



FEMINISM: WHEN ALL YOU HAVE IS A HAMMER

Gerard Nicol



ABSTRACT

Advocacy is dominated by women, and women tend to overlook the problems men face, or worse try and fix the problems with feminist theory. When all you have is a feminist hammer, everything looks like a nail. The feminist hammer, for example, does not see the system that incentivizes the veteran's wife to falsely accuse him of domestic violence, using his PTSD diagnosis as evidence, all so she can get sole custody. The feminist hammer just sees toxic masculinity, the belief in female exceptionalism. Accusations of toxic masculinity are nothing more than the top layer of abuse; because when men dare to talk about their problems, abusive women, and the system that supports them will take advantage of men's vulnerability.

Keywords: feminism, male disposability, men's rights, misandry, toxic masculinity

INTRODUCTION

A few weeks ago, I was asked to give an interview to a woman who wanted a men's-rights perspective on the subject of slavery, the forced treatment of people as property.¹ I am no expert on the subject of slavery, but my company had previously sponsored a group in Australia called Project Futures who funded Somaly Mam's rehabilitation of girls freed from sex slavery.² I explained in the interview that I stopped sponsoring the group when it became clear that they focus was no longer on helping the girls, and instead turned to shaming and exploiting men (men don't need a football player, like Nick Kenney, to tell them not to abuse women, any more than women need other women to tell them not to kill children and sexually abuse boys).³

That evening I had to attend my daughter's choir performance, but the interview started just before I was meant to leave, and it went for over 2 hours. It need not have gone on for 2 hours, but each time I discussed an issue facing men, the woman interviewing me would become defensive and counter with a story of how women too face these challenges. For instance, when I explained to her that the military draft was a form of slavery, she countered with a claim that women had been previously excluded from enlisting; implying somehow that a woman being denied the choice to fight is comparable with a man being forced at gunpoint to fight. Then I explained to her that paternity fraud was another form of slavery, and she countered with a story about a mother who was a drug addict who had her child taken off her, then had to pay child support to the state. Somehow, just presenting a male perspective turned the interview I was asked to give into a lengthy debate.

At the end of the call she asked me why more men weren't involved in advocacy, so I explained to her:

1. When men participate in advocacy, it is seen as an indulgence: don't you have work to do?
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¹ An earlier version of this article was published on LinkedIn.

² Project Futures. Retrieved from <https://projectfutures.com/about#howeare>.

³ See <https://projectfutures.com/stella-fella-friday#speakers> for more on Kenny's role as a Project Futures ambassador.

2. When men participate in advocacy, they are told to mind their own business.
3. When men participate in advocacy, they are required to fit in with the female majority and a feminist way of interacting.

I suspect that missing my daughter's performance was a complete waste of time because my ideas were just too out of the box to be taken seriously by the interviewer and those who currently dominate advocacy.

THE DRAFT

In my working career, I have worked with men who were forced to fight in Vietnam (on both sides); I have worked with South African men who were forced to fight in Mozambique; I have worked with ethnic-Chinese men who fled Vietnam rather than be forced to fight on the Cambodian front; and I have worked with men who were forced to fight on both sides of the Iran-Iraq war. These men had lived through their experience of being forced to fight; but they were clearly traumatized by what they had seen, in particular the South African men. The draft is a form of slavery where the state rounds up men and forces them to kill other men; against their will. These men are trafficked, and they meet every criterion to be considered a slave, yet to the woman interviewing me it was a revelation that the draft could be considered slavery.⁴

PATERNITY FRAUD

For obvious reasons, there is no such thing as maternity fraud, but a male can be falsely accused of fathering a child, and sent to prison if he fails to work as a slave to pay child support. When these men are then sent to prison, they continue to accrue child support debts with interest; all while being used as slave labor in the prison. But it doesn't stop at just paternity fraud; boys who are raped can be forced to pay child support payments to their rapists, and husbands who discover their wives have been unfaithful can be forced to pay child support for another man's child, even when the infidelity results in divorce.⁵ Yes, theoretically this can

⁴ Warren Farrell's *War Hero or War Slave?: The Armed Prostitute*, (pp. 123-163); chapter five of *The Myth of Male Power* (1994) New York, NY: Berkeley Books; offers a compelling examination of male disposability and the draft.

⁵ The Nick Olivas case is arguably the most famous instance of a male rape victim being forced to pay child support: see <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/09/02/statutory-rape-victim-child-support/14953965/>. Interestingly, Richard Mason was recently awarded compensation from his ex-wife when

happen to women too, but a woman can have an abortion or simply walk into a police station and hand the child over to free herself of any future financial burden. Forced parenting could be considered slavery, but once again this was a revelation to the woman interviewing me.

