



Registered Charity No. 1107795

Equal Rights for Men and Women

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PARITY News Briefing – January 2020

Contents

	Page
• Select Committee Inquiry Into Mental Health of Men and Boys	1
• The Real Reasons Girls Are Out-Performing Boys at School	1
• Submission to The Public Bill Committee For The Domestic Abuse Bill	1
• UK's First One-Stop-Shop Teaching Resource for Teachers Working With Boys Launched	1
• International Men's Day 2019	3
• The Women Demonised for Championing Men's Rights	3
• Do the WASPIs Have a Point?	6
• Children in Custody: It's a Gender Issue	8
• Measuring Gender Equality	10
• Viewpoint: Prostate cancer screening test 'in sight'	15
• Immunotherapy Offers Hope For Men With Prostate Cancer	16

SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH OF MEN AND BOYS

Men and Boys Coalition (MBC) co-founder and trustee, Mark Brooks OBE, gave oral evidence to the Women and Equalities Select Committee inquiry into the mental health of men and boys, alongside fellow co-founder and trustee Duncan Craig, in his capacity as CEO of Survivors Manchester and coalition member, Sonia Shaljean, in her role as Managing Director and Founder, Lads Need Dads.

Watch the panel session here:

<https://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/5db8fc13-d5e0-441c-94c1-35942d461f1e>

'THE REAL REASONS GIRLS ARE OUT-PERFORMING BOYS AT SCHOOL'

5.11.2019, Telegraph, Camilla Turner, Education Editor

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/11/05/real-reasons-girls-outperforming-boys-school/>

SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE FOR THE DOMESTIC ABUSE BILL

Dr.R.A.W.Bradford, PARITY Trustee made a submission on 29 October 2019 that related to the draft Bill as it was on second reading in the House of Commons in October 2019. Amendments were recommended in four areas:

- Explicit recognition of parental alienation as a domestic abuse offence;
- Removal of an inconsistency in the definition of controlling or coercive behaviour;
- Explicit recognition of a false allegation of domestic abuse as a domestic abuse offence;
- Revision of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's powers to fall under a Minister of State.

UK'S FIRST ONE-STOP-SHOP TEACHING RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS WORKING WITH BOYS LAUNCHED

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/boys-and-young-mens-education-toolkit/>

The UK's first one-stop-shop practical resource for parents and teachers working with male students, has been launched by the Men and Boys Coalition to mark International Men's Day. Published online

and available for free, the [Boys' and Young Men's Education Toolkit](#) includes downloadable teaching resources for both academic and PSHE lessons; a directory of practitioners, speakers and consultants; and a bibliography of key literature on how to boost male students' motivation, engagement and performance.

Resources cover everything from academic advice on improving boys' literacy and classroom engagement; to PSHE lesson plans on dealing with body image anxiety and online support for young gay men in exploring issues around their sexuality. The contents of the Boys' and Young Men's Education Toolkit are drawn from recommendations by the UK's leading practitioners, authors and advocates who focus on boys' and young men's education in the broadest sense -- academic, personal and emotional.

The Men and Boys Coalition is the UK's umbrella charity for more than 80 charities, academics, journalists and campaigners who are dedicated to addressing issues that disproportionately affect you if you are male. **Dan Bell, Chief Executive of the Men and Boys Coalition**, said: "Over the past thirty years, there has been a persistent and growing attainment gap between boys and girls in the UK. Yet, there has been little or no political focus on the causes of the gap, or the measures and policies that could be put in place to address it.

"Through our conversations with educators, it has become clear that this lack of policy focus is mirrored by a severe dearth of practical resources for teachers who are concerned about the under-performance of boys. What is out there, is scattered and inconsistent. "We decided that it would at least be useful to create a single place with a range of options for educators to explore and draw upon. "This Boys' and Young Men's Education toolkit is by no means exhaustive and represents a range of views and approaches to addressing the 'boy problem' in schools -- some practitioners recommend distinctive teaching strategies for boys, while others simply advocate for children to be able to be the best version of themselves, with no restrictions imposed by teachers' or parents' perceptions and expectations.

"We hope the toolkit offers a range of approaches that may be useful in a variety of educational contexts. It is only a start and over the coming years, more tips and tools will be added."

ENDS

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For editors

The Men and Boys Coalition is the UK's umbrella charity for more than 80 charities, academics, journalists and campaigners who are dedicated to addressing issues that disproportionately affect you if you are male. In addition to boys' academic under-performance, these include the high rate of male suicide, male-specific cancers, the lack of provision for male survivors of domestic and sexual violence and the challenges faced by fathers.

Key statistics

62,000 fewer boys/men go to [university every year](#) than girls/women

By the age of 16, girls are over 20% more likely to [achieve](#) five GCSEs including English and Maths at Grade C or better

In 2015, in England 52.5% of boys [achieved](#) 5 A*- C GCSEs including English and Maths in comparison to 61.8% of girls

In England 26.2% of teachers [are male](#), 15.2% of primary school teachers are male as are 37.6% of secondary school teachers.

8.5% of teaching assistants and 18% of support staff [are male](#). Overall, 19.9% of all school staff are male

Boys are around [three times](#) more likely to receive a permanent or fixed period exclusion than girls

Further information and data on the range of issues affecting men and boys is available on the Coalition statistics page

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/statistics>

INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY 2019 BY DAVID HYATT

I was reminded of International Men's Day recently while standing at my local war memorial on November 11th, Armistice Day. Not as you might assume, because both days celebrate the lives and achievements of men who might otherwise be ignored or forgotten. No, it's because of Armistice Day, the exact anniversary of the ending of hostilities, I was the only person there for the two minutes silence. On Remembrance Sunday, however there had been a large crowd at the war memorial.

Same principle with International Men's Day which occurs on November 19th. If that falls on a weekday then interest is minimal for daytime gatherings. And so I remember 19 November 2016 the last of the old-style International Men's Day commemorations. Only a handful of people turned up at Parliament Square, and we didn't stay long, faced by pouring rain and the total indifference of passers-by.

But two years ago the commemorations were switched to the preceding Sunday and it was a completely different story. This year saw the 3rd Annual International Men's Day march and an 8 hour long conference and it was a resounding success.

It started in the morning when a large crowd assembled outside the Royal Courts of Justice in The Strand, a place associated with massive injustice when it comes to the family courts routinely discriminating against fathers.

Apparently we just had one of the wettest autumns on record, but as with the two previous years, the weather for the march was bright and sunny, as we set off along the Embankment. There was much good-humoured chanting, for example "Love women, hate feminism!", and I managed to start the more controversial chant of "Feminism causes global warming!", which was very popular at first, but for some reason the organisers put a stop to it. Spoilsports! After all, scientists have yet to prove there is no link between the two.

Finally we arrived in Parliament Square where we displayed our banners and stood for photos by (where else?!) the statues of Pankhurst and Fawcett. As it was Sunday the public had more time to stop and chat and the response was generally favourable – with the exception of one feminist who spat at us while cycling by.

