

05 May 2015



The Commissioner
Royal Commission into Family violence

CONTENTS

- A. Introduction
- B. Questions
- C. Women follow trends
- D. Other factors which make an individual prone to physical violence
- E. Alcohol
- F. Passive violence
- G. Examples of passive violence
- H. The family
- I. Why activists have stressed out men
 - 1. The media
 - 2. Morality
 - 3. Control over men
 - 4. Men have a grudge against women
- J. Conclusion

A. INTRODUCTION

I wish to make a submission on family violence from a man's point of view. With regard to violence we should try to find solutions by examining its causes and dealing with them, rather than looking for more repressive measures to control it.

The UN is trying to take the lead in the fight against family violence. But it was the UN agencies for women, which, dismissing the family and religion as bourgeoisie institutions, promoted ideals of independence, self-advancement and equality for women and ignored the issue of responsibility. All countries were asked to implement a legal structure which aimed to attain these goals, but which has resulted in the loss of freedom of speech and has contributed to women developing an unrealistic opinion of themselves. Men's attitudes are ignored. The activities of feminists have made men feel insecure and have raised in them hidden feelings of antagonism against women, which is one of the causes of family attrition.

Female independence and equality can coexist with religion and the family, which although scarred by their weaknesses, keep peace and stability in society. Family violence is also a by-product of the socialist approach used by the UN to implement its policy and another example of UN failures.

Family violence is on the increase all over the western world. This could be attributed also to the prevailing elevated level of emotion caused by apprehension and anxiety over the

-2-

social unrest and the worsening economic conditions. In Australia too, families are stressed by the knowledge that economic conditions are worsening. Violence is becoming more acceptable also in contact sport.

Although it is demeaning and illegal to hit others, for some it is a way of getting justice done at a time when female provocation is disregarded by the law. Hitting women in return for the mental pain men receive from them releases mental tension, which can damage a man's mind to the point of suicide. One may not realize it, but the facts are that more men have killed themselves over family disputes rather than killed their female partner.

Since the introduction of the Equal Opportunity legislation in 1977 the social pendulum has swung too far off center in favour of women: men have not changed much, but women have changed their attitudes a great deal.

- Women feel empowered, men feel insecure even if they do not show it.
- Social institutions are sympathetic towards women and oppressive and penalizing with men.
- Men like to build the family assets, while women want to spend money on clothes, holidays, cafes and restaurants. Men feel resentful by decisions of the Family Court where they come out the losers.
- Women's privacy is protected, men's rarely.
- All the time TV stations show women complaining about men, but men cannot defend themselves and show their side of the story.
- Feminists are constantly seeking new evidence to denigrate men's image.
- Officials, researchers and journalists have to twist what they say or write so as not to put women in a bad light.
- Women think that they are doing nothing wrong because nobody criticizes them.
- Men believe that most women are prone to lie in order to save face and more, but women are always believed by other women, social workers and politicians.
- Many men respect women only because the law requires it or to stay out of trouble. Women have lowered the level of tolerance many men have for them.
- Because of bad experiences, some men may have developed hidden psychotic attitudes against women.

If women do not like the way the world is today, it is because that is the way they have been making it since 1977, 38 years ago. It is women who need to change their culture, not men.

B. QUESTIONS

When I hear women accusing men of violence against them I ask myself the following questions.

1. We hear so many accusations of violence against women. Why don't we ever hear what men have to say? It would make women's accusations more credible.
2. Why have women muzzled men? Very likely the truth hurts and they do not want to hear it.
3. Why have some mothers brought up the violent sons other women complain of?
4. What are the mothers of today doing to make sure that their sons will not be violent towards their future female partner?

-3-

5. What did a woman do or say to make her man so violent?
6. Did she do anything to diffuse the situation before it became violent?
7. Did she use her feminine guiles to make the situation worse so she could get sympathy from other women, from gullible men and welfare workers, and also to cover up her misdeed(s)?
8. Has any woman killed herself because of the way she was being treated by her husband?
Answer: Maybe a couple.
9. Has any man killed himself because of the way he was being treated by his female partner or former partner? Answer: Many.
10. Have any children become mentally ill or killed themselves because of the way they were treated by their mother? Answer: Many.
11. Have any men killed their wife and/or children? Answer: Sadly, yes. But why have they done it?

