



The Coalition For Men (NCFM)

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March 24, 2010

President Barack Obama

2200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC

Separate letters to:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

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10 Downing Street

London, England SW1A 2AA

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Dublin 2 Ireland

Prime Minister John Key

Parliament Office

Wellington 6160

New Zealand

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

House of Representatives

Parliament House, Canberra

ACT 2600, Australia

RE: Services for male victims of female perpetrated domestic violence

Dear President Obama,

Science has long ago abandoned the notions that often included erroneous principles like there are four elements, the earth is flat, the earth is the center of the universe and the sun revolves around the earth. Today we imagine a more rounded and comprehensive grasp of civilization using scientific methods and data which prove once held beliefs and myths as being false. We learned that evidence based realities are better than fanciful mythologies; or *have we?*

Unfortunately, in certain areas we still hold fast to out dated myths and legends, for example, ideologically driven, wrongful, and harmful beliefs about domestic violence, especially that *only women are victims of domestic violence and men are not deserving of equality of support services*

Journalist/Author
Richard L. Davis
Criminologist/Author
Police Lt. Retired
Instructor Quincy
College
Richard Driscoll
PhD/Psychologist/
Author

Science confirms gender symmetry with domestic violence victims regardless of gender, including studies from the United States Center for Disease Control, the United Kingdom's British Crime Survey and Statistics Canada.

Tom Golden
LCSW/Author
Maryland Commission
on Men's Health
David Helleniak, Esq.
Civil Rights/Appellate
Patricia Overberg
MSW

Additionally, over 270 academic studies from the western world universities and research agencies clearly establish that men and women equally experience domestic violence at similar degrees of seriousness.ⁱ *There is no reliable evidence based data to the contrary.*

Lea Perritt
PhD/Psychologist

Regardless of the science and facts, governments support the myth that men are perpetrators and women victims. The belief is codified through programs designed by women, for women, and administered through women, legislation like the Violence Against Women Act (USA) and resulting Office on Violence Against Women, Status of Women Canada (SOW Canada), Domestic Violence Act 1995 and associated The Ministry of Women's Affairs (New Zealand) and Women's Aid in the UK.

Al Rava, Esq.
Civil Rights
Bill Ronan
Clinical Social Worker
Edward Stephens
MD/Psychiatry
J. Steven Svoboda, Esq
Civil Rights

Last year President Obamaⁱⁱ directed;

"The public must be able to trust the science and scientific process informing public policy decisions. Political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions... If developed and used by the... government it should ordinarily be made available to the public. To the extent permitted by law, there should be transparency in the preparation, identification, and use of scientific and technological information in policy making."

LIAISONS

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Australia
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Massachusetts
Dr. Tom Dougherty
Kansas
Darrin Albert
North Dakota
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Pennsylvania
Wayne Sikes
Washington D.C.
John Lukas
Wisconsin

WE ASK as gender symmetry in domestic violence is proven to exist; where are the shelters and services for male victims of female abuse?

WE ASK if your administration relies on scientific fact and evidence based information from which to establish international trade policies, home security policies and other related legislation, policies, procedures and programs then how is it that no funds have been appropriately provided for direct support and shelter services, specifically, for male victims of female perpetrated domestic violence, equally to what is provided for female victims of domestic violence?

WE ASK that you facilitate the establishment with sufficient funds ministries, departments, or commissions for men, as applicable.

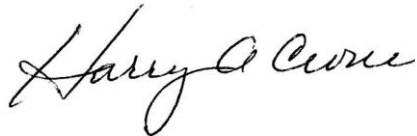
WE ASK that you ensure government domestic violence policies, procedures, and programs provide equally for all persons adversely impacted regardless of gender, race, religion, color or other diversities.

We no longer believe there are only four elements or the earth is flat; it is time we replace domestic violence fiction with fact. All victims are deserving of support services and facilities.

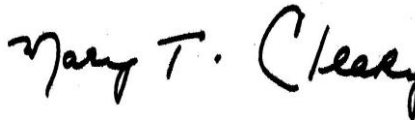
An international reply to all concerned is graciously requested.