And so we made our way to the conference venue in Central London. This was deliberately kept secret in case of feminist attempts at disruption. That would have been a real possibility, especially when Elizabeth Hobson, one of the organisers, read out a threatening message from the mainstream and extremely well-funded group "Hope, Not Hate". Really they should have better things to do in society where sometimes prejudice does need to be tackled. But certainly not in the case of this event. Shame on them!

THE WOMEN DEMONISED FOR CHAMPIONING MEN'S RIGHTS

They provoked a bitter divide but have devoted their lives to a deeply unfashionable cause – Helping 'Downtrodden' Men in the age of Gender Politics.

The gender pay gap. The lack of women in top jobs. The #MeToo movement and the exploitation and abuse it exposed. There is a damning list of evidence that the fight for equal opportunities and rights for women is far from over. This makes it all the more surprising that a small but increasingly vocal band of women is fighting for justice — not for women, but for men. These women come from academic backgrounds or **began campaigning for women's rights before focusing on problems of the other sex. These women have dedicated their lives to addressing what they see as a crisis of masculinity and the unfair treatment of men by society**

Of course, it is not the case that women's advancement can come only at the expense of men. And no one could deny women still face huge obstacles on the road to equality. But the campaigners believe that in its attempts to rectify historical wrongs towards women, **society has developed a creeping antipathy towards all things male**, and this is knocking men's confidence at a time of intense cultural shift. They fear that many men and boys are neglected, ignored and excluded. This, they say, is why men's mental health problems are on the rise. **Suicide is now the biggest killer of UK men under 45.** Some of their views are highly controversial, and some activists have been accused of ignoring the harm done to women by men, or excusing it. **So who are these women**, why on earth are they doing this — and what are the issues they are fighting on men's behalf?

Boys Need More Emotional Support

Sonia Shaljean, 49, founded award-winning community interest company, Lads Need Dads. Married with three teenage sons, she lives in Essex.

Sonia has observed men at their lowest ebb during her 20-plus years as a substance misuse counsellor and anger management specialist within the fields of alcohol, drugs, criminal justice and homelessness. 'I was struck by how many of those men had grown up either without a father or with an abusive or unsupportive dad,' she says. So she founded not-for-profit Lads Needs Dads in 2015, with an initial grant of just £4,000.

The organisation has a team of trained male mentors, who encourage emotional intelligence in boys aged 11-15 with absent fathers. It also provides opportunities for youngsters to take part in outdoor activities, learn practical life skills and volunteer in the community. She believes it helps to have a woman at the helm. 'If it were a man leading an all-male organisation, it could possibly be disregarded by some women. 'Our aim at Lads Need Dads is to provide support, guidance and encouragement — and a much-needed male voice to enable boys to open up. 'It's so rewarding to watch boys' self-esteem, emotional stability and motivation grow. They perform much better at school, too, as well as having improved relationships at home.' According to the Centre for Social Justice, 1.1 million young people have little or no contact with their fathers, while 2.7 million live in lone parent families.

In his book *The Boy Crisis*, Dr Warren Farrell explains how fatherless boys, and to a lesser extent girls, tend to have less empathy and are more likely to break the law. According to a Unicef report on the wellbeing of children in economically advanced nations, including the UK, 85 per cent of youths in prison have an absent father.

Sonia was keenly interested in the link between fatherlessness and offending, in part because she started her career in a civilian role at the Metropolitan Police, where she managed a Community Safety Unit and helped refer victims and perpetrators to the right services. Later she worked for the charity Refuge, setting up two women's refuges in South East London alongside volunteering on a national helpline for a men's charity that provided therapeutic programmes for men wanting to change their behaviour. Sonia is keen to point out that not all boys growing up without a father end up as a statistic, saying: 'Other protective factors come into play, such as encouraging boys to join clubs and take part in sports, where they can find positive male role models. 'We aren't here to replace fathers. In fact our programmes have reunited many boys with their dads after years of absence.'

I Had Death Threats - And A Bomb Scare

Erin Pizzey, 80, founded women's charity Refuge and is a patron of the charity Families Need Fathers. She is now a patron of the charity Families Need Fathers. She lives in South London and is divorced with two children.

'I'm all for equality of the sexes,' Erin Pizzey says.

'But equality isn't the endgame for those feminists who believe women would be far better off without men.' This may sound odd coming from the founder of the first women's refuge. It's nearly 50 years since, aged 32 and with two young children, she set up The Chiswick Women's Refuge as a place 'where women could meet and use our talents'. 'Both my parents were violent and my mother beat me,' she says. 'So when the first battered woman came through the door and said 'no one will help me', I knew what she meant.' The London house became women's charity Refuge — and led to the creation of hundreds more women's refuges. And yet Erin became a pariah, as she insisted many female victims were also violent. 'Of the first 100 women who came into my refuge, 62 were as violent or more violent than the men they had left,' she says. 'Therefore, domestic violence can't be a gender issue, it can't be just men, because we girls are just as badly affected.' She became a hate figure for saying so. 'They branded me a 'victim blamer'. 'After a bomb scare, the police suggested my post be sent to them for inspection.' In the Seventies, she tried to set up a refuge for men, with little success. 'The rich men who were willing to fund my projects for women refused to give any money to male victims.' Now she works with Families Need Fathers and is a patron of The ManKind Initiative, a charity which supports male domestic violence victims. The subject may be becoming less taboo. Police in England and Wales recorded nearly 150,000 instances of domestic violence to men in 2017, more than double those in 2012 — which in part reflects a greater willingness to report problems. The 2018 Crime Survey for England and Wales recorded that 7.9 per cent of women (1.3 million) and 4.2 per cent of men (695,000) have suffered domestic abuse. It is women who are far more likely to be victims of extreme violence. Government figures show, for example, that 73 per cent of victims of domestic homicides from 2014 to 2017 were women, while most killers were male. This leaves male victims in a difficult situation, which Erin is working to address. She says: 'I am fighting for my son, my grandsons and my great grandsons, so that they might have a future where men are no longer demonised.'

Why I'm Fighting Feminism

Belinda Brown, 54, is a social anthropologist and co-founder of Men For Tomorrow. She sees as a tendency to 'neglect or ignore issues affecting men' A widow with two children, she lives in London.

When she met her second husband, social scientist Geoff Dench — known as the architect of the socially conservative Blue Labour movement — Belinda's activism was ignited. Together they set up Men for Tomorrow to research male problems — and fight against what they saw as a tendency to 'neglect or ignore issues affecting men'. Shortly after their 2009 marriage, however, Geoff was diagnosed with a rare brain disease, progressive supranuclear palsy. He died on June 24 last year, aged 77. Belinda nursed him until the end. She plans to continue his work by exposing what she sees as a deliberate attempt by feminist activists to undermine the traditional family unit. She writes and speaks on a range of topics concerning men for platforms such as The Conservative Woman website, and carries out research aimed at reinforcing 'traditional' values. As an anthropologist, she learned about feminism during her studies, but disagreed with much of what she heard. 'I was always aware of my own power and the power of other women,' she says. 'While I knew there were injustices which needed rectifying, today I see more injustices afflicting men. 'Most men work extremely hard to provide for their families, often at considerable cost to themselves. For women to ignore these sacrifices and instead blame men for all the problems in the world, it's divisive and damaging to gender cohesion.'

