



**PARITY**

**Equal Rights for Men and Women**

**Patrons:**

Mr Mark Brooks OBE

Dr Richard A.W. Bradford

**Email:** [secretary@parity-uk.org](mailto:secretary@parity-uk.org)

**Website:** <https://parity.charity/>

**Registered Charity No.  
1107795**

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### **MEN IN A MAZE BY EDWARD CRABTREE.**

LOUIS THEROUX’S NEW LOOK AT THE `MANOSPHERE` HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE INADEQUACIES OF SOME YOUNG MALE INFLUENCERS. BUT WHAT REAL PROBLEMS ARE THESE YOUNG MEN REACTING TO – AND CAN THE INTERNET EVER BECOME A PROPER VEHICLE FOR SUPPORTING MEN?

It is all the talk of the global village. Louis Theroux, the celebrated documentarian, has turned his attention on to the so called `manosphere`. For this snide establishmentarian the strutting youths that make up this trend were always going to be low hanging fruit. He seems to have exposed some of the

main figures of this media space to be insecure and hateful moneygrubbers.

How right is he? How did we get here?

### **Before the deluge.**

In Britain in the late nineties groups began to emerge that advocated for men. The unfair treatment of men and fathers following divorce, the iniquities of the Child Support Agency and the incessant jeering at men on TV shows and in the print media had all reached critical mass.

In those days the building of any male affirmative lobby was kept in abeyance by the goalkeepers of that same media. Television and newspapers were under the control of specialised journalists who decided on the content of what was to be published and broadcast. They were influenced by a certain brand of establishment `Political correctness` and the defence of men and boys formed no part of their remit.

Men's advocates were left to rely on sending letters to papers and magazines (which sometimes got published), getting on phone in radio shows, appearances on television studio debates, photocopied self-publications, meetings in rented pubs and...graffiti.

### **Friend or foe?**

The arrival of the internet, meanwhile, was starting to become entrenched in everyday transactions. The men's advocates of the day, aware of this, fell into two broad slates. There were those keen to embrace the `information superhighway` as `the way of the future` and those who worried that the message would get drowned out in all the babble of this wild new medium.

The former position won out, of course, but, with hindsight, we can say that the latter position also had some points in its favour.

We can now look at the balance sheet and ask ourselves: how many real advances have men's advocates made in overturning anti-male prejudices and discrimination via the online world?

After a quarter of a century of life online, a demographic has grown up for whom the internet is reality and the offline world but a shadow of it.

Where are we now?

Have men's equitable rights been addressed?

### **Some wins.**

Gains have been made in some areas. The kind of male bashing in television commercials and on advertising posters – which seemed to reach fever pitch in the nineties- is less prevalent now for having been challenged (albeit less is the case with the depiction of men in television sitcoms).

Men's health issues too – such as male specific cancers, say, or eating disorders –are topics which now receive more examination.

Overall, the very concept of `men's rights` - once seen as comedic – now takes its place in the public domain. True, it is all too often distorted and reviled, but it gets a hearing.

### **Hall of mirrors.**

Promising a Hyde Park of cyberspace, the internet is more like a frenetic open-air market full of spivs all shouting for your attention. Image rules. The most potent image of all is that of the attractive young woman.

The internet pours forth a steady stream of soft porn lust objects. They sell courses and medicine, are the face of news and vlogs and offer life coaching. They are more and more apt to consist of A.I generated images. Ameile tells us that it's okay to eat pork sausages, Loora coaches our English language pronunciation. Young men, pelted with all these unrealistic images, grow up with skewed expectations of women that even an A.I girlfriend cannot satisfy.

It is not easy for pro-male voices to get a proper hearing in this kind of glitzy environment. The term `manosphere` was coined to critique those who have made the attempt.

This term is flawed. It includes, under one banner, many distinct initiatives. The term does nothing to look at what it is that causes men to speak up for themselves. It also fails to

notice the equivalent `womansphere` which is every bit as `toxic` on behalf of women. So it is that the few good male affirmative platforms get stigmatised.

### **Suckersphere.**

First came pick-up artists who dispensed advice to young men on how to win the desirable young women (whose images they were all too familiar with). Then hot on their heels came the gym sculpted, cigar smoking shade wearing `bros` who were offering a way out of the whole `matrix`. A common theme of this tendency is to place all the burden on men. They have to work on themselves first in order to become worthy of the kind of women they so desire. Thus, the message is all about self-help. Fitness routines, supplements, get rich schemes and the adoption of a dog-eat-dog attitude to the world are all touted. The way out of the matrix looks very like the way into the matrix!

Much saner pro-male commentators have also compounded things by chiming in with similar `wisdom`. This year Scott Galloway appeared on *Triggernometry* (`You've been Lied to About Masculinity`. February 15th, 2026). He was asked what the `man code` should be for the young men of today. Galloway's reply was all about finding `economic viability` in order to `take responsibility for the household`. He must `figure out how to make money`.

The male unemployment rate in Britain is at a five year high with young male unemployment set to reach 16.1% (Office for National Statistics). It is not clear how many men can aspire to anything like wealth – by legal means.

Another way to female approval is `Looksmaxxing`. Since 2010 this has had men doing a spot of `bone smashing` - pounding one's head with a mallet -to give one's jaw a bit of definition. The `looksmaxxers` also recommend chemical aids in the form of memphetamines, ozempic and the old tried and trusted steroids. (*El Pais 50, January 22nd 2026*).

Of course, some men seek to distance themselves from all this posturing. They wave a green flag and promise an antidote to `toxic masculinity`. Do they escape ridicule though?

### **Damned if you do....**

These men present themselves as `soft, stylish and self-aware`. Essential accoutrements include tote bags, labubu dolls, lip balm and, of course, matcha latte coffees. `Performative males` is what pop culture has dubbed these men. This term, according to Meriam-Webster is a `disparaging and dismissive term`. (`Performative Males – Curated to Your Taste, *The Times of India*, August 22nd 2025). A whole new kind of male-bashing has arisen in answer to these `pick me` males – just take a look at You tube.

### **The Medium is the Message.**

Critiques of what the internet is doing to young men's minds have been confined to older academic figures like Jonathan Haidt. Younger and angrier contributions are needed. A conservative Christian young British woman called Freya India seems to be leading the charge so far, but she focuses on the problems it creates for her fellow young women. Some sort of male counterpart of her is needed.

### **Beyond the mansphere.**

Men's advocates need to return to baseline principles. Our movement is not a sales pitch, a strutting pose nor some sort of therapeutic messianism. What it constitutes is a sociopolitical lobby concerned with the equitable rights between men and women in a legal framework. We reserve special ire for the double-standard which bangs on about `equality` while turning a blind eye to the problems of men and boys.

Our demands need to now include such things as the call for critical thinking classes in school – the better to equip young minds with a defence mechanism against all the online slop which is forever coming their way. In addition, we must at least think about age restrictions on access to certain parts of the internet.

We should progress beyond the view of men as just paychecks and embody a call for a type of `male liberation` in which a man's worth is not to be judged on a material level alone.

To do this best, we should step outside of the online world now and then. We could start by setting up (real) stalls in (real) high streets dishing out leaflets explaining the real issues which are eating the young `manosphere` pundits, for example.