C. WOMEN FOLLOW TRENDS

If one looks at the behaviour of women over the last one hundred years, one would notice that in between WWI and WWII women were fun loving and frivolous. They were involved in the suffragettes and the Prohibition movements. During the war years they were serious and dedicated to the war effort. After WWII they had a homely attitude. In the 1960s and early 70s there was the sexual revolution and they were in it with passion. In 1977 they began officially to fight for women's rights and men became the enemy. Concepts such as *sexism*, *sexual discrimination* and *sexual harassment* appeared. *Divorce* was no longer a way of relieving the poor women who were trapped in a loveless marriage, but a way of regaining one's freedom, moving to where the grass looked greener and at the same time getting amazing payouts from the divorce settlement.

Then *penalties* were imposed on individuals and companies for sexual harassment and payouts were made to the female victims. The phrases *it is not proper* and *NO means NO* were added to the feminist repertoire. This was a nasty way, proposed by feminists, of alienating men, which some misguided single women used to their disadvantage. Men began to keep away from women, who instead of going out to restaurants and to the theatre with a male friend went out with other women.

Then lawyers thought that money could be made not only from sexual harassment cases but from cashed-up men who in the past had put their hands over women or had sex with them. Regrettably, there have been some genuine cases of harm having been done to women. But, it seems likely that some women who in past decades would have said to their abuser *you are naughty, but I like it*, have been appearing in tears in court demanding compensation. Others line up with accusations against men with the aim of advancing the feminist cause. It seems that the Family Court requires a man to pay compensation to a woman for having lived together for just six months.

These historical social and attitudinal changes have brought about the sick society we have today. One should look at the innocent and contented faces in photographs of young Australians taken before 1977 and compare them with those of today's youth to see the change which has taken place. In western countries, which have similar equal opportunity laws, the

-4-

number of marriages is decreasing, there are more single mothers, more children are in state care, fewer children are born and family violence, mental illness and suicide are increasing. Tougher laws and the Register of Sex Offenders are not stopping the increase in cases of rape against women. The proposed Register of Violent Persons, police intimidation and more stringent laws against offenders will not stop violence against women. Women have to change their offensive and opportunistic attitudes too. Australia's social institutions have to be less condescending towards women so men may feel less resentful towards them. Men want justice and security. Men are not allowed to say or show it, but they do not respect women. They also feel insecure with an Australian bred female partner. A more equitable trend is overdue.

I wish to acknowledge the fact that there are still men, women and families who have been unaffected or have refused to be affected by trendy social changes and who, in spite of the difficulties of life, have used their common sense and have tried to live by the traditional ideals of a good life.

D. OTHER FACTORS WHICH MAKE AN INDIVIDUAL PRONE TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

1. A few rare individuals are born with evil traits and they enjoy harming others.
2. Some men have a short fuse and snap when upset. Others have no tact or have a choleric temperament.
3. Some men have a low image of themselves or of their partner and hit her to improve their own mood. Some men are idiots outside the home and at home.
4. Resentment, depression, anxiety and obsessive behaviour. Deranged minds.
5. Because of insecurity or a genuine belief that this is the way to keep the family together, some use physical, emotional or mental force to keep their partner under control.
6. Home, work and social pressures may keep a man on edge all the time.
7. For some, family violence is a normal cultural fact. They have grown up in a family where violent language and some physical contact is normal.
8. Some try to tolerate a partner's bad habits in silence and one day they explode.
9. When a woman signifies to her partner that she is going to leave him, he may become anxious and depressed. Anxiety and depression are powerful mental sources of energy. One day this energy could explode into physical violence against her, or turn inward and cause a man to harm himself.
10. Profiteering from a relationship, i.e., staying in a relationship long enough to qualify for a payout through the Family Court; hiding one's assets and income.
11. Females can be obstinate and illogical for no particular reason, and this makes a partner frustrated and angry. When women switch into their comfort zone, they may become dumb and irritating to have around.
12. Belittling a partner. A partner with low self-esteem may raise his/her self-esteem by constantly making sly remarks about the other partner. This is common with women.
13. Revenge, denigrating, making false accusations against one's partner.
14. Family disagreements may become violent.
15. Scheming wives, dishonest husbands.
16. Unfairly taking out a restraining order against a partner.

-5-

17. Having secret affairs.
18. Strong and muscly men, poorly educated and of low intelligence are inclined to look for opportunities to use their strength against someone, including one's partner.
19. Interfering in-laws.
20. Some men cannot accept the fact that lack of economic opportunity has confined them to a life of misery and frustration.