Belinda has worked for homeless charity Shelter, where like Alison Bushell she was shocked by the high proportion of men she saw. 'Almost all the rough sleepers were men and family breakdown was the reason so many were without homes,' she says. 'During divorce settlements it was always the wives who gained ownership of the house, leaving husbands stranded.' According to charity Homeless Link, today 84 per cent of the homeless are men, and their average age at death is just 44, half the average male lifespan. She also draws a correlation between the current epidemic of gang-related knife crime and the rise in fatherlessness. Most of the offenders, she says, come from broken homes, according to her research. As for the future of gender relations, she has this to say: 'I hope one day soon feminism will be seen as an interesting period of history, but one which caused tremendous damage to society.'

Courts Punish Men – And Kids Lose Out

Alison Bushell, 57, from Suffolk, runs a social work consultancy and believes custody of children is often automatically given to women even when that isn't in a child's best interests

Britain's family courts are engaged in practices that separate fathers from their children, knowingly or not, Alison believes. She says: 'The pressure groups springing up, some of which are advising the Ministry of Justice on domestic violence cases, have an anti-male agenda.' In 20 years as a statutory social worker she saw a lack of effort to keep families together and an 'airbrushing out' of many dads. 'I see fathers marginalised and excluded from their kids' lives,' she says, 'while mothers are supported by out-of-date gendered views of parenting within the courts, and health and social services.' And so, she believes, custody of children is often automatically given to women even when that isn't in a child's best interests. 'False allegations are more prevalent than people realise and supervision orders disproportionately happen to fathers.' Every day, Alison gets calls from men who haven't seen their kids for up to five years. 'Having lost contact with their children, such men sometimes turn to alcohol or drugs out of sheer desperation. 'More become depressed. I had a client who took his own life. I believe the allegations against him were a major contributing factor.' Alison has faced several complaints of bias while representing — largely male — clients in court, but none has been upheld. Disillusioned and concerned to highlight these inequities, she left statutory social work ten years ago to set up consultancy, Child and Family Solutions. The agency works with families going through bitter separations, and carries out assessments for the Family Court and local authorities. She has also worked with male domestic abuse victims. 'It has given me huge respect for those daring to speak out, because there is so little help available. It is a national scandal that so few refuge places are available for men.' In England there were more than 3,600 beds in safe houses for women in 2017, but just 20 for men. The charity ManKind Initiative, which Alison supports, has told her that only 36 of 163 beds now available in refuges or safe houses are earmarked for men. 'Since Office for National Statistics figures state that 40 per cent or more victims of domestic abuse are men, this is alarming. 'When will people realise that holding on to a gendered narrative in domestic abuse is harmful?' As for gender politics, Alison admits she has performed a volte-face. 'In the 80s I spent time at Greenham Common and lived in a women-only house. I even had a badge declaring 'a woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle'. How times change.

'I can now be found reading [neoconservative author] Douglas Murray or listening to a talk by [Right-wing psychologist] Jordan Peterson.'

Fathers Pay The Price In Divorce

Stacey Camille Alexander-Harriss, 41, a family support worker and children's novelist and works supervising contact between fathers and their children after family breakdown. She moved to the UK from America ten years ago after meeting her English husband online. He's a City finance director and they live in Ilford with their two dogs.

A former Art and French teacher, Stacey now works supervising contact between fathers and their children after family breakdown, at Alison Bushell's agency. 'We tend to work more with dads than mums, as they seem to be the ones who have difficulty retaining a relationship with children after divorce and frequently become depressed in the custody battle.' She believes this is the result of systemic inequalities and a bias towards mothers. 'Women hold all the power, especially when it comes to custody. It's unfair that dads have to pay for all the legal costs, paying people like Alison to advocate. 'Often men with good jobs from affluent backgrounds end up taking out loans. Even if you win you spend so much on this insane game. 'When mothers notice there is a maternal bias they realise they can say whatever they like about their ex. I've heard accusations of terrorism just to get custody. It's so ugly. And when mothers refuse to seek help for their emotional problems they tend to place the blame on men.' Her books deal with troubled families — Myrtle Takes Tea, published under the pseudonym Alexander Stacey, is about a lonely nine year old with mean teachers and parents with money problems. All that matters to her is her prized toy rabbit Earl Grey. Stacey thinks setting an example is a way to heal these injuries and help families. 'All the tools I use in my work are drawn from examples set by my own parents who were loving, strong and wise. My father was an orthopaedic surgeon and he and my mother were married for 40 patient years until they both passed away. I try to teach fathers about the importance of discipline, responsibility, self-reliance and confidence.'

THE DAILY MAIL 27 November 2019

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-7732557/The-women-demonised-championing-mens-rights.html>

DO THE WASPIS HAVE A POINT? BY RICK BRADFORD

"I'll scream and scream 'til I'm sick!", quoth Violet Elizabeth, William Brown's tiny nemesis. It seems that strategy for getting one's own way is still favoured in some quarters.

[Parity's last News Briefing](#) reported on the failure of the "Back to 60" campaign's judicial review. This group of women had sought redress for what they claimed was unfair treatment in the raising of the State Pension Age (SPA) for women from 60 towards equalisation with men. The WASPIS (Women Against State Pension Inequality) are a similar group campaigning for compensation to be given to women born in the 1950s. The exact arguments and objectives of the WASPIS have morphed over time (see Coppola's [The WASPI campaign's unreasonable demand](#)). The latest incarnation of their claim centres around inadequate warning given to these "1950s women" about the SPA increases.

Despite this claim being emphatically rejected – not only [by Government](#), but also [by judicial review](#) – in the current election campaign Jeremy Corbyn has committed to giving the WASPIS what they are asking for, calling it a "moral debt". Some sources put the cost as high as [£58B](#). The reader may think that this is just another instance of bribing people for votes, I couldn't possibly comment.

Let us leave aside that men have had a later SPA than women for many decades prior to last year. Let us leave aside that, even with the same SPA, men will typically enjoy fewer years of retirement due to shorter longevity (a life-gap of 3.6 years on average). Let us instead examine whether the specific WASPI claim of inadequate warning about SPA increases is valid, and particular to women.

Chapter and verse on the time-line of changes in SPA can be found in [House of Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7405 \(15 October 2019\)](#). This time-line is nicely summarised by Figure 1, taken from [Political Quarterly](#), 88(3), 510-516, [WASPI's is \(mostly\) a campaign for inequality](#).