**Comment received:**

*"There is a current campaign to shut down freedom of expression for men, to shut men up and shut men out of communication, and the ability to receive ideas and information: <https://fiamengofile.substack.com/p/masculinity-experts-map-the-manosphere>*

*It is massively funded, and globally organised <https://jamesluzzo.substack.com/p/un-male-data-suppression>*

*(no equivalent global campaign regarding women) [https://genxanecdotes.substack.com/p/the-manosphere-isnt-the-problem-feminism?utm\\_medium=ios](https://genxanecdotes.substack.com/p/the-manosphere-isnt-the-problem-feminism?utm_medium=ios)*

*<https://j4mb.org.uk/2026/02/19/alexander-grace-the-reluctant-enemy-how-basic-pattern-recognition-woke-men-up/>*

*But men have an equal right to freedom of expression.*

*<https://www.psypost.org/women-who-hate-men-study-finds-similarities-in-gendered-online-hate-speech-2026-03-26/>*

*Parity will resist (and try to reverse) these attempts at censorship."*

## **MEN'S HEALTH STRATEGY**

### **MEN'S HEALTH FORUM**

#### **Forum welcomes Men's Health Strategy**

Men's health sector comes together to celebrate England's good news. The Forum has joined with the wider men's health sector to warmly welcome the UK Government's first ever Men's Health Strategy for England.

It is a historic day for us all. Now government and the sector must work together to turn promise into progress.

The government says the strategy supports its ambition to halve the gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest regions, while increasing it for everyone. A stakeholder group will oversee implementation of the strategy, with the government publishing a one-year report to ensure accountability.

*Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, said:* For too long, men's health has been overlooked. There has been a reluctance to accept that men suffer specific inequalities and hardships. The fact is that life can be really difficult for men in today's society.

Men are dying nearly four years earlier than women, and suicide remains one of the leading causes of death for men under 50.

This strategy marks a turning point – the first time we're taking comprehensive, coordinated action to address the health challenges facing men and boys. From partnering with the premier league to rolling out health support in the workplace – we're meeting men where they are and giving them the support they need to live longer, healthier lives.

### **Historic milestone**

*The Forum's chair, Dr John Chisholm CBE, said:* I welcome today's publication of the Men's Health Strategy for England and the personal commitment of the Secretary of State to that Strategy.

The Men's Health Forum has been campaigning and advocating for a national strategy for over a decade, working with other organisations. A strategic, gendered approach to healthcare should improve access and outcomes and address inequalities. It is particularly welcome that organisations committed to improving the health of men and boys will be involved in a stakeholder group helping to implement the Strategy, and that there is a commitment to evaluate progress in a year's time. It is also encouraging that the Strategy addresses societal,

structural and systemic issues that hamper the health and wellbeing of men and boys.

The Forum joined with its partners across the men's health sector in a united response to 'a truly historic milestone and a defining moment in the effort to improve the health and wellbeing of men and boys across the country'.

*Michelle Terry, the CEO of Movember, said:* This bold strategy has strong foundations which can be built on and delivered by government, charities, health professionals, men and their communities working together.

We now need rapid progress and delivery of the action plan to ensure this strategy creates real, measurable change. The UK has the opportunity not just to turn the tide on men's health, but to become a global leader in men's health policy, and a strong plan deserves backing.

### **Handful of countries**

*Peter Baker, CEO of Global Action on Men's Health, said:* "It's great that England has joined the handful of countries around the world with national men's health strategies. We know that a male-focused, co-ordinated and system-wide approach can accelerate the changes that are urgently needed to improve men's unnecessarily poor outcomes and we hope that other governments will now soon follow England's excellent example."

Men's health doesn't exist in isolation and the gender-aware approach that the Forum has been calling for across all health services will benefit women's health too.

*Martin Tod, who has been the Forum's lead on the Men's Health Strategy for over a decade, said:* This is a big day for men's health and will make a real difference. Understanding the different health needs of men and women is better for men and better for women. It's excellent that there's also a strong focus on the needs of men who face the biggest health challenges: when it comes to health, the biggest gaps are between different men – not between men and women. After many years campaigning, we're delighted at today's announcement.

The government has called it a 'landmark strategy' which 'aims to tackle crisis in men's mental health, improve physical health and reduce inequalities.'

## **Specific pledges**

The strategy already contains a number of specific pledges:

- £3.6 million over the next three years for suicide prevention projects for middle-aged men in local communities across areas of England where men are at most risk of taking their own lives, including some of the most deprived areas in the country. For example, with Samaritans, Together Against Suicide was launched by the Premier League in September 2025 and provides matchday support for fans in stadiums, initially through 11 pilot clubs, as well as providing an online hub of information for fans and followers watching from home.
- The development of home prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing for men being monitored for prostate cancer
- £3 million for community-based men's health programmes, designed to reach those most at risk and least likely to engage with traditional services
- Men's health training for healthcare professionals through new e-learning modules and resources
- Workplace health pilots with EDF Energy through the Keep Britain Working Vanguard Programme to support male workers in male-dominated industries
- Enhanced lung disease support for former miners, with increased investment in the Respiratory Pathways Transformation Fund in areas with significant former mining communities
- Funding research to help prevent, diagnose, treat and manage the major male killers and causes of unhealthy life years in men
- A £200,000 trial of new brief interventions to target the rise in cocaine- and alcohol-related CVD deaths, particularly among older men.

**PRESS RELEASE - GOVERNMENT UNVEILS ENGLAND'S FIRST EVER MEN'S HEALTH STRATEGY - THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES BOLD PLAN TO TACKLE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES FACED BY MEN AND BOYS, AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES.**

***From: Department of Health and Social Care and The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP Published 18 November 2025***

Landmark strategy published on International Men's Day aims to tackle men's mental health challenges, improve physical health and reduce inequalities so men and boys get on and live longer, healthier lives.

As part of the strategy, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will team up on the Premier League's Together Against Suicide initiative and smash the stigma around mental health.

Men with prostate cancer will also benefit from improved care through the strategy, alongside £3.6 million investment in suicide prevention projects targeting middle-aged men.

Men and boys across England will benefit from tailored healthcare and support as the government launches its first Men's Health Strategy.

Launched on International Men's Day, the bold plan sets out comprehensive action to tackle the physical and mental health challenges men and boys face every day.

Men can be less likely to seek help and more likely to suffer in silence. This, combined with a higher propensity to smoke, drink, gamble and use drugs, means men's health is suffering, having a significant impact on families, workplaces and communities. This strategy will help give men and boys to get on and live longer, healthier lives.

Suicide is one of the biggest killers of men under 50 and three-quarters of all suicides are men. That's why the government is investing £3.6 million over the next 3 years in suicide prevention projects for middle-aged men in local communities across areas of England where men are at most risk of taking their own lives, including some of the most deprived areas in the country. This comes on top of expanding mental health teams in schools to ensure an additional 900,000 pupils have access to support by April 2026.

The projects will break down barriers that middle-aged men face in seeking support, such as the stigma associated with seeking help and a lack of awareness of what is available and how to access it. Projects will be co-designed with experts and men with lived experience of mental health crises and suicidal thoughts.

The focus on suicide prevention includes a partnership on the Premier League's Together Against Suicide initiative with the Samaritans, which looks to help tackle the stigma around men's mental health and embed health messaging into the matchday experience.

*Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, said:* For too long, men's health has been overlooked. There has been a reluctance to accept that men suffer specific inequalities and hardships. The fact is that life can be really difficult for men in today's society. Men are dying nearly 4 years earlier than women, and suicide remains one of the leading causes of death for men under 50.

