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7 September

Dear Ms Butler,

A public challenge to retract two lies in your submission to the Welsh Assembly's Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee, and to update obsolete statistics on your website

I lead the only political party in the English-speaking world campaigning for the human rights of men and boys, and we're considering contesting the Conservative marginal of Cardiff (North) at the next general election. We have a strong interest in the almost total absence of state support for the large number of men who are victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The prime reason is that since the early 1970s radical feminists have run the organisations which operate refuges, which explains why of over 4,000 refuge places in the UK today, just 17 places are available exclusively to male victims.¹ I believe the 48% of the Welsh electorate who are men have been done a grave disservice by your recent submission to the CELG committee, which is why this letter is also being emailed to Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Local Government and Government Business, Christine Chapman, chair of the CELG committee, and other Welsh Assembly members.

A few facts about IPV which present a *very* different picture to that portrayed by organisations such as your own:

1. Women are as physically aggressive towards intimate partners as men, or more aggressive.²
2. The people reporting the highest levels of partner abuse are lesbians.³
3. In 2012/13 the British Crime Survey reported that 38% of the victims of partner abuse (PA) – of which IPV is a part – were men in the preceding year.³
4. The same survey reported that among victims of PA in the preceding year, 54% of both male and female victims had experienced at least one incident of IPV in the preceding year. A higher proportion of male victims (34%) than female victims (28%) had experienced at least one incident involving *severe* force.³
5. The same survey reported that 21% of both male and female victims of partner abuse had experienced three or more incidents of PA in the preceding year.³
6. While most IPV is reciprocal, in cases where it's one-way, the perpetrator is more likely to be a woman than a man.⁴
7. Only 4% of female perpetrators of IPV report self-defence as a motivation.⁴
8. When the number of IPV-induced suicides is added to the number of murders by intimate partners and ex-partners, more men than women die as a result of IPV.⁵

In recent weeks we've publicly challenged Polly Neate (Chief Executive, Women's Aid)³ and Sandra Horley (Chief Executive, Refuge)⁶ over lies and/or misleading statements made by them and / or their organisations' spokeswomen. Women's refuge organisations have a long inglorious tradition of lying and making misleading statements to further their agendas.

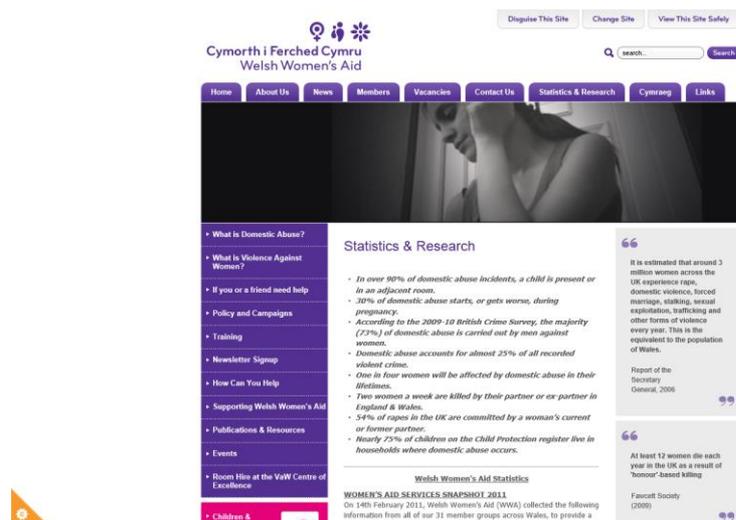
We turn to your latest submission to the CELG committee⁷ which is as full of radical feminist ideology – with its lack of concern for male victims of IPV – as I would expect. Your suggestion that the term 'Violence against women' should be re-introduced into the title of the bill is *obscene* given what has long been known about the non-gendered nature of IPV. A recent study by Dr Elizabeth Bates⁸ concluded that there is no evidence to support the feminist 'male coercion theory' of IPV – the theory that IPV (and the threat of IPV) are used by men (as a class) to control and oppress women (as a class). Indeed the report found that women are more likely than men to be 'intimate terrorists'.