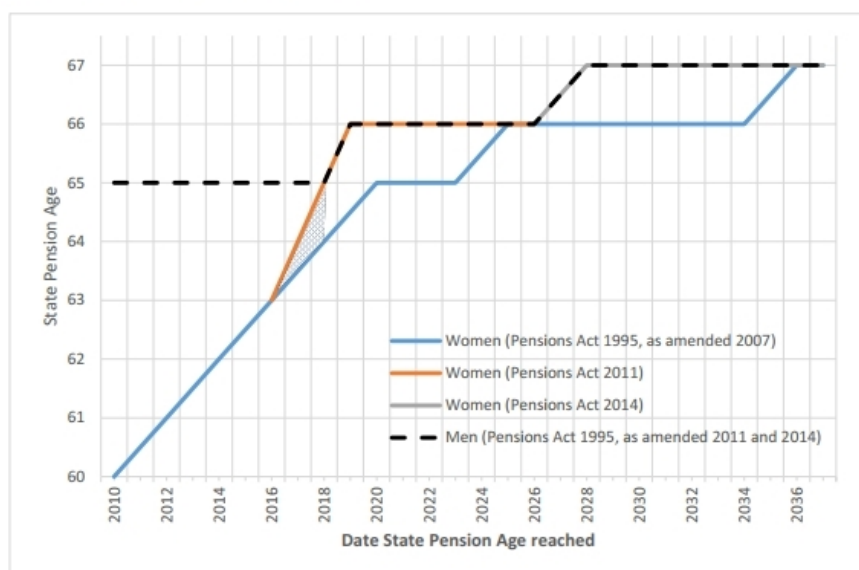
The 1995 Pensions Act was the first to recognise equalisation of the SPA for men and women as the objective, and undertook to raise the SPA for women from 60 to 65 in a phased manner starting in 2010 and completing that process by 2020. Hence women had between 15 and 25 years warning of the intended SPA increase in 1995.

As Brexit is also topical, it is worth noting that this 1995 legislation was, in part, a result of EU pressure. The ruling by the European Court of Justice in 1986 that the UK's gendered approach to retirement ages was incompatible with the 1976 European Commission's Equal Treatment Directive required 'progressive implementation' of equalisation of pension rights. Ironically, this landmark

European Court ruling related to a case brought against HM Government by a woman. She had complained that the Area Health Authority for which she worked required her to retire at the age of 60, despite her desire to go on working.

In 2007 the (Labour) Government first instituted a planned rise in SPA, for both sexes, first to 66 by 2024 and then to 67 by 2036, and then to 68 by 2046.

Figure 1 – State Pension Ages, 2010-36



This was superseded in 2011 by the (Con-Lib Coalition) Government which made two changes to the timetable. It accelerated the final phase of the equilibrating of the SPA for the sexes by accomplishing the increase in women’s SPA from 63 to 65 between 2016 and 2018 rather than between 2016 and 2020, i.e., bringing its completion forward by two years. But the 2011 Pensions Act also brought forward achieving the SPA of 66 from 2024 to 2019. Hence, this change was brought forward by 5 years and was to be implemented in a single year, 2018. Figure 1 is the clearest depiction of all this.

The women most severely impacted by the 2011 changes are those who turned 64 in 2018 who might have expected to receive their state pension that year, but will now have to wait two more years, receiving their pension at age 66 in 2020 (along with men of the same age). Note that the greatest impact is a two year delay, not five years. These, most impacted women, therefore had 7 years warning that they would not receive their pension in 2018 (the changes having been enacted, recall, in 2011). Is this not reasonable warning?

In any case, men were in a similar position. A man turning 65 in 2018 would have expected to draw his pension that year, but the same 2011 Act meant that he would have to wait another year until he was 66 to do so. Such men also had the very same 7 years warning of this change. This is sufficient to obliterate the WASPI’s claim – unless the same claim of inadequate warning were to be made for men – but the WASPIs are entirely blind to the position of men.

[As it happens, the author of this article is a case in point. I was 65 this year but will not get my state pension until next year. However, there is no WASPI campaign for me, I note – not that I want one].

If the 2011 Act were implemented for men – but the situation for women remained as it was in 2007 under the Labour Government - Figure 1 shows that equalisation of the pension age for the two sexes would have been pushed out to year 2036. This illustrates graphically how fraudulent is the WASPI claim to be based on “equality”. It is actually inspired by “women’s equality”, which surely by now we all know is actually code for preferencing.

So, do the WASPIs have a point? No.

Having started by ignoring the starkly obvious state pension inequality which has prevailed for decades prior to last year, namely that to men’s disadvantage, it is perhaps relevant to note that it is men who continue to pump the overwhelming bulk of the monies into the exchequer which pays for pensions, and indeed all public expenditure. The taxation, benefits and pensions systems form a mechanism for the transfer of money from men to women. That is the rather large elephant which goes unnoticed. This raises another, and more egregious, pension inequality: that between the public and private sectors. [The disparity between the two is now quite obscene](#) as the public sector continues to live in a never-never land of unfunded “defined benefit” Ponzi pension schemes, underwritten by the taxpayer. With twice as many women as men in the public sector, this is another aspect of the men-to-women money syphon. But this one is unsustainable, and public sector workers are in for a shock as inevitable as arithmetic.

And finally, all this highlights yet another genuine equality issue: that between the generations. Just as all Government promises, funded by borrowing or taxation, are a burden upon the younger generations, so the WASPI claim is also. I doubt that Corbyn would deliver on his promise, even were he to become PM. But if he did, even the most cursory attention to balancing the books would require passing the bill onto younger people, of both sexes, in the form of further accelerations in SPA increases.

CHILDREN IN CUSTODY: IT'S A GENDER ISSUE BY RICK BRADFORD



Boys in detention centre, Togo

The United Nations has just published a major study on children in custody worldwide. My thanks to the ever-energetic Douglas for alerting me to this UN study. The main report, by Manfred Nowak, is 758 page long. It identifies 7 million children in various types of custody, including police cells, prison, and detention centres. 94% of them are boys.

The panel which led the study consisted of 170 non-governmental organizations working directly or indirectly on children's deprivation of liberty. Information was collected from every region of the world: 41 inputs from Europe; 27 from Africa; 20 from Asia, 19 from North and South America; and 11 from Oceania.

The treatment meted out to many of these children is extremely distressing, and I do not intend to go into those details here. One may hope – and expect – that children in custody in the UK do not experience such brutality. However, in terms of the *gender ratio* of children in custody, the worldwide data and UK data are similar – except that it is even more extreme in the UK, with 97% - 98% of children in custody here being boys.

The UN is hardly noted for being a man-friendly organisation. It drives a host of feminist agendas. That only makes what follows even more noteworthy. I quote firstly the UN Secretary-General's own words, from his relatively snappy 23 page report, "[Global study on children deprived of liberty, Note by the Secretary-General](#), 11 July 2019".

"The data collected for the study indicate significant gender disparities in the situation of children deprived of liberty. Altogether, there are far more boys deprived of liberty worldwide than girls. In the administration of justice and in the contexts of armed conflicts and national security, 94% of all detained children are boys; in migration detention the figure is 67% and in institutions it is 56%. The number of boys and girls who live with their primary caregiver (almost exclusively mothers) in prison is similar."