This strategy marks a turning point - the first time we're taking comprehensive, co-ordinated action to address the health challenges facing men and boys.

Teaming up with the Premier League will harness the power of football to break down barriers and reach millions of men who might never walk through a GP's door.

We know men are less likely to come forward for healthcare. From partnering with the premier league to rolling out health support in the workplace - we're meeting men where they are and giving them the support they need to live longer, healthier lives.

Together Against Suicide was launched by the Premier League in September 2025 and provides matchday support for fans in stadiums, initially through 11 pilot clubs, as well as providing an online hub of information for fans and followers watching from home.

This partnership will enhance that support by ensuring clubs are working closely with their local NHS trusts, increasing their knowledge and training on suicide prevention, as well as actively promoting existing mental health and suicide prevention support such as NHS Talking Therapies and Every Mind Matters.

*Premier League Chief Executive, Richard Masters, said:* Unfortunately, suicide is an issue that affects people of all ages and backgrounds. Football has the power to break down stigma and connect fans with support that can make a real difference. Through the Premier League's Together Against Suicide initiative, we are working with clubs and partners to reduce the stigma around suicide and provide ongoing support for people who need it most.

This means providing matchday services through clubs, creating an online hub with professional help and promoting conversations that can help change lives. Whether it's speaking to family and friends, to experts on a matchday or contacting the Samaritans' free support line, fans should know help is always within reach.

We are pleased to be supporting the government's Men's Health Strategy. By joining forces, we can make a positive difference - and we urge fans to look after themselves and those they care about.

Men face a range of barriers in accessing healthcare services, such as stigma and services that are not responsive to men's needs - we want men to overcome these issues and stop too many cases of preventable deaths.

This strategy puts men's health front and centre, addressing the challenges men face and designing solutions with men, for men.

Men with prostate cancer will also benefit from improved care through the strategy, including the development of home prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing for those being monitored for the disease.

From 2027, subject to clinical approval, men diagnosed with prostate cancer that is being actively monitored or treated will be able to order and complete PSA blood tests at home, or book an in-person blood test locally through the NHS App.

**Other commitments in the Men's Health Strategy include:**

- investing £3 million into community-based men's health programmes, designed to reach those most at risk and least likely to engage with traditional services
- men's health training for healthcare professionals through new e-learning modules and resources
- workplace health pilots with EDF Energy through the Keep Britain Working Vanguard Programme to support male workers in male-dominated industries
- enhanced lung disease support for former miners, with increased investment in the Respiratory Pathways Transformation Fund in areas with significant former mining communities
- funding research to help prevent, diagnose, treat and manage the major male killers and causes of unhealthy life years in men

- a £200,000 trial of new brief interventions to target the rise in cocaine and alcohol-related cardiovascular disease (CVD) deaths, particularly among older men

The Men's Health Strategy supports the government's ambition to halve the gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest regions, while increasing it for everyone.

It tackles unhealthy behaviours, loneliness and social isolation, and harmful societal norms that prevent men seeking help, focusing on places that men frequent such as workplaces and sports clubs to drive change.

*Professor Lucy Chappell, Chief Scientific Adviser at DHSC and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), said:* We know that men are disproportionately affected by certain conditions, such as some forms of cancer and addiction, and even rates of suicide. This strategy provides a critical focus for the NIHR's research efforts, ensuring we target research to the health and care needs that cause the greatest burden on men's lives.

The NIHR is committed to ensuring that research is inclusive and representative, and we are uniquely positioned to help address health inequalities, fund and deliver new research that reaches all men.

*Michelle Terry, Chief Executive Officer, Movember, said:* Today marks a historic day for men's health in the UK. This bold strategy has strong foundations which can be built on and delivered by government, charities, health professionals, men and their communities working together.

We now need rapid progress and delivery of the action plan to ensure this strategy creates real, measurable change. The UK has the opportunity not just to turn the tide on men's health, but to become a global leader in men's health policy, and a strong plan deserves backing.

*Julie Bentley, Chief Executive Officer, Samaritans, said:* Three-quarters of suicides are by men so the time for action is now

and today's announcement is a great start. It's hugely positive to see this new strategy, the first of its kind, making suicide prevention a core focus.

Suicide isn't inevitable but preventing it takes teamwork and Samaritans' Together Against Suicide initiative with the Premier League is a powerful partnership aimed at reaching men where they are.

We welcome the government's recognition of the impact of suicide on men and the inclusion of suicide in the Men's Health Strategy is an important step in us together tackling the tragic reality that suicide is the biggest killer of men under 50.

*Chiara De Biase, Director of Health Services, Equity and Improvement at Prostate Cancer UK, said:* We're pleased to see the government prioritising improvement of men's experience of prostate cancer care as part of the Men's Health Strategy. Vital changes like giving men more control over their health and providing them with personalised support is long overdue, and we're committed to working with the government and the NHS to turn these words into actions that have a life changing impact for men. We look forward to seeing the details on these proposed changes.

The earlier you find prostate cancer, the easier it is to treat, so any men concerned can head to the Prostate Cancer UK's online 'risk checker' to find out if they're at risk of prostate cancer and what they can do about it.

This first ever Men's Health Strategy is a crucial first step, laying the foundation from which we can learn, change and improve the approach. It is not just a plan, it is a call to action to create a society where:

- men and boys are supported to live longer, healthier and happier lives
- stigma is replaced by understanding
- every man knows that his health matters

A stakeholder group will oversee implementation of the strategy, with the government publishing a one year report to ensure accountability.

*Musician and Movember ambassador, Professor Green (Stephen Manderson), said:* Like too many families, mine has lived through the unthinkable impact of male suicide. Today marks the start of government working with experts to tackle that.

The challenges facing men go far beyond simply not going to the doctor. We need a joined-up approach across government to look at how we raise boys, the role of fathers, the influence of culture and schools, and how health services meet men where they are. That's how we build communities of healthier men.

*Lord Foster of Bath, Chair of Action on Gambling, said:* The first ever Men's Health Strategy is an important milestone, and the fact that it correctly identifies gambling as a significant risk is particularly welcome. Under the leadership of the Department of Health [and Social Care], progress in tackling preventable health issues that disproportionately impact men, such as problem gambling, will at last be possible.

*Greg Fell, President of the Association of Directors of Public Health, said:* This new strategy recognises that there is no one solution and sets out sensible and achievable goals that everyone involved in improving men's health and wellbeing can work towards.

We are pleased to see this new strategy emphasises preventing the many avoidable illnesses and diseases - including a number of cancers and respiratory and mental health conditions - that are driven by smoking, drinking and gambling. The focus on improving wellbeing is also welcome.

At a local level, directors of public health already fund a variety of projects tackling these issues - many of which are organised by the voluntary sector. For this strategy to be truly effective, the government must build on the positive changes that are

already being made, not just in the short term but for generations of boys and men to come.

*Dr Charmaine Griffiths, Chief Executive at the British Heart Foundation, said:* Cardiovascular disease is one of the UK's biggest killers of men, claiming the lives of more than one in 4 of our brothers, fathers, uncles and sons. Today's strategy for England is a vital step forward in tackling this major health challenge.

CVD doesn't affect all men equally, so we fully back ambitions to improve the health and wellbeing of all men and boys by meeting them where they are and increasing the support available for them in their local community.

We are pleased to see government recognise the important role environmental and social influences play in men's health, and how addressing these can help protect more men from developing CVD. For example, investing in support to quit smoking will enable more men and boys to live long lives in good heart health for generations to come.

