with that toxicity often have good (to them) reasons through past experience and perceived injuries.

Most women I know would call themselves feminists, pushing for equality and recognition, and do not often align with the radical activist (toxic) approach. However they do understand that real change is often only brought about by radical protest. It's a bit like voting for your government, but then not agreeing with everything they do. The greater good, if you like.

I'll say thought-provoking.

I'd like to thank Neil for the honesty of the comment he left. He says that he was unsettled by the tone of my article, by my assumptions and by my polarizing comments, but my article simply challenged the narrative that men were more violent than women. No doubt many of my readers felt like Neil and just didn't leave a comment, but my article made no claims that women were more violent than men, just that male violence is viewed through a feminist narrative of

¹¹ See https://www.buzzfeed.com/aliceworkman/white-ribbon-oath-shaming?utm_term=.pubBGBM1#.gibDAD9OO.

extreme anti-male bias.

Neil then goes to imply that feminist anti-male bias is justified in the name of female struggle. I personally find this comment very concerning, because the ends rarely justify the means.

Mikayla's comment

I agree that all life should be valued and this has become an issue. However, laws should be in place to protect women. Men have no issues being considered the “stronger” sex. There are plenty of times (while not always) women have injured/killed men in self-defense and I think that is warranted. I would agree once again that assumptions should never be made regarding this and in that—you are correct. However, there is an understanding that women may have to defend themselves against men who may be feeling particularly powerful. That is unfortunate, but I think the male gender has done a poor job throughout history in displaying themselves as gentle and self-controlled in domestic relationships. Men get excused from quite a few things that women do not, so we should start a feed about some of those next. I am not trying to argue as I can see a lot of men from this feed are feeling this way. I believe that self defense should be considered in trials, accusations, etc. I have never heard of a man killing a woman in “self-defense” and maybe that is what causes some of the bias. There are violent men and violent women, but I think you are missing the point. The woman mentioned in the article who burned her husband to death will end up in jail—unless he is found guilty of abuse—then it is up to the judge and jury. Not our opinions.

I'd also like to thank Mikayla for her comment, but I reject her position that women need special protection, because violence leaves far more than physical damage on a person. As I grew older and stronger, I might have been able to beat my mother in a fight, presuming she wasn't holding a saucepan of boiling water, a knife or an axe, but the damage is done when you go to sleep. Many men go to sleep with the fear of being assaulted while they are unconscious, and over the 31 years of my relationship with my wife, she has learned never to suddenly wake me. In the early days, when she did I would wake up fighting for my life. Domestic violence has nothing to do with how strong you are as a victim, or how weak your antagonist is as a perpetrator.

To argue that laws, regulation or policies should judge a victim or a perpetrator by their gender shows an absolute lack of understanding of domestic violence, and a complete lack of empathy for the victims of female violence. This is government funded prejudice; prejudice which is bad enough when it affects men who might have the resources to overcome it, but

prejudice that can be catastrophic for those who don't.

NOTHING NEW

My article is nothing new; in fact, an article from 1996 (22 years ago), written by John Leo from the Seattle Times debunks the feminist narrative that domestic violence is gendered: "Feminist studies of partner violence rarely ask about assaults by women, and when they do, they ask only about self-defense. Journalists, in turn, stick quite close to the feminist-approved studies for fear of being considered 'soft' on male violence. The result is badly skewed reporting of domestic violence as purely a gender issue. It isn't."¹²

Thanks to all of those who read, liked, commented and shared my article.

AUTHOR PROFILE



Gerard Nicol has 25 years of experience in enterprise storage management and data security. He welcomes any comments in relation to this article and is happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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¹² John Leo, "Feminist Theory Of Violence Doesn't Stack Up To The Facts." Retrieved from <http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=19960507&slug=2327880>.