Yours Respectfully,

Harry A. Crouch, President
National Coalition for Menⁱⁱⁱ
932 C Street, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92101
USA



Mary T. Cleary
Chairperson Amen
St. Anne's Resource Centre
Railway St., Navan
Co. Meath, Ireland



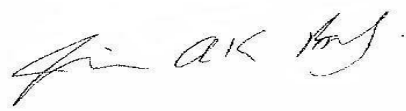
Barry Williams
Lone Fathers Association
19 Kinkead Street
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Earl Silverman
Family of Men Support Society^{iv}
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28 Penryn Road
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Attachments:

Letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper recognizing the achievements of Earl Silverman
Judge: W.Va. shelter rules biased against men, San Francisco Examiner
Appeals court decision supports battered men, San Francisco Examiner
A Hidden Crime: Domestic Violence Against Men is a Growing Problem, Daily Finance
Male Abuse is Being Ignored, BBC/UK

ⁱ REFERENCES EXAMINING ASSAULTS BY WOMEN ON THEIR SPOUSES OR MALE PARTNERS:

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, Martin S. Fiebert, Department of Psychology, California State University, Long Beach, Last updated: November 2009, SUMMARY: This bibliography examines 271 scholarly investigations: 211 empirical studies and 60 reviews and/or analyses, which demonstrate that women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners. The aggregate sample size in the reviewed studies exceeds 365,000.

ⁱⁱ MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, March 9, 2009

ⁱⁱⁱ Founded in 1977 NCFM is the oldest men's rights organization in America with members throughout the USA and several countries, including Canada, New Zealand, and Australia: www.ncfm.org

^{iv} Founded in 1992 Family of Men Support Society is oldest men's support service agency in Canada; www.familyofmen.ca.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION



CANADA

CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION

March 22, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recognize Earl Silverman's long service to his community and his province. As demonstrated through many years and countless hours, Earl has dedicated himself to tackling family issues, and the problem of family violence in particular. To this end, Earl has been involved with an impressive variety of organizations over the past 15 years and has attended and participated in numerous conferences, and workshops.

I am pleased to congratulate Earl Silverman and thank him for his ongoing work in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harper".

Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

Judge: W.Va. shelter rules biased against men

By: P.J. DICKERSCHIED

Associated Press

10/08/09 10:15 AM PDT

CHARLESTON, W.VA. — A Kanawha County Circuit judge has voided West Virginia's regulations for domestic violence programs, saying they discriminate by denying abused men access to publicly funded shelters and women abusers access to treatment.

In a decision received Tuesday, Judge James C. Stucky said Family Protection Services Board's rules for licensing domestic violence shelters, certifying advocates and distributing state funding distort lawmakers' intent and violate the West Virginia Men & Women Against Discrimination's right to free speech.

The nonprofit advocacy group sued the state board last year.

Stucky said the state administers its programs on the premise that only men can be batterers and only women can be victims by requiring public shelters to adopt and adhere to the principle of separate but equal treatment based on gender.

"The practical effect of this rule is to exclude adult and adolescent males from their statutory right to safety and security free from domestic violence for no reason other than their gender," Stucky wrote in his Oct. 2 ruling.

As a result, he said, male victims are being turned away from shelters "even when those shelters are otherwise unoccupied." Treatment programs also exclude women.

The West Virginia legal challenge is among a growing number of battles being waged across the country by groups that allege state laws requiring gender-neutral programs are skewed by discriminatory rules and regulations that embrace gender biases.

"We're not trying to belittle women who are abused, we're trying to raise awareness" that men are also victims, said Marc Angelucci with the National Coalition For Men who secured a similar court victory in California last October.

An appeals court there invalidated parts of that state's Health and Safety Code and Penal Code last year, saying they were unconstitutional because they excluded men from programs and services supported by nearly \$22 million in taxpayer money each year.

The ramifications of the West Virginia ruling remain unclear.

A call to board chairman Judy King Smith was not immediately returned Thursday.

The office of the assistant state attorney general representing the board referred all questions to Department of Health and Human Services spokesman John Law, who said the ruling was being reviewed Thursday and no decision has yet been made on whether to appeal.

In the year since the successful California challenge, Angelucci said the state has rewritten funding criteria for domestic violence programs to make them gender neutral and officials are working to provide equal access to all services. One of the biggest changes, though, has been to increase awareness of men as victims, Angelluci said, pointing to a 2001 study by the Centers for Disease Control that showed women are just as likely as men to commit domestic violence.

Stucky said the West Virginia board, which is responsible for establishing and enforcing standards for licensing shelters, implementing intervention programs and awarding 95 percent of taxpaying funding for the programs, overstepped its authority.

He noted that only members of the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which he called a "private trade group" consisting of 14 licensed programs and shelters, can become certified and licensed, excluding all outsiders, even one "staffed by the most prominent and well-educated individuals working in the field of domestic violence in the United States."

Public funding also is closed to anyone who is not a member of the coalition.