*Mark Brooks OBE, Director of Policy, Centre for Policy Research on Men and Boys, said:* The Men's Health Strategy is game changing. Alongside focusing on improving health outcomes for men and boys, it puts men's health firmly on the map. This is because, for the first-ever time, it is recognised as a distinct and vital area of public policy, professional practice and public health. The complementary focus on health research is very welcome too. The more evidence and understanding we have of what works will be a huge leap forward. This not only benefits men and boys themselves, it benefits their families, the community and the economy.

*James Grimes, Director of Chapter One, Gambling with Lives, said:* The release of this strategy is very welcome, especially in its recognition of the health harms caused by gambling - harms felt by countless men across the country.

As someone who has struggled with mental health issues driven by gambling, I wholeheartedly support the government's focus on prevention and hope to see continued action on the commercial factors that shape our health.

*Peter Baker, Chief Executive, Global Action on Men's Health, said:* It's great that England has joined the handful of countries around the world with national men's health strategies. We know that a male-focused, co-ordinated and system-wide approach can accelerate the changes that are urgently needed to improve men's unnecessarily poor outcomes and we hope that other governments will now soon follow England's excellent example.

*Councillor Dr Wendy Taylor MBE, Chair of the Local Government Association's Health and Wellbeing Committee, said:* Recognising men's health as a national concern is an important step to improving the stark discrepancies in life expectancy and health outcomes, particularly between men living in wealthy and deprived areas.

We know that men face unique barriers to care, including lower engagement with preventive services, cultural stigmas and distrust associated with seeking help. Tailored interventions such as mental health outreach and workplace health initiatives are essential to overcoming these issues. Local councils have been working in partnership with community groups and grassroots organisations to effectively address men's health in this way and they remain ideally placed to lead and foster this working.

The silent health crisis among men is a pressing issue for society, but with sustained attention and collective action, we can ensure that more men receive the support they need to lead longer, happier and healthier lives.

*Dr John Chisholm CBE, Chair of the Men's Health Forum, said:* I welcome today's publication of the Men's Health Strategy for England and the personal commitment of the Secretary of

State to that strategy. The Men's Health Forum has been campaigning and advocating for a national strategy for over a decade, working with other organisations.

A strategic, gendered approach to healthcare should improve access and outcomes and address inequalities. It is particularly welcome that organisations committed to improving the health of men and boys will be involved in a stakeholder group helping to implement the strategy, and that there is a commitment to evaluate progress in a year's time. It is also encouraging that the strategy addresses societal, structural and systemic issues that hamper the health and wellbeing of men and boys.

*Caroline Ellis, Chief Executive Officer of the UK Men's Sheds Association, said:* The UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA) welcomes the launch of England's first-ever Men's Health Strategy.

It is a landmark moment that recognises the importance of community-based and peer-led spaces in supporting men's health and wellbeing. We look forward to working with local communities, partners and policymakers to turn the strategy into positive outcomes for men and boys across the country.

*General Secretary to the National Union of Mineworkers, Chris Kitchen, said:* We welcome the Men's Health Strategy and particularly the announcement of extra support for mineworkers with respiratory conditions.

It is something we have been actively campaigning for and we are delighted the government has taken this onboard and is taking action.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-englands-first-ever-mens-health-strategy>

***Comment Received:***

*"In evaluating the Men's Health strategy Parity must focus on equal rights to health for men and women (under its remit of equal rights for men and women).*

*The first thing to say therefore, is that there is a disparity in costed commitments in the men's and women's health strategies. There is £6.8m allocated in the men's health strategy mentioned here, and £490m in the women's health strategy. That's a factor of 72 times more for the women's health strategy, despite men living nearly four years less. Men do not have an equal right to expectation of health, or of life, so it seems.*

*Secondly, it appears that closing the life expectancy gap between men and women, referenced by the (then) Health Secretary as important, is no longer an aim of the Men's Health Strategy. Hence, even if the Strategy fully achieved its aims, men would still not have the same expectation of life as women. Their life expectancy could even go down relative to women, and the Strategy still be hailed a success. Goalposts moved. Expectations of equality abandoned.*

*Thirdly, there is a difference in ideology, underlying this disparity of treatment of men and women. Alleged deficiencies in women's health are labelled 'medical misogyny' (discrimination?) in the women's strategy, but no such label of 'medical misandry' is attached to labelling of relative deficiencies in men's health care. Disparities there are. For example, there is still no national prostate cancer screening programme for men, despite there being a cervical cancer screening programme for women, and prostate cancer killing more than ten times as many people annually.*

*Parity submitted 68 pages of evidence to the consultation on the Men's Health Strategy, showing how less favourable treatment of men (discrimination?) was feeding into relative poor health outcomes for them- in terms of housing and homelessness, in terms of different treatment by the family courts, different treatment of offences, and imprisonment, in terms of education, and unemployment, and in many other areas. These considerations have not found their way into the*

*Strategy. So, the Strategy can be seen as offering sticking plaster solutions in many areas, rather than dealing with underlying causes.*

*Men's suicide is a case in point. Strongly linked to loneliness, unemployment, relationship breakdown, and suffering domestic abuse, but the (above) causes are not explored and addressed in terms of men's equality. (For example, in terms of domestic abuse, more male victims than female victims of domestic abuse die by suicide, and yet the Government promulgates an ideology (the Duluth framework), which views males as abusers, and females as victims by default.)*

*Parity is concerned that even training courses for therapists have in places become anti-male.*

<https://www.centreformalepsychology.com/male-psychology-magazine-listings/invisible-man-my-experience-as-a-male-trainee-clinical-psychologist-in-a-female-dominated-system>

*That is concerning because contact with a therapist may be the last stop between a man, and death.*

## **NOTICE OF PENDING CLOSURE OF CHARITY OPERATIONS**

Both Parents Matter Cymru & AEGIS male domestic abuse support services regret to announce the cessation of all operations effective 23.59 on 23rd December 2025.

Having served Wales since 18th December 2009 as specialist support providers for male victims of domestic abuse, our organisation has depended on donations and funding from various sources. Unfortunately, current funding has expired, and, despite considerable efforts, we have not secured financial support for continued operations in 2026 and beyond.

Effective 23.59 on 23rd December 2025, we will no longer provide advice or guidance to clients, and the charity will discontinue its operations.

Throughout the years, our management team—Paul, Nick, and Sharan—have diligently supported male victims of abuse,

attended court proceedings with clients, facilitated group meetings both in-person and online, and coordinated Buddy events for fathers and children seeking emotional support. The services provided by our charity have been unique within Wales and England.

We extend our gratitude and best wishes to all clients for their future endeavours. Our commitment has always been to support and advocate for those who needed us most.

Both Parents Matter Cymru has consistently supported an average of over 700 new cases annually in Wales, excluding past client engagements. We are proud of the positive outcomes achieved through our charity, including holding abusers accountable and providing emotional assistance via our Buddy scheme and organised family activities.

### **Latest statistics for 2024 /2025 for Male victims of Abuse: Male MARAC stats year ending March 2025**

This is where a Man has been taken by us or others to MARAC conference with other agencies, such as Police, NHS, Housing, Children services and other professionals where danger to a male victims life is Present.

8068 total Marac cases for male victims of abuse, year ending March 2025 across England and Wales.