"Compared with the overall crime rate for children, the data gathered for the study show a tendency of the child justice system to be more inclined to apply diversion measures to girls than boys. While approximately one third of all criminal offences worldwide committed by children are attributed to girls, only 6% receive a prison sentence. There may be various reasons for this phenomenon. Most importantly, girls usually commit less violent offences and are more often accused of status offences. Girls are generally first-time offenders and more receptive to the deterrent effect of incarceration. Another explanation is the "chivalrous and paternalistic" attitude of many male judges and prosecutors in the child justice systems, who assume, according to traditional gender stereotypes, that girls are more in need of protection than boys."

"Although most States allow convicted mothers to co-reside with their young children in prison, only eight States explicitly permit fathers to do so. Even in places where fathers as primary caregivers are allowed to co-reside with their children, there are (almost) no appropriate "father and child units" in the prisons, which means that there are practically no children co-residing in prison with their fathers."

*"Children from poor and socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, migrant and indigenous communities, ethnic and religious minorities and the LGBTI community, as well as children with disabilities and, **above all, boys**, are largely overrepresented in detention and throughout judicial proceedings." (my emphasis)*

"Deprivation of liberty constitutes a form of structural violence against children"

In view of the latter observation, and the overwhelming preponderance of boys in custody, can one not reasonably conclude that here we have an instance of gendered structural violence - against boys? And yet you will find no mention of this in the Istanbul Convention.

The complete report is "[UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty](#)" (Manfred Nowak, November 2019). The section on "Discrimination Against Boys" puts England and Wales amongst the top few countries in terms of gender ratio: *"In some States, the percentage of boys detained in the context of the administration of justice is close to 98% (England and Wales, Argentina) or even 99% (South Africa, Georgia)".* Did we want to be in such company?

Almost all you need to know is the title of one of the report's sub-sections, *"Penal System is the Most Gendered Institution in Society"* - Quite.

What follows in that section is something I never thought to see in a report from the UN.

"Most research on the gender dimension of deprivation of liberty relates to the administration of criminal justice and primarily addresses cases of discrimination against girls, not against boys. Yet in 2006, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro noted that 'millions of children, particularly boys, spend substantial periods of their lives under the control and supervision of care authorities or justice systems, in institutions such as juvenile detention facilities and reform schools.

*According to research conducted by Bruce Abramson in the same year, the 'penal system, adult and juvenile, is the most heavily gendered institution in society, even more so than the military, given current trends. He adds that **the human rights movement, and the children's rights movement in particular, is contributing to this male-female gender gap by discriminating against boys**"* (my emphasis)

It continues with this quote from Abramson,

"Whether we look at the CRC movement, or at the broader human rights movement, or at the specialized juvenile justice advocacy, we find the same pattern of avoiding the gender dimension of juvenile justice. Some adults are in deep denial of the gender issue when boys are at the losing end of the disparities. But most people recognise that there is a gender issue. The problem is that no one has found an effective, positive way to address it. I think that juvenile justice professionals and CRC activists are paying a dear price in credibility for their failure to address gender: the public knows - at some level of awareness - that the advocates for reform are not addressing the problem when they duck the gender dimension of delinquency....Sad to say, there is outright sex discrimination against boys in the CRC movement." *CRC is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - Wow! Let me just check this is really a UN report. But it may be significant that Nowak had to go back to research reported in 2006 for this evidence. He goes on to note,*

"Although girls are less likely to commit serious criminal offences than boys, the detention rate does not reflect the crime rate. More than one-third (35-40%) of all criminal offences worldwide are attributed to girls. However, only one fourth of all children (25%) who come in formal contact with the criminal justice system are girls. Finally, only 11.6% of all convicted children are girls, and only 6% of all children who end up in detention are girls"

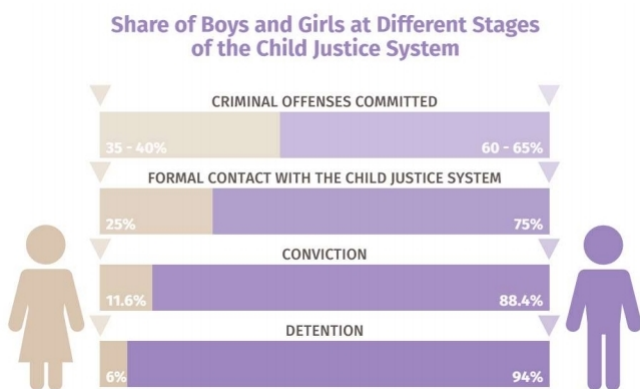


Figure 1

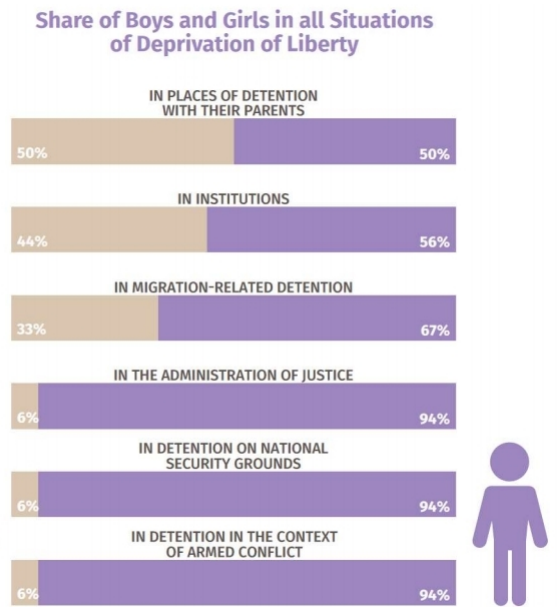


Figure 2

Nowak concludes that the data show that girls receive more lenient sentences, usually non-custodial, and tend to benefit from diversion away from custody through all the stages of the process. These observations are depicted in the graphics above.

The similarity with adult imprisonment in the UK is striking. It appears that neither age nor culture greatly ameliorates the huge sex-bias in incarceration. In the case of adults in the UK, we are surely long past any debate about the overwhelming male dominance in prison being largely due to discrimination; the progress of men and women through the UK criminal justice systems is remarkably similar to Figure 1. It is reasonable to suppose that discrimination is responsible also for the overwhelming preponderance of boys in the juvenile facilities.

Nowak's chapter on gender issues ends in Recommendations which include this,

"Address over-representation of boys in detention by various means, above all by promoting diversions at all stages in the criminal justice system and by proportionally applying non-custodial solutions to boys, as it is more widely practised with girls."

Who is going to hold the relevant UK Minister's feet to the fire on this one?

It seems we have a way to go in some quarters. As of April 2018, there were [913 boys and just 27 girls](#) in the secure estate in England & Wales (97.1% boys). In that month, Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, [reported on a visit to some of these children](#) "to learn about their lives before entering custody and understand the factors that led to them being imprisoned and what, if anything, could have been done to change their trajectory". Well, very laudable. It's exactly what a Children's Commission should do. I have no difficulty with that...except that out of 913 boys and 27 girls...the 10 children she chose were all girls.

