

William Powell AC/AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

11th July 2014.

Dear Mr Powell,

Petition P-04-540 Stop Sexism in Domestic Abuse

I would like to address two issues with the committee in connection with the above petition. Firstly I would like to address the letter from Welsh Women's Aid (WWA) dated 19 June and received by me by e-mail on the 9th of July last and secondly a potential misunderstanding with Ms Watson of the committee.

Firstly I am assuming that the response from WWA to members of the National Assembly of Wales will have been viewed and have the authority of senior management at WWA. My comments are necessarily preliminary with a view to submitting a more formal and complete response to the committee in September. I confine my comments to issues in connection with domestic abuse (DA) and the human suffering that arises.

- WWA has been asked to clarify a rather puzzling statement about the petition's " ... figures are not referenced or explained...". It is hoped to address this issue for the meeting in September.
 - The letter heading for WWA states very clearly " putting women and children first". This raises a question "Who comes second?". One answer is boys who, unlike girls, are excluded by WWA from refuges from quite a younger age. Is this a violence against boys only because they are boys. Or do we not care.
 - WWA logos also include the statement and logo " children matter" and yet there are no references to protecting boys and girls and keeping them safe from all forms of DA and thereby risks perpetuating DA through intergenerational transmission. Please also note that in the focus on women it is stated " two women a week are killed", 18 will be victims of FGM are seven will die at the hands of a male partner etc. There is no awareness or recognition of the 60 to 70 children who are killed each year by their parents. Surely this shocking fact in connection with domestic violence should be clearly recognised by those proclaiming " children matter".
 - The WWA does not seek to address the human suffering and distress caused by DA in female same-sex relationships. Surely this would be a priority in " putting women ... first"?
 - The WWA response is framed entirely as women as victims and makes no reference to addressing, and alleviating the human causes of DA. Indeed, it is clear that WWA have a commercial imperative to ensure DA continues in order to protect the £4,000,000 budget in Wales. Alleviating the human suffering caused by DA requires a new approach with new and more closely aligned dynamics.
 - Suicide amongst men is an issue in Wales. Recent research has shown that men kill themselves after suffering domestic violence and that this brings the number of deaths attributable to domestic violence to something like equality between men and women. Shaming of men will have an impact on these grim statistics and the WWA approach
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i.e. “men second” can only make matters worse. This should also be considered in the “gender-based violence” indoctrination of the vulnerable and innocent young girls and boys and one may usefully consider what effect the concept of “... men second” may have on young Welsh boys and how young girls may feel about what is, or is not, it is an acceptable way to relate to boys. Dr Erica Bowen at Coventry University reveals that it is seen to be OK to hit boys “*he probably deserves it*”.

I apologise for the rather hurried and inadequate response to this letter. There is much more work to do and I hope to provide the Committee with a more adequate and satisfactory response in September.

Secondly, I refer to the televised proceedings of Committee meeting on the 1st July last and I thank the Committee for considering my Petition and providing me with an opportunity to respond to the Minister’s letter.

However, the comments made by Ms Watson about the presentation of my Petition and some important statistics cause me some very considerable concern. They do not correspond with my recollection of events and do not reflect that fact that all the statistics quoted in my Petition are fully referenced and supported. I stand solid and steadfast by all of them but would appreciate guidance and advice if there is a mistake or something incomplete.

I wonder if there has been some confusion? Please refer to the cover of my Petition as follows;

I agreed with Ms Watson on what I feel to be a somewhat technical argument that the words “... *half the problem* ...” were not strictly correct as women, as a group, are shown to be slightly more violent than men in relationships and that the proposition being made would, therefore, solve slightly less than half the problem. However, I feel the statement made is within the bounds of reasonableness and materiality and is helpful in making a controversial and essential point in a concise and effective way. I apologise to the Committee if the Committee does not share my view.

The Committee may be interested in a recent paper given to the British Psychological Society on the 26th June 2014 by Dr Elizabeth Bates from the University of Cumbria “**Women more aggressive to partners than men**” and which reports;

“ ... Furthermore, women engaged in significantly higher levels of controlling behaviour than men This study found that women demonstrated a desire to control their partners and were more likely to use physical aggression than men ... This suggests that [domestic abuse] may not be motivated by patriarchal values and needs to be studied within the context of other forms of aggression, which has potential implications for interventions ... ”

The study has been reasonably widely reported, for example in “The Times” and “The Huffington Post” and supplements the very well established research and proven evidence quoted in my Petition.

It is somewhat troubling that the current policy of the Welsh government, as affirmed by the Minister, continues to be based on the neo-Marxist “patriarchal” theory which, I respectfully suggest, is increasingly inappropriate to new legislation looking forward into the 21st century in Wales, in particular in its “... *implications for interventions* ... ” as touched on above.



Solid, evidence based research and practice that protects children and subsequent generations from all sources of domestic abuse (including violent women) must be the central principle that guides government policy and new legislation in Wales moving forward into the 21st century.

The introduction of the new legislation is noted. Whilst the Explanatory Memorandum makes it clear that the principles of the new legislation remains deeply sexist, the removal of “*Violence Against Women*” from the title of the Bill is welcomed as is the commitment by the Welsh government to “... *supporting all victims of ... domestic abuse ...*”. However, the neo-Marxist “patriarchal” theory clearly remains in that the Welsh Government has not undertaken to treat all victims (both men and women) “equally” in accord with the Equality Act 2010 and its obligations under its Gender Equality Duty.

Dr Amanda Robinson, the lead author of the report underpinning the Welsh government’s view; has confirmed the following as a definition of the neo-Marxist theory of domestic abuse;

“The gender paradigm of [domestic abuse] argues that domestic violence is a result of patriarchal social systems where men are exclusively the batterers and females are exclusively the victims of male dominance and privilege.

This Neo-Marxian model posits the masculine (bourgeoisie) as occupying the upper rungs of privilege, authority, and power over the feminine (proletariat).

Thus, domestic violence is the physical manifestation of his social dominance as it is forcibly imposed on her submissive feminine body.

Conversely, female violence is initiated reactively, purely as a form of self-defence.”

Female instigators of, and active participants in, domestic abuse in Wales must be recognised equally and correspondingly with male victims in order to formulate interventions that help break the generational cycle of learned dysfunctional and abusive behaviours that perpetuates domestic abuse. The WWA approach will not help even with £4,000,000 of annual grant.

Violent women and male victims must not be ignored or marginalised in the formulation of new legislation in the 21st century in Wales because of blind, radicalised dogma and Marxist theories that date back to 50 to 150 years ago. It is time to take a new approach.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. Please let me know if I can provide any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Stott

Healing Men