The Office for National Statistics has up to date redeveloped statistics for 2023/24 and these should be used (see listings below).

The Office for National Statistics also produced combined figures including sexual abuse, domestic abuse and stalking for 2024/25 (5.1 million people – 3.2m women (12.8%) and 2m men (8.4%)).

### **Summary/Overarching Statistics (Up to Date)**

One in five men (21.7%) said they have been a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime (5.1 million). They consist of 41% of all victims. (ONS) (2023/24)

One in fifteen men (6.5%) said they were a victim of domestic abuse in 2023/24 (1.5 million men). They consist of 40% of all victims. (ONS) (2023/24)

One in five to six men (18.3%) have been a victim of partner abuse in their lifetime (4.3 million). They consist of 40% of all victims. (ONS) (2023/24)

One in twenty men (4.7%) said they were a victim of partner/ex-partner abuse in 2023/24 (1.1 million men). They consist of 39% of all victims. (ONS)

One in fourteen men (6.9%) have been a victim of family abuse in their lifetime (1.6 million). They consist of 39% of all victims. (ONS) (2023/24)

One in thirty eight (2.6%) said they were a victim of family abuse in 2023/24 (608,000) . They consist of 42% of all victims. (ONS) (2023/24)

- Only 4.8% of victims of domestic abuse being supporting by local domestic services are men according to SafeLives data. This highlights how few men are being supported for local domestic abuse services (ONS 2022/23).
- Start of 2025 , across the Uk there are only 128 dedicated male refuge spaces.
- 21% of male victims (2022/23) fail to tell anyone they are a victim of partner abuse – which is big improvement as previously it was 49% in 2017/18. The figures for female victims are 18.2% (2022/23) and 19% (2017/18). (ONS 2022/23).
- 6.5% of male victims & (2.8% women) have considered taking their life due to partner abuse in 2022/23.
- In 2023/24, 8 men died at the hands of their partner or ex-partner compared to 58 women. Over ten years, 120 men have been killed in by a partner/ex-partner compared to 699 women (ONS 2023/24). Of the 40 men killed in domestic homicides involving a partner of ex-partner between April 2020 and March 2023, 33 were by women and 7 by men.

*Both Parents Matter Cymru & AEGIS are services of Both Parents Matter Cymru Registered in Wales as Company Number 07108520 Charity no. 1134723*

## **PENDING CORRUPTIONS OF JUSTICE AT APRIL 2026**

I take the opportunity to summarise some of the recent, and pending, corruptions of justice being enacted by Parliament and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). I address in detail below the proposal to do away with trial by jury in many cases and the proposal to create "specialist courts" for domestic abuse and sexual offences. But first a quick round-up of other corruptions of justice on which I have already written articles.

I have recently addressed the legally sanctioned moral horror of abortion and the two-tier justice in respect of Christians' lone silent prayer versus massed and noisy Muslim prayers.

I have also recently addressed the bewildering variety of primary legislation being used to further the deeply biased perspective on harassment, VAWG and online "safety" under the guise of protection, some of which provides a convenient mechanism for State controlled censorship. These Bills or Acts are deeply prejudiced against men and boys. In the case of boys in schools the misogyny narrative is particularly nasty. This prejudice can only make any misogyny worse because injustice will do that.

Then we have the corruptions of justice specific to sexual offences. This blog includes brief accounts of many specific cases. Even where the accused might be genuinely guilty, two-tier justice is very evident. Then there is the myth about rape myths and the almost unbelievable Operation Soteria and the suspiciously skewed presentation of precedent in the matter of consent after drinking.

Then we have the latest blow to fathers after parental separation. In 2014 fathers won a small victory in the form of the inclusion in the Children and Families Act 2014 of a clause stating, "A court...is, as respects each parent,....to presume,

unless the contrary is shown, that involvement of that parent in the life of the child concerned will further the child's welfare". The present Government has announced its intention to repeal that clause. The clause that was included in the 2014 Act was, in any case, already hugely watered-down by a killer amendment by Baroness Butler-Sloss at that time, the egregious history of which I recorded here.

The repeal is one of the outcomes of the so-called Harms Report of July 2020, a feminist strike against fathers with a degree of prejudice so appalling as to defy brief description. The attempt to raise a Judicial Review of the Harms Report is recorded in Append C to this post, which established that the Government's Legal Department claimed that "There is no automatic right to contact between a parent and child". This remarkable claim (unjustified in law, as far as we can see) is tantamount to claiming that all children 'belong' to the State which may, at its beneficent discretion, allow the parents to be their caregivers... or perhaps not.

### **The Intention to Abolish Juries in Many Trials**

The Attorney General, David Lammy, has announced the Government's plans to abolish trial by jury in all but the most serious offences: 'Swift and fair' plan to get justice for victims. Lammy's announcement is replete with ostensible concern for "victims" but in truth the reason for the proposals is mostly to solve the political embarrassment of the large backlog of cases facing the court. That and the saving of money that will result, as well as Lammy's known ideological bias. David Lammy stated in March 2019 that "the vast majority of women in prison are there because of a man, and are there because of exploitation, and the system is not responding adequately to the role of that man". From his perspective the proposals are all good because our Attorney General does not quite understand the concept of justice.

Even Lammy's friends could hardly claim that he has the sharpest intellect. His appearance on Celebrity Mastermind became comedy gold with gaffs such as believing that Marie Antoinette won the Nobel Prize for physics and that Henry VII acceded the English throne after the death of Henry VIII.

Do note that juries acquit defendants at nearly double the rate of Magistrates' courts (21.6% compared with 11.4%), and that the difference is even greater for offences which challenge free speech (27.6% compared with 15.9%), Free Speech Union. This suggests that the changes to do away with juries will increase the number of miscarriages of justice in Crown Court (noting that all such trials involve a defendant claiming innocence).

It has rightly been observed by others that trial by jury accounts for only about 2% – 3% of all criminal prosecutions. This is mostly because over 90% of prosecutions are addressed by Magistrates courts, not the Crown Court, and the former do not employ juries. The total number of cases entering Magistrates courts in England & Wales is around 1,400,000 per year. In contrast the number of cases entering the Crown court is "only" about 120,000 per year. Of these about 30,000 to 40,000 per year involve trial by jury, i.e., about 25% – 33% of the Crown court cases. The rest will mostly refer to cases where the defendant has pleaded guilty so no trial is required.

To quote a Brunel university article, "These proposals go far beyond the recommendations put forward in Brian Leveson's independent review of the criminal courts, published in July 2025. Leveson proposed trial by judge alone where the defendant requested it, or in particularly lengthy and complex trials. But Lammy's proposals appear to be a watering down of leaked MoJ plans to restrict the use of jury trials to only "public interest" cases with sentences of over five years". The latter observation only raises even more concern that opinion in the MoJ is already calling for juryless trials in an even larger

proportion of cases than Lammy is currently proposing, so we can be confident that that will be the direction of travel if the principle of trial by jury is once overturned.

There is currently a backlog in the Crown court of around 80,000 cases. Whilst there has always been a backlog, the lockdowns and social distancing rules during covid-19 were mostly responsible for the large increase in the backlog from which the system has not recovered.

The proposals will also increase the proportion of cases which can be addressed by Magistrates' courts by increasing their powers of imprisonment to 18 months (from 12 months) with an intimation that this could be extended further to 24 months. But as of early 2026 the Magistrates courts also have a backlog – of a massive 361,000 cases.