MEASURING GENDER EQUALITY BY RICK BRADFORD

Here I compare and contrast three alternative measures of gender "equality". The first is the Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI), Ref.[1], which was devised by, and is vigorously promoted by, the World Economic Forum (WEF). The WEF represents global capital, it promotes Global Governance and runs the Davos conferences.

The second is the Gender Equality Index (GEI), Ref.[2], devised and promoted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). EIGE is an EU organisation, though membership involves only 18 of the EU's 28 States, plus the European Commission. The UK is not a member of EIGE. The GEI is therefore also a product of supranational globalism.

The third is the Basic Index of Gender Inequality (BIGI), Ref.[3], which was devised by two academic psychologists, Gijbert Stoet (University of Essex) and David Geary (University of Missouri) without the assistance of any specific funding. It is not promoted by any major organisation, only by individuals genuinely concerned about equality.

GGGI combines measures of gender inequality in four areas, Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. Some of the key factors which contribute to GGGI are,

- Participation rates in employment;
- Gender pay gap;
- An advancement gap which is said to be *"captured through two hard data statistics (the ratio of women to men among legislators, senior officials and managers, and the ratio of women to men among technical and professional workers)"*;
- A measure of political empowerment which *"measures the gap between men and women at the highest level of political decision-making through the ratio of women to men in ministerial positions and the ratio of women to men in parliamentary positions"*.

Do these issues align with the concerns of any particular political movement at all? Note that the last two bullets relate to only a tiny percentage of the population, of either sex, so it hardly seems appropriate to include them in a measure of gender equality applicable to the general population.

The worst aspect of GGGI is that the methodology used redefines all male disadvantage as equality. The one thing I would concede to the WEF is that they are completely open about their bias. Here are some extracts from Ref.[1] which make this clear,

"the Index rewards countries that reach the point where outcomes for women equal those for men, but it neither rewards nor penalizes cases in which women are outperforming men"

"Thus a country, which has higher enrolment for girls rather than boys in secondary school, will score equal to a country where boys' and girls' enrolment is the same."

"To capture gender equality, two possible scales were considered. One was a negative-positive scale capturing the size and direction of the gender gap. This scale penalizes either men's advantage over women or women's advantage over men and gives the highest points to absolute equality. The second choice was a one-sided scale that measures how close women are to reaching parity with men but does not reward or penalize countries for having a gender gap in the other direction. We find the one-sided scale more appropriate for our purposes, as it does not reward countries for having exceeded the parity benchmark."

In short, they opted to be "one-sided". And note how skewed is the thinking behind the phrasing of the last sentence. They are kind enough to concede that *"exceeding the parity benchmark"* does not actually deserve a reward. I should think not since *"exceeding the parity benchmark"* is a euphemism for male disadvantage. But under the smoke-screen of these words they legitimise air-brushing away male disadvantages entirely. Male disadvantage in longevity around the globe is redefined as equality, as is boys' disadvantage in educational attainment in Western and other developed countries.

GGGI is not a measure of gender inequality; it is a measure of women's advancement. It deliberately conceals inequalities to the disadvantage of men or boys.

Turning to the second equality measure...

In their own words, EIGE take "an intersectional approach" to their Global Equality Index. (Note that despite the use of the word "Global", application of GEI is confined to the EU). GEI conceals male disadvantage in a different manner from GGGI, as made clear in the methodology document, Ref.[4]. It treats all gender inequalities, whether to the disadvantage of men or women, in the same manner. Like other measures it combines inequalities derived for a range of contributing aspects of life. Every inequality in any of the contributing factors, in whichever direction it occurs, causes an increase in the overall measure of inequality. In mathematical terms, it is the absolute magnitude of the gender gap which is used, whilst its sign is ignored (see section 2.2.1 of Ref.[4]). To quote Ref.[4], *"it is not possible to derive information about either women or men directly from the scores."*

The GEI uses 31 equality indicators. For the overall GEI to indicate 100% equality, every single one of these 31 indicators would need to indicate 100% equality individually. In GEI there is no concept of "equal but different". It recognises only absolutely identical lives to be equal lives. I am not being flippant when I note that full equality on this measure is impossible whilst men have no uterus. I wonder how EIGE would score their own work-life balance team, which consisted of ten women and one man.

The GEI's ostensible gender blindness is disingenuous, as I illustrate below. I am reminded of the Crown Prosecution Service's annual Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) reports, e.g., Ref.[5].

Here VAWG is defined as a category of offences whose victims may be women, girls, men or boys and so the reported statistics include offences against all victims irrespective of sex. But, preposterously, these statistics are presented within a report entitled *Violence Against Women and Girls* as if this is in no way misleading. *Au contraire*, it is deliberately misleading.

The EU's GEI is also the tool of a certain political agenda. This is evident in this year's special focus report on work-life balance, Ref.[6]. I hope the reader will indulge me as I outline what policy is truly being pursued in the six indicators presented under the banner of a "work-life scoreboard"...

Parental leave policies: There is no need for me to present data on parental leave. Whatever your opinion on the matter, the current fact is that overwhelmingly more maternity leave is taken than paternity leave. Yet EIGE chooses to headline that more women than men are **ineligible** for parental leave. How come? Well, more women are ineligible for parental leave simply because they are not working. The policy that is actually being promoted is the desire to get more women into paid employment. But this objective is disguised by being presented, ostensibly, as an equality issue - namely equal eligibility for parental leave. You see how that works?

Informal caring for children: The statistic emphasised here is "not enrolled in childcare". Why is **not** having children cared for commercially, rather than by a parent, being promoted as an "inequality"? Because the policy objective is, quote, "*to allow parents to stay in or join the labour market and reduce the gender gap in employment.*" The policy objective is getting more women working more hours, not caring for children. But by presenting it as an equality issue currently to women's disadvantage, a sympathetic audience is guaranteed - a reaction which a cry of "get thee out of the home and into a job, women!" would not enjoy.

Flexible working arrangements: Why does EIGE regard flexible working arrangements as important? Because "*they can support people with caring responsibilities to enter the labour market, as full-time employees*". Different heading, same objective.

Lifelong learning: Education for its own sake? Education as a cultural pursuit which enriches one's life quite independent of material issues? Not a bit of it. Quote, "*lifelong learning can help women re-enter the labour market after career breaks due to care responsibilities*". Are you getting the message?

Informal long-term care of the elderly/infirmary: More women than men are such carers. The concern of EIGE is that women are able to "*maintain a healthy balance between their care duties and work life*". Once again it is the impact on the hours of paid work by women that is their concern.

Transport and public infrastructure: Surely this cannot be yet another "get women into work" issue - can it? Think again. The statistic they deploy is commuting time, implying that women's shorter average commute is indicative of how women's working hours are constrained by caring duties. Quote, "*access to affordable and quality public infrastructure, such as....transportation, impacts women's and men's opportunities to balance paid work with other activities*".