There is a great deal in your submission I could challenge, but lack of time means I cannot do so. I'll focus on two lies, and I publicly challenge to retract them, by writing to the Clerk of the Committee, and the Committee members. In section 5.6 of your submission you state the following, and I've highlighted the lies in yellow:

As women and girls are the overwhelming majority of victims of these types of violence and abuse, and 95% of perpetrators have been found to be men, the benefit of retaining this term within the Bill far outweighs any initial confusion that may be caused in regards to coverage.

The links I provided earlier show the first statement to be a lie. The second lie has an associated reference, linking to a 2008 CPS report.⁹ That report does *not* state that '95% of perpetrators (of IPV) have been found to be men'. It states that 95% of those *charged* with IPV (over April – September 2006) were men – a *very* different matter. There are a number of reasons for this high proportion. Over many years British Crime Surveys have consistently reported that male victims of IPV are far more reluctant than women to report their abusers to the police and others. The justice system is institutionally biased against men, and treats women far more leniently in the area of IPV as in others, for evidence of this we refer you to the report *Partner Violence Against Men and the Gender Bias of Public Bodies*.¹⁰ Historically the police/CPS have been far more ready to take proceedings against male perpetrators than female perpetrators, but this is changing, and in recent years the number of female perpetrators being charged with IPV has risen dramatically.

We turn now to two obsolete statistics on your website¹¹ shown on the following screen shot:



At least two of the statistics are obsolete, and incorrect – we don't have time to check the others. You state:

- According to the 2009-10 British Crime Survey, the majority (73%) of domestic abuse is carried out by men against women.
- Two women a week are killed by their partner or ex-partner in England & Wales.

Why would you still be reporting the 73% figure from the 2009/10 BCS? The 2011/12 survey stated a figure of 60%, the 2012/13 survey 62%.

Two women a week are *not* being killed by partners or ex-partners in England and Wales. The latest official figure is below 1.5 per week, so it would be more accurate, if you must engage in ‘rounding’ numbers, to state *one* woman per week. Laura Bates of The Everyday Sexism Project reported the same ‘two women per week’ lie in a talk she gave a few months ago. A leading blogger, Herbert Purdy, has just posted a lengthy blog piece¹² in which he states:

When Ms Bates so simperingly complains that ‘Over two women a week are being killed by their male partners’ etc., she is lying: nakedly, baldly, and culpably.

I look forward to you confirming you’ve emailed the Clerk of the CELG committee retracting the lies in your recent submission, and you’ve updated the statistics on your website. In the meantime we’ll be posting this public challenge on our website¹³ and we shall, of course, also report your retraction of the lies and the updating of statistics, should you have the humanity and integrity to do these things.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Buchanan

PARTY LEADER

References

¹ <http://mankind.org.uk/factsmalevicitms.html>

² <http://j4mb.wordpress.com/domestic-violence-women-are-as-physically-aggressive-as-or-more-aggressive-than-men-in-their-relationships-with-intimate-partners/>

³ <http://j4mb.wordpress.com/womens-aid-our-public-challenge-of-polly-neate-ceo/>

⁴ <http://j4mb.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/140514-mankind-conference-slough-2013-female-perpetrators-of-intimate-partner-violence.pdf>

⁵ <http://j4mb.wordpress.com/domestic-violence-more-men-than-women-die-as-a-result-of-it/>

⁶ <http://j4mb.wordpress.com/refuge-our-public-challenge-of-sandra-horley-chief-executive/>

⁷ http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=598:gbv&catid=35:news&Itemid=168

⁸ <http://j4mb.wordpress.com/2014/07/29/a-study-on-the-male-control-theory-of-intimate-partner-violence/>

⁹ http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/vaw/vaw_cia.html

¹⁰ <http://redpilluk.co.uk/PartnerViolenceAgainstMen.pdf>

¹¹ http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=55

¹² <http://herbertpurdy.com/?p=646#more-646>

¹³ <http://j4mb.org.uk>

Copies of this document have been emailed to:

Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Local Government and Government Business
Christine Chapman, chair, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
Clerk, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

CELG committee members

Leighton Andrews
Peter Black
Jocelyn Davies
Janet Finch-Saunders
Mike Hedges
Mark Isherwood
Gwyn Price
Jenny Rathbone
Rhodri Thomas

Other Welsh Assembly members

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