Here we are seeing the weakness of the UK's position as regards protecting rights that we have assumed we had, but which can be revoked by Parliament. Contrary to popular belief, Magna Carta does not guarantee jury trials, and any claim that it does would be unlikely to pass muster with legal authority today, though the spirit of that document is another matter. Nor does the Bill of Rights 1689 have anything to say about jury trials. The real basis of trial by jury is the common law. Historically, judges have upheld the principle as a bulwark against excessive State power.

But what if judges themselves become politically captured? In any case, the common law can be overridden by statute. That this is the case results from the doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty. But that doctrine itself has arisen by historical evolution, as with our other constitutional principles.

Human Rights Act 1998 and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) do not mandate jury trials, only fair trials. Article 6 of the ECHR guarantees a fair and public hearing, but it does not require jury trial. The European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly held that non-jury trials can comply with Article 6,

provided fairness is maintained. But who is to guarantee fairness if not “twelve good men and true”?

It would appear that we, the people, are at the mercy of Parliament without protections from constitutional principles that Parliament cannot overturn. Should the people ever regain control over our feral Parliament, this great constitutional matter must be rectified.

It is worth recalling the warning by jurist and legal philosopher Lord Patrick Devlin that “The first object of any tyrant... would be to make Parliament utterly subservient to his will; and next to overthrow or diminish trial by jury... trial by jury is more than an instrument of justice and more than one wheel of the constitution; it is the lamp that shows that freedom lives”. The lamp of freedom in the UK would appear to be sputtering and in real danger of going out.

### **Proposal for “Specialist” Courts for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences**

The history of domestic abuse issues since 2014 has been summarised in my article *Throwing Children to the Wolves*. The rest of this section refers to the Courts and Tribunals Bill now before Parliament, and specifically amendments to the Bill now tabled. Many of the amendments are bids to include the feminist VAWG perspective more firmly into criminal legislation. Anyone who does not appreciate the role that allegations of domestic abuse, including sexual offences, plays within the family courts – and hence with fatherlessness – has not been paying attention. One of the more egregious phenomena which arise in the context of parental separation is parental alienation (PA), a serious psychological assault on the affected children. The feminist axis has long denied the reality of PA, claiming it is merely a ruse for abusive men to deflect attention from their abuse. Consistent with this perspective, amendment NC20 to the Courts and Tribunals Bill, tabled by Jess Brown-Fuller (LibDem), would require courts to determine, on the balance of

probability, if the domestic abuse allegations were valid before any claims of parental alienation would be considered. If abuse is deemed valid, a child's reluctance to see the abusive parent would be presumed to be a justified response.

Amendments NC9 and NC10, also tabled by Jess Brown-Fuller, refer to the training of judges trying cases of domestic abuse, and specifically focus on VAWG.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) and Stella Creasy (Labour) tabled amendment NC2 which would require "specialist courts" for sexual offences and domestic abuse cases. Such courts would be conducted with a jury and specialist judge. The amendment adds, "Additional guidance or directions may be formulated by the judiciary in relation to the nature and dynamics of behaviour including coercive control and honour-based abuse". These "specialist courts" would, the amendment proposes, "incorporate best practice in hearing cases involving violence against women and girls, including ensuring fair and trauma-informed proceedings. Regulations under this section must make provision for such courts to have specialist facilities for alleged victims."

***(My comment: explicit mention of VAWG and means that, if enacted, this would be explicitly gendered law. Focus on "trauma-informed" would embedded a manipulative feminist strategy into law).***

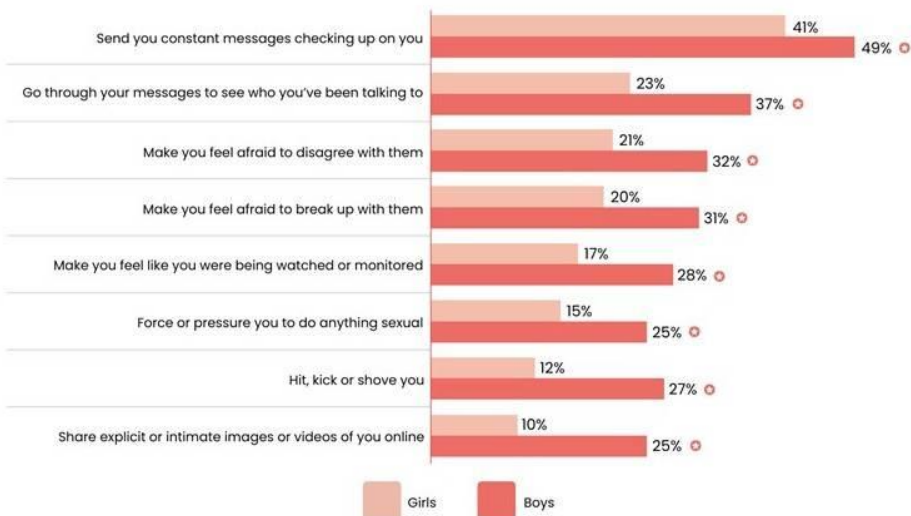
Dr Kieran Mullan (Conservative) proposed amendment NC25 which appears to overlap with NC2. Rather oddly for a Conservative MP he cites the Labour Party manifesto as motivation for raising the amendment. It calls for the setting up of "specialist courts" to address sexual offences. However, it makes no mention of juries. It calls for support from independent sexual violence advisers to be accessible to victims and specialist trauma training to be available for staff working in each such a court.

This entry was posted in justice on 23rd April 2026.

<https://empathygap.uk/?p=4834>

## BASHING BOYS (AGAIN)

Figure 2.2: Proportion of children in relationships who have experienced different types of violent or controlling behaviour by gender



(graphic from Youth Endowment Fund 2024)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vawg-strategy-to-better-protect-children-from-misogyny-and-abuse>

have announcement measures claiming that “the next generation of girls will be better protected from violence and young boys steered away from harmful misogynistic influences”. We are supposed to rejoice that the government will be “tackling” the misogyny in the classroom that we are told is endemic.

The measures will include a helpline for girls to report abuse and “behavioural courses” for boys – compulsory re-education in the best communist fashion. The Prime Minister stated “Every parent should be able to trust that their daughter is safe at school...This is about protecting girls...”

Social media and online “influencers” are blamed for <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9qednjzvw1o> and a link is claimed between such “radicalisation” of schoolboys and violence against women and girls which, the government tell us, is a “national emergency”. The domestic abuse commissioner for England and Wales, Dame Nicole Jacobs, said the measures did “not go far enough”.

But I have a difficulty with all this. Whilst everyone is familiar with the word “misogyny” fewer are familiar with “misandry”, the equivalent when the target of abuse or discrimination is male. And yet the two things are of broadly equal prevalence, and sometimes men or boys are the majority of victims.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/online-abuse/ofcom-urges-tech-firms-to-keep-women-safer-online> on exposure to harmful material online concluded, “Overall, men are more likely than women to have experienced potentially harmful online behaviour or content in the last four weeks (64% vs 60%)”. And yet the title of that report was “Ofcom urges tech firms to keep women safer online”. One wonders why the other half of society warranted no mention despite leading the findings. A similar result was reported in [Ofcom’s 2024 One Nation report](#) which again indicated that men were more likely than women to have experienced potentially harmful online behaviour or content. For teenagers that was reversed, but the percentages remain closely comparable (66% and 73% respectively).

