

25/5/15.

Dear Commissioner,

As you can see by the attachments herewith, my firm belief, from my own experience of domestic violence over the whole of the 1980's, is that it is extremely necessary to prevent more women continuing to die from this cause. Long term education is very important however women's safety is even more important and needs the courts and legal processes <sup>to change, eg as</sup> to make offenders face the consequences of their actions, via lengthy prison terms,

JamF. Laidlaw  
(JAN F. LAIDLAW)



Jan Laidlaw [REDACTED]

**Domestic violence**

1 message

Jan Laidlaw [REDACTED]  
To: letters@theage.com.au

Fri, May 22, 2015 at 12:24 PM

The terms of reference of the Royal Commission into Domestic Violence seem to me to be long term, with the aim of reducing family violence via education. Another recent suggestion has been the tagging of repeat offenders.

As a former victim of domestic violence throughout the 1980s, I recently attended a community consultation, held by the Commissioners for this enquiry, where victims had the opportunity to discuss issues. The distress shown by women at this meeting was extremely disturbing.

Back in the 1980s, I decided to take my ex husband to court for the never ending violence, stalking and harassment I suffered. Each time, there were multiple offences he had committed, but there was just the one conviction.

My ex husband was found guilty every time. He should have been convicted of each and every offence committed against me, not just the one at each court appearance.

Current domestic violence victims at the meeting I attended said their experiences were just the same as my own had been, twenty five years ago.

Back then, if you were constantly stalked and harassed by a total stranger, they would have been in prison, before you could blink.

Even now, though attitudes to domestic violence appear to have changed, courts still treat the constant breaking of domestic violence orders as being on a different level.

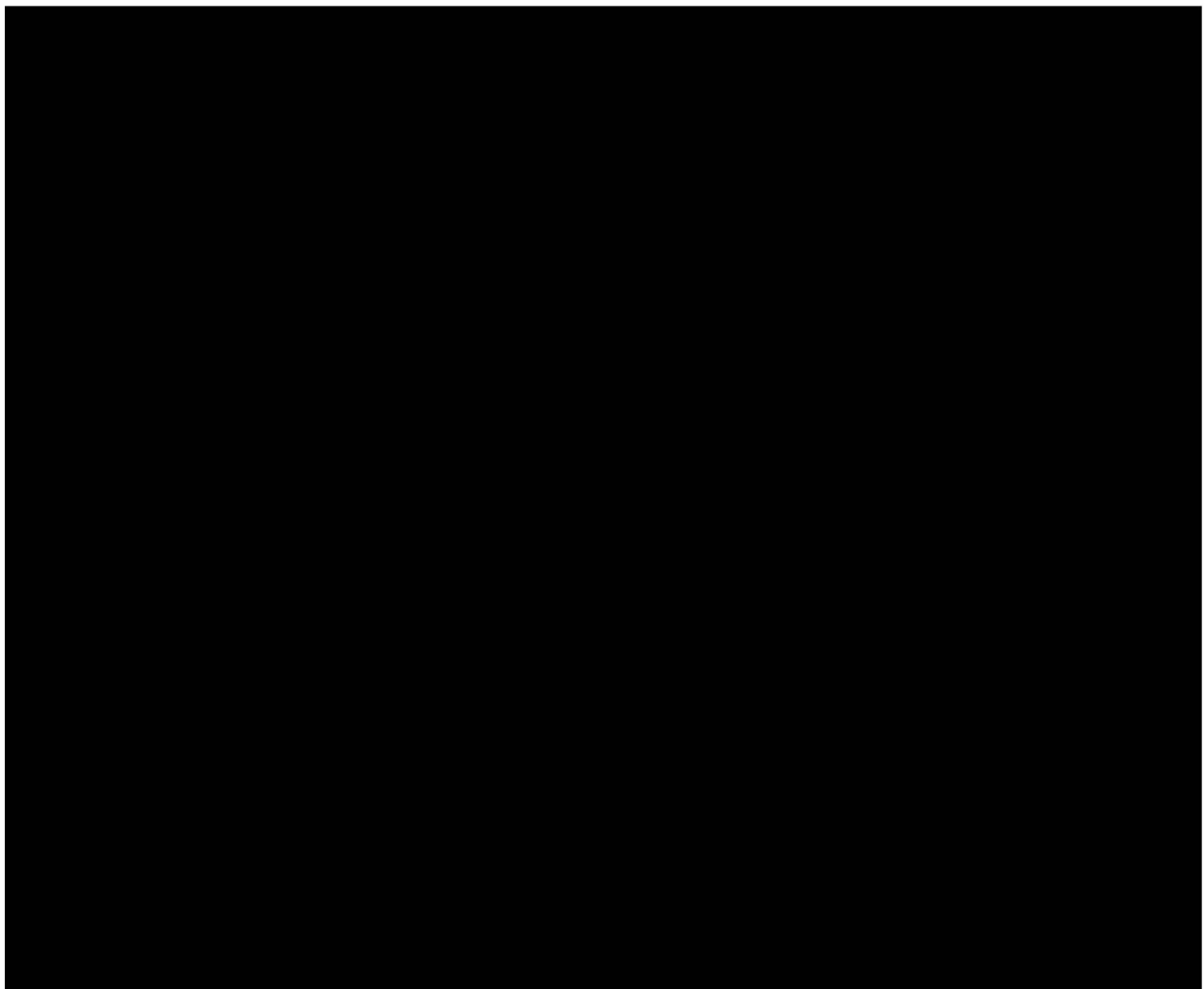
There are some intransigent men who no amount of education or re education will change. For them, domestic violence

appears to be all about power and control over women and children.

The deaths of 36 women, victims so far this year of domestic violence, show that the justice system, as it is currently applied, does not work.

Domestic violence is a serious crime, and needs to be treated as such.

Jan Laidlaw





Jan Laidlaw [REDACTED]

**Domestic Violence**

1 message

Jan Laidlaw [REDACTED]  
To: letters@theage.com.au

Tue, May 26, 2015 at 11:32 AM

As the person whose name and address were withheld who wrote the letter 'Councils must get tough', Age 23/5/15, nothing could add more weight to my argument than the article headed 'Team Effort' about the Police Task Force addressing domestic violence, that was published the same day.

It described a domestic violence situation being dealt with by a police task force, where two police officers visit a woman, who is a domestic violence victim weekly, to give her support.

The woman's former partner, recently released from prison, now rings her up 700 times a fortnight. In the article, the woman states: 'I was so terrified I could hardly breathe.'

Why on earth is this situation acceptable in this day and age, and allowed to continue? Why does a woman, with a child, continue to live in a constant state of terror. We're supposed to be living in the 21st century now, not the Dark Ages. Why do limited police resources have to be wasted in what, evidently, achieves no long lasting benefit or result?

From what I gathered from the article, the victim's ex partner has been in prison previously for similar offences, but now, apparently, roams free. Why isn't he back in prison?

Our justice system, in my own experience, did not address these issues 25 years ago, but, by God, it's high time it did so now.

What's the point of having a Royal Commission into Domestic Violence, concentrating mainly on future education, when there should also be a major focus on stopping violence towards victims right

now, and making intransigent perpetrators face the consequences of their actions.

Jan Laidlaw