The requirements have a "chilling effect on the plaintiff's rights of free speech" because no one outside the coalition can become certified and licensed, putting them at a disadvantage. Stucky said the nonprofit's ability to "hold itself out" as having certified advocates "would add legitimacy to its plaintiff's ability to exercise its free-speech rights" and advocate for equal access to shelters for men, women and children.

"This is just basic unfairness. It's raw gender bias," said Havey D. Peyton, attorney for the West Virginia chapter of Men & Women Against Discrimination, a nonprofit advocacy group.

Aneglucchi said the West Virginia ruling will give momentum to a worldwide push to recognize men as victims, and may rekindle a second attempt to challenge Minnesota's system. A legal challenge there several years ago was dismissed for lack of standing, he said.

"We'll probably try it again," he said.

Ron Foster, region IV coordinator for Men & Women Against Discrimination, said he was pleased with Stucky's ruling, saying everyone loses when the people responsible for overseeing support programs "use their own personal biases to develop rules."

"Everybody should be treated the same," he said. "If you're a victim, you're a victim."

On the Net:

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://www.wvcadv.org>

West Virginia Men & Women Against Discrimination: <http://www.mawadv.org>

National Coalition For Men: <http://www.ncfm.org>

Appeals court decision supports battered men

Bob Egelko, Chronicle Staff Writer

Thursday, October 16, 2008

(10-15) 18:36 PDT SACRAMENTO -- California domestic violence laws violate men's rights because they provide state funding only for women and their children who use shelters and other programs, a state appeals court has ruled.

The decision by the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento requires the programs to be available to male as well as female victims of domestic violence. The court said the services don't have to be equal - an agency could maintain a battered-women's shelter while giving men vouchers to stay at hotels, for example - but both sexes must have access to the programs.

The ruling overturned a Sacramento County judge's decision to uphold the laws on the ground that women are more likely than men to be victims of domestic violence and to suffer more serious injuries.

Regardless of the overall impact, Justice Fred Morrison said in Tuesday's 3-0 ruling, the state acknowledges that "domestic violence is a serious problem for both women and men." He noted that the California Constitution forbids sex discrimination, under a 1971 state Supreme Court ruling, and said men and women are entitled to equal treatment, even if one sex is affected more than the other.

The ruling may not have a dramatic effect on most programs. The court quoted state officials as saying that 85 percent of the domestic violence programs funded by California already offer services to men, even though state law doesn't require that.

The services include counseling, job training and legal help as well as refuge. The state spends more than \$20 million a year on the programs.

A men's-rights lawyer who challenged the state domestic violence laws said Wednesday that he was skeptical of those figures, and called the ruling a step toward equality.

"I've been fighting this for years. ...It is outrageous to me that this law that excluded males has been on the books for so long," said attorney Marc Angelucci, who works at a family law firm called the Men's Legal Center and founded the Los Angeles chapter of the National Coalition for Free Men.

He said the laws are several decades old and were sponsored by women's rights groups.

The lead plaintiff in the case is a Sacramento County man who said his wife repeatedly beat him and struck him with weapons, and that he and his daughter had sought shelter from a state-funded agency but had been turned away. Angelucci said the man still lives with his wife, whose violence subsided after she underwent counseling.

In another part of the ruling, the court upheld women-only laws that allow some state prisoners who are pregnant or have young children to be held in local minimum-security jails and receive drug treatment while caring for their children. Morrison said the plaintiffs offered no evidence that any male prisoners qualify for those programs, which are open to parents who are primary caretakers of their children, have committed relatively minor crimes and can show that their children would benefit.

Angelucci said he was disappointed by that portion of the ruling and will appeal to the state Supreme Court.

State lawyers are reviewing the ruling, said Abraham Arredondo, a spokesman for Attorney General Jerry Brown.

Read the ruling

To read the court's ruling, go to:

links.sfgate.com/ZFCN

E-mail Bob Egelko at beigelko@sfchronicle.com.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/10/16/BA3S13HOLS.DTL>

This article appeared on page **B - 3** of the San Francisco Chronicle

A Hidden Crime: Domestic Violence Against Men Is a Growing Problem

By BRUCE WATSON Posted 10:30 AM 01/30/10 Healthcare



Kevin Jordan, Getty

Amid the media frenzy over Tiger Woods and Bengals receiver Chris Henry, a key aspect of both stories slipped through the cracks: Like millions of other men, Woods and Henry were -- allegedly at least -- the victims of domestic violence perpetrated by their wives or girlfriends. Beyond its brutal physical and psychological costs, domestic violence against men exacts a cruel economic toll at the personal, societal and national levels.