THE DAMAGE DONE TO MEN

Advocacy is dominated by women. The troubling discrepancy between available women's-health services and men's-health services is a consequence of that domination—data on breast-cancer funding and prostate-cancer funding are a good example of it.⁶ In the absence of men, women tend to overlook the problems men face, or worse still try and fix the problems with feminist theory. *When all you have is a feminist hammer; everything looks like a nail.* When 22 US military veterans kill themselves each day, rather than looking at what has happened to these men, the feminist with the hammer sees toxic masculinity.⁷ The feminist with the hammer does not see a man who has PTSD from having to kill others, or from the fear of his own death, she does not see the man returning from deployment to find his wife wants a divorce and full custody of their children.

The feminist with the hammer does not see the system that incentivizes the veteran's wife to falsely accuse him of domestic violence, using his PTSD diagnosis as evidence, all so she can get sole custody to maximize the amount her damaged husband has to pay for the children he can no longer see. No, the feminist hammer just sees toxic masculinity; the belief in female exceptionalism. The harsh reality for men is that the accusations of toxic masculinity are nothing more than the top layer of abuse, because when men dare to talk about their problems, abusive women, and the system that supports them will take advantage of the man's weakness. When men seek help, most of the time they will be referred to a counselor who is trained in the

he discovered that he had raised three children he did not father. See <https://brusselsmorning.com/2019/01/06/mum-pays-ex-husband-250000-after-he-discovered-three-sons-werent-actually-his/>.

⁶ Krisch, J. A. (2018) Prostate Cancer and Testicular Cancer Could Really Use Some Funding. Retrieved from <https://www.fatherly.com/health-science/prostate-cancer-research-funding-breast-cancer/>.

⁷ This statistic is taken from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs' (2012) Suicide Data Report. Retrieved from <https://www.va.gov/opa/docs/suicide-data-report-2012-final.pdf>. A useful evaluation of toxic masculinity is Saad, G. (2018) Is toxic masculinity a valid concept? Retrieved from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/homo-consumericus/201803/is-toxic-masculinity-valid-concept>.

framework of feminist ideology, and they will be told that all of their problems are rooted in their own masculinity. Even men who are the victims of domestic violence from their female partners have no choice but to endure counselling that portrays all female violence as the fault of the male patriarchy.⁸

Jessica Eaton was tagged in a recent comment on one of my LinkedIn posts; I had become aware of her when I read an article she wrote in which she demanded that feminist misandry (the hatred of men) be exempt from proposed hate crime legislation in the United Kingdom.⁹ According to Ms. Eaton, stopping women from hating men will embolden abusive men. Ms. Eaton seems to imply that the tragic demise of her father-in-law, which included his own trauma, resulted from harmful “anti-feminine, hyper-masculine” gender roles. Or put another way, we need to concern ourselves with the challenges that men face because that’s the only way we can further help women. That feminist hammer again.

After reading her article last October I contacted her and asked if she wanted to work on an article together; she responded with an accusation that I was trying to cash in on her celebrity. (She claims to have “set up the ONLY and FIRST male mental health centre in the UK”—her capital letters and tautology, not mine.) She subsequently expressed a troubling attitude to men; a contempt that is all too common among feminists who believe they can help men by demanding men be more like their feminine ideal. Ms. Eaton accused me of being like a “wet dream for people who want to show men as violent misogynists” and being surrounded by “incels and MRAs”. This is surely an instance of a woman sexually shaming a man. For those who don’t know, an *incel* is a man who is involuntarily celibate; it is a slur used by feminists to accuse men of not being able to attract female sexual attention. She then triumphantly asked, “Don’t you have a job to do?”

⁸ For a useful discussion of the limitations of gynocentric counselling, see Rizza, J. (2009). Beyond Duluth: A broad spectrum of treatment for a broad spectrum of violence. *Montana Law Review* Vol. 70 (1), 125-146.

⁹ Eaton, J. (2018, October 17). “Making misandry a hate-crime will embolden abusive men.” *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/17/misandry-hate-crime-abusive-men-law>

The great irony is that most of the men I know are middle-aged, and at the peak of their sexual market value; none of them have any problem attracting female sexual attention. It is the homeless men, the drug addicted men, the alcoholic men, the jobless men, the men with mental illnesses that struggle to attract female sexual attention; men like Ms. Eaton's own father-in-law who she claims occasioned her work. If your father, husband, son or best mate needed help, would you feel comfortable sending them to be cared for by someone like Ms. Eaton? I would not, and that's why we need to start championing men to advocate for males' health and well-being rather than telling them to mind their own business or forcing them to sit in a room with a feminist (like Ms. Eaton), who while banging on about toxic masculinity, sees no irony in questioning whether a man (who works 7 days a week) has work to do.

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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