This is hardly new.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2014/10/22/online-harassment/> found that “Overall, men are somewhat more likely than women to experience at least one of the elements of online harassment, 44% vs. 37%”.

Earlier this year, computer scientist and data analyst <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vawg-strategy-to-better-protect-children-from-misogyny-and-abuse> in Nature’s Scientific Reports which analysed gendered hate speech (her phrase) on four openly declared misogynistic or misandric Reddit communities. Her conclusion: “The performed analyses reveal that no systematic differences can be devised across the misogynistic and misandric communities”.

A similar disconnect between the popular narrative exists in domestic abuse. According to the

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixtables>, 41.7% of adult domestic abuse victims are men and just over half of current victims of partner abuse are men. Apparently this is not a national emergency.

The comparable victimisation of the two sexes in these matters has a long history – a history notable principally for being kept from public attention.

But what about bad behaviour by school children? Is this also comparable by boys and girls? It would seem so...except when girls are worse, that is. According to surveys by the [Youth Endowment Fund \(2025\)](#) there is little difference between the percentages of boys and girls aged 13-17 who have participated in discussions about harming specific groups (38% cf 34%).

The [Youth Endowment Fund's 2024 report](#) surveyed over 10,000 children aged 13-17 in England & Wales. It should be common knowledge that boys are more likely to be victims of violence than girls and the findings of the report again confirm that. Of greater interest are the findings on abusive behaviours in relationships. The report summarises this as "Contrary to common perceptions, boys report experiencing higher rates of violent and controlling behaviours from their partners compared to girls". The breakdown into specific behaviours is shown in the graphic which heads this post. In words the relative victimisation was found to be,

- At least one violent or controlling behaviour from their partner: 57% of boys cf 41% of girls. (This is equivalent to 16% and 11% of all 13-17-year-old boys and girls respectively).
- A partner has sent constant messages checking up on you: 49% of boys cf 41% of girls;
- A partner has gone through their phone or social media to see who they've been talking to: 37% of boys cf 23% of girls;
- Made to feel afraid to disagree with their partner: 32% of boys cf 21% of girls;
- Made to feel afraid to break up with their partner: 31% of boys cf 20% of girls;
- Made to feel you were being watched or monitored: 28% of boys cf 17% of girls;
- Forced or pressured you to do something sexual: 25% of boys cf 15% of girls;
- Hit, kicked or shoved you: 27% of boys cf 12% of girls.
- Shared explicit or intimate images or videos of you online: 25% of boys cf 10% of girls.

In short, girls are more controlling, more violent and more sexually predatory in their relationships than boys. For any old traditional conservatives who insist that all girls are sugar and spice and all things nice please be aware that that was always partly fantasy and, perhaps more especially, that girls are not what they were 50 years ago.

This may be contrary to popular perceptions, but only because empirical reality has been systematically kept from public view. It is actually unsurprising. One sex, boys, have already had it drummed into them for decades that these behaviours are reprehensible and will be punished. The other sex, girls, has not. And where bad behaviours go unpunished, and even hidden, of course they will increase. This is the actual background which a profoundly stupid and partisan government is determined to exacerbate.

And recall that boys in school know very well what the reality is without the need for a survey. And this is the backcloth against which they are the ones, exclusively, to receive a bashing (again).

**I am thankful that I do not have school-age sons. If I had school-age daughters now I would be confident they would thrive at school, do well academically and not be subject to endemic discrimination based on their sex. For boys I would be fearful about all those things.**

Why is it that, fifty years ago, it was axiomatic that girls' underachievement at school arose from systemic prejudice, whereas now that boys have been underachieving for decades it is equally axiomatic that it is the boys' own fault – for being boys.

The answer, I believe, lies in the motivation for this latest round of boy bashing. Politicians are ever keen to appear to occupy the moral high ground and the protection of women and girls is always a winner. In contrast, a balanced perspective based on the empirical reality just doesn't carry the same virtue-signalling brownie points. Indeed, an even-handed policy risks the accusation of misogyny being turned against those same politicians, thus guaranteeing they will never go there. In contrast, there's never any downside to bashing boys.

Boys themselves, of course, will be very aware of the reality; as will girls. One does not need to be an expert psychologist to

anticipate that boys subject to this draconian suppression will harbour resentment. It is inevitable, and well deserved.

One wonders whether any of the ministers with longstanding partisan positions are capable of acknowledging that it is not online influencers that have driven a gulf of understanding between the sexes, but they themselves. One wonders if they realise that they are going the right way to create the monster of their own imaginings.

And what is the reality of boys' experience at school now? [A survey of sixth form pupils by Civitas](#) revealed that 41 per cent of the pupils reported they had been taught that young men are a problem for society. Why would anyone expect young men to be positively disposed towards a society which openly despises them?

We have surely reached the point where some parents will be asking themselves whether they want to send their sons to a mixed-sex school. The curious thing about calls for single-sex education after age 11 is that it never seems to come from the lobby that expresses such concern over the safety of girls. Could it be that the last thing they want is for boys to escape their clutches?

This entry was posted in children, education, misandry on 19th December 2025.

<https://empathygap.uk/?p=4786>

## **THE FEMOSPHERE HAS TURNED A GENERATION OF WOMEN AGAINST MEN – BUT HERE'S WHY I STILL LOVE THEM**

*Only a third of women hold a positive view of men, a new poll finds, but, says Charlotte Cripps, it's time to stop finger pointing and take a look at oneself, because if 'you spot it, you got it'*

*The Independent, Saturday 18 April 2026 13:33 BST*

The article argues that a growing number of young women in Britain hold negative views of men, influenced by online culture, political divides, and frustration with gender dynamics. Citing a poll for *The New Statesman*, it notes that only 35% of women under 25 view men positively, compared with much higher approval from men toward women.

Writer Charlotte Cripps links this trend to both misogyny in the “manosphere” — associated with figures like Andrew Tate — and a reactionary “femosphere”, where some women adopt hostile or transactional attitudes toward men. She references social media trends mocking male loneliness and communities promoting cynical dating strategies.

The article also discusses broader social factors: women’s increasing financial independence, declining interest in traditional relationships or motherhood, and concerns about political and cultural issues. At the same time, it highlights pressures on men, including emotional repression and alienation.

Despite acknowledging sexism and violence against women, Cripps criticises what she sees as a culture of blanket “man-hating”. She argues that many women unfairly blame men for personal dissatisfaction and relationship failures while avoiding self-reflection. Her central message is that both sexes contribute to the divide, and that focusing only on men’s flaws deepens hostility between men and women.

The article concludes by warning that the “femosphere” normalises misandry and widens the gender divide, urging people to move away from blame and toward personal accountability and mutual understanding.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/misandrist-femosphere-manosphere-men-women-boys-b2959313.html>

## **RAPE ALLEGATIONS AND ALCOHOL**

**EDITED VERSION OF INSIDE TIME ARTICLE – BL 27/6/26 BY DR MICHAEL NAUGHTON**

A main finding of my latest research is that men are likely languishing in prison because the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) sexually discriminated against them in alleged rape cases on the basis that a drunken woman cannot consent to sex.

An example is the case of John, not his real name, who was convicted for an alleged rape using a legal loophole that treats women and men differently. John and the complainant had both been drinking alcohol on the night that they slept together and whilst a voluntarily incapacitated man must take full responsibility for his actions women can be deemed to be

unable to consent to sex if they are, likewise, voluntarily incapacitated. This means that men who sleep with drunken women are vulnerable to the possibility of allegations of rape if the women regrets sleeping with the man sometime afterwards or has an ulterior motive to claim that they were sexually assaulted, such as a boyfriend or husband finding out about their partner's infidelity.