For the most part, the media, authorities and average citizens see domestic violence as a crime that is committed by men and victimizes women. Consequently, funding to combat the problem has overwhelmingly been spent on programs that support women.

Widely Ignored Problem

And yet, more than 200 survey-based studies show that domestic violence is just as likely to strike men as women. In fact, the overwhelming mass of evidence indicates that half of all domestic violence cases involve an exchange of blows and the remaining 50% is evenly split between men and women who are brutalized by their partners.

Part of the reason that this problem is widely ignored lies in the notion that battered males are weak or unmanly. A good example of this is the Barry Williams case: Recently, the former *Brady Bunch* star sought a restraining order against his live-in girlfriend, who had hit him, stolen \$29,000 from his bank account, attempted to kick and stab him and had repeatedly threatened his life.

It is hard to imagine a media outlet mocking a battered woman, but E! online took the opportunity to poke fun at Williams, comparing the event to various *Brady Bunch* episodes. Similarly, when *Saturday Night Live* ran a segment in which a frightened Tiger Woods was repeatedly brutalized by his wife, the show was roundly attacked -- for being insensitive to musical guest Rihanna, herself a victim of domestic violence.

Lack of Research

Sometimes it is impossible to ignore the problem, but when domestic violence against men turns deadly -- as in the case of actor Phil Hartman -- the focus tends to shift to mental illness. The same can be said of the Andrea Yates case, which many pundits presented as the story of how an insensitive husband can drive a wife to murder.

Much of the information on domestic violence against men is anecdotal, largely because of the lack of funding to study the problem. Although several organizations explore domestic violence, the biggest single resource is the Department of Justice, which administers grants through its Office on Violence Against Women.

For years, the DOJ has explicitly refused to fund studies that investigate domestic violence against men. According to specialists in this field, the DOJ recently agreed to cover this problem -- as long as researchers give equal time to addressing violence against women.

First National Study

Researchers Denise Hines and Emily Douglas recently completed the first national study to scientifically measure the mental and social impact of domestic violence on male victims. Interestingly, their research was funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health, not the DOJ. Not only does this demonstrate the lack of resources for researchers of this issue, but it also suggests that male battering is perceived as a mental health issue, not a crime.

This decriminalization of domestic violence against men affects research conclusions. While survey-based studies have found that men and women commit domestic violence in equal numbers, crime-based studies show that women are far more likely to be victimized. This inconsistency begins to make sense when one considers that man-on-woman violence tends to be seen through a criminal lens, while woman-on-man violence is viewed more benignly.

A recent 32-nation study revealed that more than 51% of men and 52% of women felt that there were times when it was appropriate for a wife to slap her husband. By comparison, only 26% of men and 21% of women felt that there were times when it was appropriate for a husband to slap his wife. Murray Straus, creator of the Conflict Tactics Scale and one of the authors of the study, explained this discrepancy: "We don't perceive men as victims. We see women as being more vulnerable than men."

Knead In The Groin

This trend becomes particularly striking when one considers the 1996 case of Minnesota Vikings quarterback Warren Moon, who tried to restrain his wife after she threw a candlestick at his head and kneed him in the groin. Subsequently charged with spousal abuse, he was only acquitted after his wife admitted that she attacked him -- and that her wounds were self-inflicted. Ironically, her admission of fault did not result in charges being brought against her.

While Moon's trial was particularly high profile, his situation is actually very common. In fact, studies have found that a man who calls the police to report domestic violence is three times more likely to be arrested than the woman who is abusing him.

The mainstream perception of domestic violence also impacts the resources that are available to battered men. For example, the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women, the only national toll-free hot line that specializes in helping male victims of domestic violence, has faced numerous roadblocks in its search for funding. In Maine, where the helpline is based, the surest route to funding is through membership in the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence.

On A Shoestring

But, according to Helpline director Jan Brown, the Coalition refused to even issue the program an application for membership, effectively denying it access to funding. Today, 45 Helpline volunteers field 550 calls per month, 80% of which are from men or people who are looking for help on behalf of a man. Operating with a yearly budget of less than \$15,000, it provides intensive training to its workers and offers victims housing, food, bus tickets and a host of other services.

The Helpline's sheltering services are informal and ad hoc, largely because its lack of access to funding makes a shelter financially impossible. In fact, of the estimated 1,200 to 1,800 shelters in the U.S., only one -- the Valley Oasis shelter in Antelope Valley, Calif. -- provides a full range of shelter services to men. And, on average, less than 10% of OVW funds allocated to fight domestic violence are used to help men.