E. ALCOHOL

Over the decades, statistical information has been used to reach a variety of conclusions, including family violence, about the effects of alcohol consumption. Sometimes these conclusions contradict centuries old wisdom. Alcohol may bring about violent behaviour when a person harbours sentiments which may lead to violence as it removes inhibitions and may release repressed emotions. *An inhibition is a voluntary or involuntary restraining force within us.* So, Apart from losing control and reacting to current sentiments, an inebriated mind may react in a violent manner to deep seated emotions of which an individual may not be aware.

Usually, alcohol has a relaxing effect; it is not a stimulant. It loosens one's tongue and promotes conversation. It makes people sleepy and sometimes happy; it releases mental tension. Some individuals drink occasionally to help them reflect upon their life and their problems; others do it because they are bored. For some youngsters, the abuse of alcohol and the irresponsible behaviour which follows is a source of fun and hilarity. It is part of the Australian culture. Others, intent on antisocial behaviour, drink heavily to enable them to do what they would not dare doing while sober. Others, who may not be able to face the problems of life, drink to get themselves in a state of oblivion, not aware of what their suppressed anger and other emotions will cause them to do when alcohol removes their inhibitions. Men do not bear frustration as well as women and a few seek relief in alcohol.

There are individuals addicted to alcohol in every layer of society. Alcohol addiction is a *medical problem*; the causes of addiction are *social and psychological*, such as the ones listed above. Addiction may also be an inherited trait.

In many cases habitual alcohol induced violence could be minimized if members of the family got into the habit of being courteous towards each other rather than letting out frustration and using rough manners. Not everyone has the necessary education to understand these attitudinal processes. People get offended when told what to do. Violence prone drinkers need to have their problems explained step by step; a good opportunity would be as a follow up by a couple of specialist after a police intervention, or, require the couple to attend a special class. There is too much emphasis on the use of punitive measures to deal with alcohol induced violence. Severity may make constant drinkers, who are already miserable, feel despondent and desperate. One should try to raise their morale. Treating men unjustly just to satisfy the demands of some man-eating females is turning men into worse human beings.

F. PASSIVE VIOLENCE

Family physical violence is sensational and easily noticed. It distresses even those who are not involved. But it is not as common and it does not cause the long term damage of what I

-6-

call *passive violence*. Passive violence is not seen, but it is felt. It is socially unacceptable behaviour, so the perpetrators hide what they do or try to justify their behaviour by misrepresenting the facts. Usually one does not realize the long term effects passive violence has on family members. Mental problems and personality disorders are common consequences. Ultimately, it may lead to physical violence or it may drive someone to suicide and murder. Children may rebel against passive violence by turning to drugs, or they may try drugs as a form of medication for their damaged state of mind.

G. EXAMPLES OF PASSIVE VIOLENCE

- Forcing children to do repeatedly what they are not inclined to do.
- Not allowing children to complain, being unduly harsh with them.
- Not giving children credit for what they are good at, humiliating them.
- A wife continually denigrating her husband, or treating him like a butler.
- Being thoughtless and complaining all the time.
- Making a partner feel insecure.
- A mother ignoring a child who seeks love and attention.
- Parents being brutal, shouting at children.
- Not feeding or clothing one's children properly.
- Abandoning one's children and putting them in state care.
- Turning one's children against their other parent.

Passive Violence is caused by negligence, ignorance, selfishness, sadism and depravity. With an estimated figure of 48 per cent of Australians suffering or having suffered a mental illness the problem of passive violence seems to be grossly ignored. It is a national tragedy, a national disgrace and a big burden on government finances. Unlike what is being done about physical violence, why are there no demonstrations, no public outcries and no public sympathy for the mentally ill and for the children and husbands who have committed suicide as a result of it? Because women are the main perpetrators and they pretend that they are not doing it or they twist the facts and put the blame on their partner.

H. THE FAMILY

- Because of their egotism, derived from feminist morality, women who bring feminism into their family are likely to disintegrate it, and hence, society. In western countries fewer men want to get married and more women seek a divorce to avoid family responsibilities and enjoy an illusory sense of freedom. Today, without anyone allowed to criticize them, women do not know how bad they may become.
- Women exert too much influence over their husband, who feels he has to play a subjugated role in order to save his marriage and the family assets, for which he has worked hard.
- In the public imagination the role of the father of the family has been eroded, his image denigrated.
- Many women have ruined their partner mentally and financially, often by taking steps which they later have regretted.
- Passive violence, more than physical violence, has made many children mentally ill and

-7-

suicidal.