Sorry to have laboured the point, but it's an important point. The entirety of what is being presented to us as a touching concern over our "work-life balance" is actually a cover for getting women working more paid hours. Why would they want to do this? Because women are contributing only 27% of income tax to men's 73%, of course. And, no, it's not because of a few percent pay rate gap, it's because men work over 50% more hours than women, and more men pay tax at the higher rate. Governments are very keen to tap into an under-taxed resource, namely women. Moreover, more working hours by women would push up GDP and GDP per capita, those indicators of economic health - and thereby potentially reduce the interest rates on our sovereign debt. You doubt it? Here is what Nicky Morgan, then Secretary of State for Education and one-time Minister for Women and Equalities had to say in 2015, Ref.[7],

"Equalising women's productivity and employment to the same level as men's could add almost £600 billion to our economy, clearing a third of our national debt"

(The figure cited only makes sense if accumulated over many years - total income tax revenue in 2018/19 was only £191 billion. Nevertheless the quote serves to prove the point regarding Government's keenness to exploit women's earning potential).

Does this help explain why globalist organisations promote these so-called "equality" agendas? It isn't about equality, and it isn't about being nice to women either. And it most certainly isn't about work-life

balance. Even more emphatically it isn't about anything beneficial for children (whose true welfare isn't even paid lip-service in these narratives).

What is being presented to us as social change to improve work-life balance is directly contrary to what the UK public actually want. How do I know? Because the British Social Attitudes Surveys tell us so. Here are some extracts from the 2019 survey, Ref.[8],

Question: "What is your view on how paid leave following the birth of a child should be divided between the mother and the father?"

Of those who responded, 60% opined that the mother should take all or most of the paid leave, whilst no one (to within rounding) thought that the father should take all or most of the paid leave.

Question: "What is your view on the best way for a family with a child under school age to organise family and work life?"

Of those who answered the question, 86% thought the father should work full time; 77% thought the father should work more hours than the mother, and, to within rounding, no one thought the father should be the stay-at-home parent, and no one thought the father should work only part-time if the mother was working full time.

Note that the above responses apply to both male and female respondents roughly equally.

So it is clear why the globalist-feminist-establishment has to present their attempts at social engineering falsely in the guise of an equality issue: it is because it runs directly counter to what people actually want.

And that brings me to BIGI, the only one of the equality measures which is untainted by a political agenda. The motivation of the authors of Ref.[3] was, at least in part, a recognition of the shortcomings of GGGI. They write,

"BIGI aims to provide a simplified and unbiased measure by focusing on key indicators that are relevant to all men and women in any society. BIGI focuses on key ingredients of a good life.

- *Healthy Life Expectancy (years expected to live in good health)*
- *Basic education (literacy, and years of primary and secondary education)*
- *Life satisfaction"*

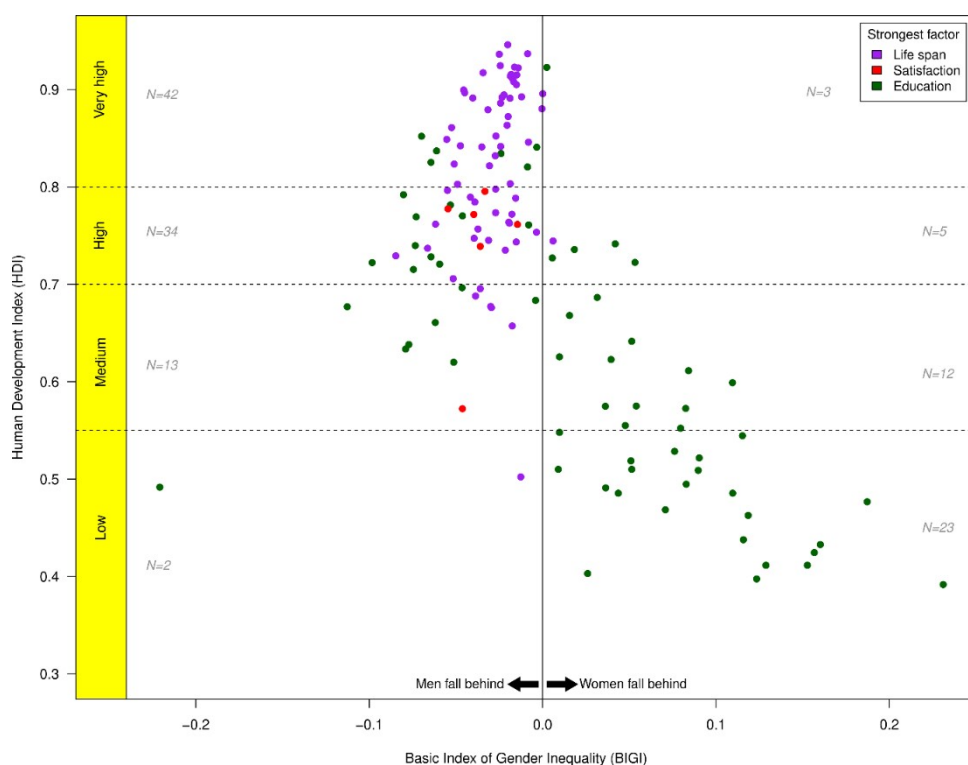
By "unbiased" I expect they mean not slanted towards one sex, as was explicitly the case with GGGI. By "relevant to all men and women" I expect they mean avoiding measures skewed to the top 0.1% of society, which also mars the GGGI measure. The explicit inclusion of life expectancy, which is an indisputable aspect of inequality, also corrects the GGGI strategy of simply brushing men's shorter average life span under the carpet.

Most importantly, BIGI is a signed measure in which a positive value indicates female disadvantage but a negative value indicates male disadvantage. BIGI therefore implicitly recognises that the genders could be "equal but different". In this philosophy, advantages to one sex in one area may be offset and cancelled out by advantages to the other sex in another area. This is anathema to the mindset behind the EU's GEI. It means that, of the three measures, BIGI is the only one that can, in principle, detect and quantify an overall disadvantage to males. And it does.

From an analysis of 134 countries, Stoet and Geary, Ref.[3], conclude, "In 91 (68%) of the 134 countries, men were on average more disadvantaged than women, and in the other 43 (32%) countries, women were more disadvantaged than men. The international median of the BIGI is -0.017 (SD = 0.062), that is, nearly a two percent deviation from parity, favoring women."

Great Britain was one of the countries where men were more disadvantaged based on the BIGI measure. In fact virtually all Western/Anglophone countries had a negative BIGI (men disadvantaged). The exception was Italy (which was marginal).

Figure 1: Stoet & Geary's BIGI versus HDI



Stoet and Geary's results are summarised in Figure 1. The colour coding of the points (one for each country) indicates which of the three contributing items (healthy life span, educational opportunity and overall life satisfaction) was dominant. Where females are disadvantaged overall it was always education which was the dominant item. Where males were disadvantaged overall, any of the three items could be dominant, depending upon the country.