For male victims of domestic violence, the legal system can become another tool for abuse. As in the Moon case, battered men are often likely to find themselves arrested, even when they are the ones who call the police. And, even after the arrest, the process of incarceration, restraining orders, divorce court and child custody hearings continue to disadvantage men.

A High Cost

Restraining orders are a particularly difficult hurdle. Radar Services, a watchdog organization, estimates that approximately 85% of the roughly 2 million temporary restraining orders that are issued every year are made against men. In many states, the requirements for an order are exceedingly vague: In Oregon, for example, a "fear" of violence is sufficient for a restraining order, while Michigan issues them to protect family members against "fear of mental harm."

But there's nothing vague about the effect of restraining orders: They often turn men out of their homes, deny them access to children and result in further personal costs as millions of men have to find new places to live, hire lawyers and pay other expenses. For some men, as Hines and Brown point out, the legal system gives abusive wives and girlfriends tools to continue attacks even after their relationships end.

As Straus notes, "The preponderance of [domestic violence] resources should be made available to women. They are injured more often, are more economically vulnerable, and are often responsible for the couple's children. That having been said, more resources need to be made available to men."

There is no doubt that domestic violence against men can be reduced; the domestic violence initiatives of the past 40 years have brought a hidden crime to light and provided protection for millions of women. The next step is to admit that domestic violence is not a male or female problem, but rather a human problem, and that a lasting solution must address the cruelty -- and suffering -- of both sexes.

Male abuse is 'being ignored'

By Jim Reed
Newsbeat reporter

Men in their early 20s are just as likely to be abused by their partners as women, according to the latest government figures seen by Newsbeat.

6.4% of men in England and Wales between the ages of 20 and 24 say they were victims over the last year, compared with 5.4% of women.

The official definition of partner abuse includes non-physical forms like emotional bullying.

It also means more serious behaviour like threats and severe force.

'Women more likely'

Overall women are more likely to be abused in general and to be the victims of stronger physical violence.

Across all age ranges, one in four women have been abused compared with one in six men.

But analysis of the latest figures from the Home Office shows the problem is more evenly spread between the sexes in the early stages of a young relationship

Mark Brooks from the men's health charity Mankind reckons the issue of male domestic abuse is often ignored by the government, social services and the police.

More and more men will come forward when they realise they are not the only ones being abused

Kevin Edgar from Masa

"In the UK as a whole there are 500 refuges for female victims and that is probably not enough," he told Newsbeat.

"There are only 12 for male victims. Overall services for men are 35 years behind those available for women and that's simply not good enough."

Women are still more likely to be repeatedly abused in the home than men and to be physically harmed.

The latest Home Office figures for 2007/8 show 2.2% of women of any age said their partner used minor or severe force against them over the last year. The figure for men was slightly lower at 2.0%.

Kevin Edgar from Masa, which operates a helpline for abused men, says blokes can be slow to come forward and recognise the problem.

"Often there are children involved and they don't want to leave them with a violent partner. They do feel a sense of shame in what's happened even though that's illogical.

"More and more men will come forward when they realise they are not the only ones being abused."

Scotland and Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland 8% of men said they had experienced domestic violence in 2007/8 compared with 15% of women.

The figures for the region show more 16 to 29-year-olds said they are victims than 30 to 59-year-olds.

Estimating the level of male domestic abuse in Scotland is more difficult as statistics are obtained from police reports instead of an anonymous survey.

Official figures from the Scottish government show a 2% rise in overall domestic abuse in 2007/8.

12% of all recorded incidents involved a male victim and female perpetrator up from 8% in 2000/1 although campaigners say that figure underestimates the scale of the problem as men are less likely to file an official police report than women.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The government is committed to working with our partners to reach across communities to victims and potential victims.

"Our national domestic violence delivery plan ensures perpetrators are brought to justice whilst providing the best possible help for victims and their children

"We continue to make significant progress in our drive to tackle domestic violence by, for example, the expansion of specialist domestic violence courts, multi-agency risk assessment conferences and independent domestic violence advisers, in addition to funding a matrix of national helplines, including the national 24-hour freephone Domestic Violence Helpline and the Men's Advice Line."

On Tuesday Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced a £3.5m package to help victims of domestic abuse.

The money will be used to safeguard the future of helplines and provide leaflets which will help families and friends of victims to identify and support them.

Story from BBC NEWS:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/newsbeat/hi/health/newsid_7878000/7878698.stm

Published: 2009/02/10 07:18:57 GMT © BBC MMX