- When violence occurs between husband and wife and they do not separate, it is because usually they need each other for security, financial or psychological reasons. A wife may not be aware of it, but she may be troublesome because she is seeking attention from her husband, or, because she may have a hidden reason for hating men, or, she may want to provoke her husband so as to evoke certain responses, or, she may have grown up accustomed to her mother picking on her and subsequently she is subconsciously seeking the same from her partner. The husband, not aware of his wife's underlying problem, could lose his patience and become violent. Some couples have managed to survive together by living in separate parts of the house and still helping each other with meals and other tasks around the house.

Do-gooders who encourage women into safety houses and speak badly of men may bring the couple further apart, which may not be what the woman may want.

- The old wisdom which provided family harmony is no longer passed down from parents and grandparents to children.

- We should not overlook the fact that there are women whose demeanor and attitude have always commanded respect and hence no man would ever think of being violent with them.

I. WHY ACTIVITSTS HAVE STRESSED OUT MEN

1. THE MEDIA. Academic research about men and women is all in women's favour, as women do not like to be shown in a bad light and, besides, it is not legal to do it.

- Newspaper articles are also written in such a way that they show women in a positive way, even if at time the truth has to be twisted to make men look at fault.

- TV programs are expensive to produce, so TV stations (Channel 9) create entertainment out of local women's social problems with men.

- Women appear on TV on matters which show men in a bad light. They complain against men, as if men do not suffer disadvantage too. Men never appear on TV to criticize women.

- Often public officials have to tell half-truths, because the full truth would offend women.

- Most TV shows from current affairs to dancers in mini-briefs and bra are about women and they bore men and intelligent women.

- Women have lowered the level of tolerance men have for them.

2. MORALITY. Feminism has changed women's perception of men. Men have counteracted, and in many respects both men and women are worse off. Some of the original feminists were women whose *modus vivendi* did not fit into the social mode of the time, and having writing skills, used the human interest of their libertine style of life as the material base for their philosophical publications. They made a virtue of their moral inadequacy.

While the issue of women's equality with men is *a social and economic matter*, the feminists have used the issue of inequality to instill in women a *new morality and new attitudes* which have ruined the life of many of their followers, their children and their husband. They made women dissatisfied with their traditional role as housewives and gave them an inferiority complex which they were told they had to overcome by fighting for equality with men. (In history there have always been women in positions of authority).

Feminists ridiculed the chores women had to do as housewives as if the women of today,

-8-

whether in a relationship or single, do not have to do the washing, the cooking and the cleaning. They devalued the traditional roles played by husband and wife, which reflect the basic inclination of each sex. They have ridiculed traditional family values which are based on centuries of wisdom and which have contributed to family harmony. Obviously the family is no longer cushioning the stresses of life, and a man has to be careful when seeking emotional support from his partner for fear of tiring her out and that she may walk out when bored. Now the emphasis is for women to seek self-fulfillment, irrespective of the consequences their actions may have on their children and their partner.

(In today's complex society it is hard enough for a couple to raise children properly. How much more difficult it must be then for a single mother. Yet many young women believe that it is trendy and feasible to be a young single mum. As the press is not permitted to write negative stories about women, it reports only on some fortunate single mothers who manage a successful life on their own. But this is not what the statistics show and what one sees in the suburbs).

It should be noted that before the start of the feminist movement women in Australia were self-assured and had security. They played a traditional role in the family, which is not different from what good housewives do to-day. They controlled the family budget and the education of their children. In their spare time they got involved in community activities. On TV there was a choice of comedies, at time sexist and harmless, for the family to watch together.

The Equal Opportunity Act was passed in 1977, 38 years ago. Feminists were pushing for change long before that date. Much has been achieved, but at an unnecessary social and personal cost to many, as the changes ushered in by the feminist morality got mixed up with the struggle for better job opportunities. Women must take the blame for the kind of society they have brought about. They have made themselves cheap and opportunistic. Men treat them with caution, but not with respect.

3. CONTROL OVER MEN. Female activists, driven by egotism, are not just happy with seeking equality, but they are constantly looking for ways of embarrassing men and of putting more controls over them.

The uncertainty of not knowing what feminist attitudes a woman may hold deters some men from befriending women. Women have become annoyingly legalistic and have adopted manners which men find offensive.

The concept of sexism is dehumanizing. It is socialist thinking designed to make men and women equal, but which denies them the right to be themselves and to express their feeling. I believe that self-esteem, good taste, courtesy, ethics, public opinion and company policy should determine what is acceptable behaviour and what is not.

The movement against men is a social aggravation which does not attract the support women are seeking. Most men are bearing it with patience, but some do not care about women and their demands, and abuse them.