Figure 1 plots BIGI against the Human Development Index, which is a UN measure, essentially of the degree of development of a country (i.e., poor country, low HDI; rich country, large HDI). What Figure 1 shows is an obvious correlation between gender inequality as measured by BIGI and the country's development level as measured by HDI. Thus, net disadvantage to females is very strongly associated with poorer countries, whilst the most developed nations virtually all display net disadvantage to males.

There is an implication here that, as poorer nations continue to develop, net gender disadvantage to males – already the most common situation – will increasingly become near-universal.

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IMMUNOTHERAPY OFFERS HOPE FOR MEN WITH PROSTATE CANCER

A major trial of an immunotherapy drug has shown it can be effective in some men with advanced prostate cancer. The men had stopped responding to the main treatment options. Researchers found that a small proportion of men, described as "super responders", remained well even after the trial ended, despite a very poor prognosis before treatment. Last week it was reported the same drug had **proved effective in treating advanced head and neck cancers.**

What is immunotherapy? Immunotherapy uses our own immune systems to recognise and attack cancer cells. It's already being used as a standard treatment for some cancers such as melanomas - and being tested on many others too.

- **Cancer immunotherapy drug 'prolongs life'**
- **Prostate cancer drug hailed as 'big deal'**
- **Half of people surviving 'untreatable cancer'**

What did the study find? It found that one in 20 men with advanced prostate cancer responded to the drug pembrolizumab - and saw their tumours actually shrink or disappear altogether. Although a relatively small number, some of them gained years of extra life, the study in the Journal of Clinical Oncology found. A further 19% saw some evidence of improvement. But most patients in the study lived for an average of eight months on the drug.

The phase II clinical trial, led by the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden, involved 258 men with advanced prostate cancer who had run out of all other options on treatment.

What happens next? The most dramatic responses were seen in patients whose tumours had mutations in genes involved in repairing DNA. Researchers are now investigating whether this group might benefit the most from immunotherapy in a larger trial. But first, a test to pick out who will respond best is needed, so that doctors know which patients to give it to.

What is prostate cancer? It's the most common cancer in men in the UK, with **around 47,700 diagnosed in the UK each year.** The number of people diagnosed has been rising over the last 10 years. This is probably because the population is getting older and more people are having PSA tests. Around 30% of men with advanced or stage 4 prostate cancer survive their cancer for five years or more after diagnosis.

What do experts say? "Immunotherapy has had tremendous benefits for some cancer patients, and it's fantastic news that even in prostate cancer, where we don't see much immune activity, a proportion of men are responding well to treatment," says Professor Paul Workman, chief executive of The Institute of Cancer Research. "A limitation with immunotherapy is that there's no good test to pick out those who are most likely to respond. "It's encouraging to see testing for DNA repair mutations may identify some patients who are more likely to respond, and I'm keen to see how the new, larger trial in this group of patients plays out."

Professor Johann de Bono, a consultant medical oncologist at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, was one of those who led the study. He said: "We don't see much activity from the immune system in prostate tumours, so many oncologists thought immunotherapy wouldn't work for this cancer type. "But our study shows that a small proportion of men with end-stage cancer do respond, and crucially that some of these men do very well indeed. "We found that men with mutations in DNA repair genes respond especially well to immunotherapy, including two of my own patients who have now been on the drug for more than two years."

Last week, a separate trial found the same drug kept some people's advanced head and neck cancers at bay for an average of two years - five times longer than under chemotherapy. Both studies are part of a growing body of research suggesting immunotherapy could offer hope to an increasing number of cancer patients.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-50577728>

VIEWPOINT: PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING TEST 'IN SIGHT'

By Prof Mark Emberton Professor of Interventional Oncology, UCL

17 December 2019

MRI scans can safely reduce the numbers of men needing an invasive biopsy - A large new trial is testing whether MRI scans could be an effective way to screen men for prostate cancer, in a similar way to mammograms offered to women to check for breast cancer. In this article for the BBC, leading expert Prof Mark Emberton explains why finding a suitable screening method for this common male cancer is vital but has proved difficult so far.

"Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer in men, with around 130 new cases diagnosed in the UK every day and more than 10,000 men a year dying from the disease. "Unfortunately, the way we currently spot the disease is not very precise. "Traditionally, we have used a blood test looking for raised levels of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) and then carried out a biopsy which means taking some tissue from the prostate gland to examine under the microscope. "But PSA levels are not a reliable indicator of prostate cancer - about 75% of men who get a positive result are not found to have cancer, while it misses the cancer in about 15% of men with prostate cancer. "So we currently diagnose cancers that are harmless, leading to unnecessary investigations and operations, and we miss cancers that are harmful, leaving the disease to multiply and move around the body unchecked."

Is imaging the answer? - The ReIMAGINE project, which Prof Emberton is part of, is being led by University College London and includes researchers at Imperial College, Kings College London and clinicians at UCLH. Prof Emberton says: "By using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), we hope to change how **prostate cancer** is diagnosed and then treated. "We know from international research that MRI can markedly and safely reduce the numbers of men needing an invasive biopsy. "This research recently led to changes in official health guidelines, with MRI now recommended as the first test for men referred to hospital by their GP with suspected prostate cancer.

- **Scientists seek clues to 'birth of cancer'**
- **'Fry and Turnbull' prostate cancer effect**
- **Prostate cancer: New urine test hope**

"As part of the project, we want to see if MRI could also be an effective tool for screening healthy men, in the same way there are national NHS screening programmes to detect signs of breast or cervical cancer."

How is it being trialled? - From this month, 300 men, aged between 50 to 75 years old, will be randomly selected from London GPs and sent a letter explaining that they can join the trial. Each patient will be given a PSA blood test and a 10-minute MRI scan. **Hundreds of men will be involved in the trial using MRI scans.** By combining the results of the PSA test and analysing the MRI images, radiologists and urologists will work together to more accurately diagnose whether a man has signs of prostate cancer or not.

Why is this important? - Prof Emberton explains: "Capturing harmful cancer at the earliest opportunity will lead to quicker treatments, significantly better outcomes for those men affected and ultimately save lives. "It will also reduce the numbers of men undergoing biopsy, which in turn will reduce NHS costs and free up staff time. "The other important aspect of the study will be to examine whether, combined with cutting-edge techniques such as genomics and machine learning, MRI scans can replace prostate biopsies. "Prostate cancer patient groups are a hugely important part of the study, and the prospect of achieving a large reduction in biopsies is a significant wish - as they can have serious side effects in patients, including pain, bleeding and infections. "Our team aims to recruit 1,000 men with medium to high risk cancers to find out if MRI can be combined with other high-tech diagnostic tests to predict cancer progression. "The ultimate aim is to develop tests that are better than biopsies for targeting the right cancer treatment to the right person - including determining if they don't need treatment. "We are hopeful that, as a result of our study, we might be in a position to get rid of the biopsy and advise men on their risk based on and MRI and a blood test alone. "Targeting and treating prostate cancer using advanced imaging is one of the most disruptive discoveries I can recall in men's health and draws on multi-disciplinary expertise from university researchers and clinicians across the globe.

"By working together, we can and will continue to make significant breakthroughs in tackling cancer."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-50249857>