This highlights how in such cases the CPS is working contrary to its governing guidelines, namely the Code for Crown Prosecutors (CCP), as well as international and domestic human rights laws and the Equality Act 2010, too, which requires the CPS not to distinguish or discriminate between women and men in terms sex, a core protected characteristic under the legislation. The biased approach of the CPS is, apparently, aimed at getting the number of rape convictions up at the expense of risking the wrongful conviction of innocent victims of false allegations.

This contrasts, sharply, with how the criminal justice system deals with alleged criminal offences concerning women where they are responsible for their actions when voluntarily intoxicated. A straightforward example is when a woman who has been drinking alcohol drives a car. That she was voluntarily intoxicated is not an acceptable excuse or a defence against criminal prosecution or conviction for such an offence, and nor should it be. The same is true if a voluntarily intoxicated woman commits a robbery, a burglary or an assault. She is fully responsible for her actions, as any and every other citizen is and should be, irrespective of sex, religious belief, ethnicity, age, and so on.

The conclusion is bleak: unless and until the existing CPS guidance on rape and intoxication is reformed, the wrongful convictions and forms of harm to both falsely accused men and their families that flow from uncorroborated allegations of rape where the complainant says she was voluntarily intoxicated

that are currently being enabled by the CPS will continue unabated.

In response, Empowering the Innocent (ETI) is partnering with Parity, the charity focused on achieving equal rights for men and women, to challenge the CPS's blatant sexual discrimination of men in such cases. The challenge is further supported by False Allegations Support Organisation (FASO), FACT (Facing Allegations in Contexts of Trust), Mothers of Sons and Justice for Men & Boys, as well as a number of notable individuals working in the field, including Professor Janice Fiamengo and Bettina Arndt.

In terms of strategy, a conflict resolution approach will be adopted to try to achieve a change in the current practice through a collaboration with the CPS. In the first instance, this will involve a letter to the CEO of the CPS to request a meeting to try to resolve the existing problem, with a legal challenge being explored should the conciliatory approach fail.

Dr Michael Naughton is a Reader in Sociology and Law at the University of Bristol and Founder and Director of Empowering the Innocent (ETI), a project which gives voice to alleged innocent victims of false allegations and wrongful convictions. He can be contacted at: Dr Michael Naughton, Empowering the Innocent (ETI), c/o University of Bristol Law School, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol, BS8 1RJ.

**Comment received:**

*The law on inebriation and consent is complex (and not fully clarified in the article). Parity's intervention is to ensure the existing case law is applied (e.g. R vs Bree, which says the presence of alcohol ,even in substantial quantities does not OF ITSELF necessarily mean that consent has NOT taken place).*

*Parity believes each case should be tried on its facts, in accordance with the law in this area.*

*Artificial manipulations of the concept of consent is an area Parity will be looking at, because of the gendered nature of the*

*law in Section 1 Sexual Offences Act 2003. Both complainant and defendant are entitled to a fair hearing.*

## **UN MEDIA CAMPAIGNS NORMALIZE BIAS AGAINST MEN**

On May 17, UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, posted the following message on the social media platform X: "Women now outnumber men in higher education globally. Yet important gaps remain. Women continue to be underrepresented at doctoral level and hold only around one quarter of senior leadership positions in academia." (1).

UNESCO acknowledged male underrepresentation as a global concern. But instead of logically calling for programs to help men, UNESCO recommended greater attention to increase the representation of women at the doctoral level.

Readers were outraged. The post drew over 400 public comments, the vast majority of them critical of UNESCO for viewing male underrepresentation as a mere backdrop to women's progress.

The pattern is broader. Earlier this year, the President of the United Nations General Assembly launched the global #LikeAWoman campaign to spotlight women's leadership across politics, science, business, sports, and public life (2). No equivalent United Nations initiative exists to highlight the contributions of men and boys, and the UN programs that do engage males largely frame masculinity as a problem to be corrected rather than a strength to be recognized (3).

Since 2015, UN Women and UNESCO have built substantial infrastructure to challenge gender stereotypes affecting women:

- The Unstereotype Alliance, convened by UN Women in 2017, partners with major advertisers to promote empowering portrayals of women in media (4).
- The Global Media Monitoring Project, supported by UN Women, tracks female representation in news coverage across more than one hundred countries (5).
- Overall, UNESCO's gender and media program funds workshops, toolkits, and policy guidance to dismantle stereotypes that limit women and girls (6).

By contrast, UN programs that engage men and boys center on behavioral reform. The UN Women framework on engaging boys and young men is built around challenging “harmful” norms, redefining male identity, and preventing violence against women (3). The framework contains no parallel commitment to recognizing the fathers, coaches, mentors, and male role models already serving their families and communities.

The imbalance extends into media coverage itself. A five-year content analysis of mainstream news media by Australian researcher Jim Macnamara found that approximately 69% of coverage of men was unfavorable, compared with only 12% that was favorable (7). Persistent negative framing of fathers and male role models has been linked to declining public confidence in male caregivers and to weakened recognition of men's constructive contributions to families, schools, and communities (8).

**What the United Nations acknowledges about men, it does not act upon. What it identifies for women, it advances with funding, frameworks, and global campaigns.**

The ICMB calls on policymakers, media organizations, and United Nations agencies to advance balanced representation of men and boys, study the effects of negative male portrayals, and develop initiatives that honor positive male contributions.

*The International Council for Men and Boys is a non-governmental organization working to end the 12 sex disparities that affect men and boys worldwide. The ICMB is a leader of the emerging global movement to address these disparities.* <https://www.menandboys.net/>

#### **Links:**

1. @UNESCO post on X, May 17, 2026; underlying source: UNESCO Higher Education Global Trends Report — <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/numbers-tell-story-women-men-higher-education>
2. <https://www.un.org/pga/80/2026/03/04/press-release-united-nations-president-of-the-general-assembly-launches-global-campaign-like-a-woman-to-challenge-stereotypes-and-spotlight-womens-leadership-across-sectors/>
3. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/youth/engaging-boys-and-young-men-in-gender-equality>
4. <https://www.unstereotypealliance.org/en/about>

5. <https://whomakesthenews.org/global-media-monitoring-project/>
6. <https://www.unesco.org/en/gender-equality/media-gender-equality>
7. <https://phys.org/news/2006-11-men-main-gender-wars.html>
8. <https://ifstudies.org/blog/no-most-dads-are-not-shiftless-sexist-slouches>

A review of publicly available United Nations materials on media representation, gender stereotypes, masculinity, fatherhood, and portrayals of men and boys analyzed for this release may be accessed here:

[https://grok.com/share/c2hhcmQtMi1jb3B5\\_e6d55b69-63b5-42b1-a51e-c5737c38c3a1](https://grok.com/share/c2hhcmQtMi1jb3B5_e6d55b69-63b5-42b1-a51e-c5737c38c3a1)

The ICMB analysis of the United Nations is available here:

<https://www.menandboys.net/un-2/>

Posted: <https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-media-campaigns-normalize-bias-against-men/>

***Parity takes care to ensure that the details contained in here are free of errors and omissions. However, should you find any major errors, please advise us: [secretary@parity-uk.org](mailto:secretary@parity-uk.org)***