4. MEN HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST WOMEN. Overall, in family matters, men feel badly treated and have an underlying grudge against women. This grudge and lack of esteem for women is often passed down from father to son. So, the long term prospects for the family and for good family relations are decreasing with each generation.

-9-

- When the mother breaks up the family, her sons side with their father and consequently they too feel badly done by their mother. They may grow up with a grudge against women. Sons become more confused than daughters because on the one hand boys have an inner urge to protect their mother, on the other they feel rebellious towards her because of what she has done to their father.
- The words *moderation*, *restraint* and *logical thought* do not exist in the vocabulary of feminists, who, instead, prefer to base their logic on the concept of egotism.
- Gender equality often means wanting top jobs on the basis of statistic that show disparity, rather than on ability.
- Since the 1970s in their search for justice and equality, women have used their power to effect social change in their favour. In the process they have created an unbalanced society, not capable of self-adjustment and self-preservation.
- Much is being made by women about the evil effects of physical violence on women and children. On the other hand, when there is excessive passive violence, such as when the family breaks up in a grudging manner, statistics show that the male members of the family are more likely to suffer depression, and succumb to mental illness and suicide. Women, using female logic, excuse themselves by rationalizing and mocking men for being emotionally weak and not able to cope with break ups.
- Politicians and officials are afraid of women causing trouble and please them as much as possible. They find it more convenient to try to convince men to accept women for what they have become. The sympathy women get from officials does not motivate them to be constrained, but makes them more audacious and encourages them to have their way.
- Provocative behaviour is discouraged and punished in schools and at work, but, for the benefit of women, provocation is ignored in the Victorian Statute. A mother may scold a child for provoking a fight between siblings, but if the mother provokes her husband into violence and he reacts violently, he may be evicted from the home. This tactic is often used by women wanting to have a divorce and benefit from it.
- Men who have been treated harshly for family violence (when in fact a woman was at fault) have become worse human beings. Angry people at large in society do not bring about happiness, but they poison society.
- To jail those who become violent and ignore those who provoke violence is promoting injustice and laying the ground for future violence.

J. CONCLUSION

As I have written at the beginning of this submission, we should stop violence by dealing with its causes. Education and police intervention may change personal traits and attitudes in some individuals. The world is going through a period of uncertainty and depression from which Australia is not immune. It is not easy to implement solutions about problems which are embedded in world-wide trends, which cannot be controlled by authorities in Australia and when only criticism of men is allowed. But Australia can make changes and take a lead.

- Society has its own inbuilt means of self-preservation, but it will succeed *only if freedom of speech* is allowed. In the western world the press and public opinion support human rights and

-10-

fair play.

- The current legislation which restricts free speech should apply only to Aborigines, who are the section of the community least able to protect itself.
- A new social trend which values respect for each other instead of egotism should be allowed to evolve in Australia and in the rest of the world. For this to happen, old feminists should not impose their attitudes on young people.
- (Among women there is a great deal of moral laxity disguised as a woman's right. Likewise, men inclined to physical violence and rape feel equally unrestrained in what they do).
- Feminist philosophy should be shunned for its detrimental influence on society.
- *Provocation* should again be regarded as a crime. If it is a crime to provoke racial violence, it should also be a crime to provoke a man into violence.
- Men involved in physical violence need to have their actions and their state of mind explained by professionals. If their violence is associated with depressions their morale should be raised; (people with mental problems improve when they are happy).
- Education programs and specialist support for specific groups prone to violence are needed.
- It should be made compulsory for offenders to attend an education class.
- Women should be trained on *prevention*.
- The concepts of *physical violence* and *passive violence* should receive equal promotion.
- Even though women's ability is still often underrated, the profit motive, business and efficiency imperatives will in the long run determine who is best for a job. The favouritism women receive should stop. Protection encourages abuse of privileges. In the long run favouritism disadvantages everyone. With freedom of speech women would learn from criticism and would improve themselves. Men have more conservative attitudes and should have equal say on matters affecting social attitudes including women's issues.
- Men need to feel secure. A good family, a house and assets is what matters most to men. Make decisions by the Family Court transparent, so there is less anxiety about outcomes.
- The Equal Opportunity Commission should not act as the feminist establishment's inquisition.

In February 2009 I made a submission to the Standing Committee on Health and Public Administration of the Parliament of Victoria. In it I criticized the Mental Health System of this state and offered suggestions. My submission was well received and it made a major contribution towards a new, more effective way of treating individuals with a mental problem. I hope that also this submission will be equally well accepted.

NOTE: In ordinary parlance *do-gooders* and *man-eaters* are women with ulterior motives.

Paul J. France

05 May 2015