

## **Mike Buchanan's speech given at the Messages 4 Men conference, London, 18.11.18**

One of the key themes of the fourth International Conference on Men's Issues, which we hosted in London in July, was "equal rights for men and women". It's only when you look at the details of how men's and women's human rights play out in Britain today, an issue we explored at some length in our 2015 election manifesto, that you're forced to accept that women and girls belong to a deeply privileged class, while men and boys belong to a deeply disadvantaged class.

But regardless of the amazing materials which have been posted online over many years, regardless of the rational arguments on men's and boys' issues, and regardless of the relentless debunking of feminist narratives, we're seeing ever more privileging of women and girls with each passing year, and ever more disadvantaging of men and boys. Ignoring the online world, feminists are wielding ever more influence either directly, or through manipulating and bullying men in positions of power. A recent indicator of the contempt that the state has for men and boys, was the limiting of the debate commemorating International Men's Day next week, to just 30 minutes.

The average age of an audience member here today must be quite a few years lower than the average age of the audience members at the International Conferences, possibly due in part to the much lower ticket price. The age gap is important, because the younger a man you are, the more years you'll risk suffering the state's assaults on your human rights, perhaps to the point of causing you to consider suicide, which remains the #1 cause of death of men under 45. Almost all of the causes of reactive depression which leads men to take their own lives are attributable to the state's actions and inactions.

I believe we have quite a number of university students in the audience today, and I'd like to address the male students directly. I'd like to invite you to be among the first generation of students to actively promote men's rights, which to my mind inevitably includes challenging the evil ideology of feminism. Feminism will impact gravely on many of your lives, whether it's through denial of employment or promotion because of positive discrimination for women, a consequent failure to attract a partner, a lack of support if you're a victim of domestic violence, punitive financial settlements in the divorce courts, denial of access to your children in the family courts, and one or more of a host of other problems you're likely to face on account of your sex alone.

Like most men, you're probably optimistic you'll dodge the bullets, and like most men, you'll be astonished when you don't. It's time for you to launch or join men's groups, and if your university's Student Union won't authorise such groups, tell them to stick their objections where the sun doesn't shine, and launch your groups anyway. It's time for men to get off their knees, and strap on a pair.

I believe there are far more male students in universities who are sympathetic to the viewpoints being expressed today, than even most of us here today. And there exists an excellent way to get in touch with one another – Network 4 Men. The following is from their website:

Are you concerned about the rights of men and boys and the state of gender relations in society?

Do you want to participate and become part of the solution?

NETWORK4MEN exists so you can find others who share your concern, meet with others who want to be a part of the solution.

The Network can help you contact or form local groups of men who meet for friendship, shared learning and activism.

Network4Men is not a membership organisation and has no leaders. There is no cost.

We ask those who meet through this network to commit to ethical guidelines (there's a link to those guidelines).

Contact the admin team in confidence, with your details and, where possible, they will ask a representative from a local group to contact you. Your information will only be held for this purpose.

End of extract. It would be good to see groups of men brought into contact through Network 4 Men, in every university in the UK and Ireland.

I think there's also a need for consciousness building and challenging feminists through acts which would entail little cost, effort, or risk, such as posting materials on notice boards. I guess Social Sciences and Gender Studies departments would be obvious targets. The places for posting materials are limited only by your imagination. On notice boards, on the office doors of Gender Studies "professors", on doors and walls in Gents' toilets, outside bedroom doors in halls of residence, and other places. One obvious notice would be to invite men to meet through Network 4 Men. Another would be the Non-Feminist Declaration, which we have on a number of placards here today, and on one of the leaflets we've left on your chairs. It's available as a downloadable PDF. A considerable amount of time and effort went into the drafting of the Non-Feminist Declaration, and I'd like to read it to you now:

Feminists attack liberty, justice, equality and meritocracy. They attack men, women, and children, and relations between the sexes. All feminist narratives have been shown to be *demonstrably* one or more of the following – baseless conspiracy theories, fantasies, lies, delusions or myths.

In many countries, virtually all institutions have been deeply corrupted by feminists, and by people in positions of power bowing to feminist influence. These include governments, public sectors, media, family courts, education systems, academia, police forces, criminal justice systems, health services, military forces, and business sectors.

Feminists have been responsible for, or have exacerbated, many of the problems facing humanity today. They include disparities in the treatment, opportunities, choices, respect, protections and rights afforded to citizens.

Non-feminist men and women constitute a sizeable majority of the global population. Feminist hegemony therefore has no legitimacy, operating without the consent of the majority of citizens, many of whom suffer egregiously as a result of feminist actions.

Feminists have long cultivated a culture of fear. Non-feminist men and women have been reluctant to publicly challenge feminist narratives and actions. We reject that culture, resolving to speak the truth at all times, and encouraging others to do the same. Individual feminists must be held publicly accountable for their actions.

Recognizing the growth of feminist aggression, we assert our right to exist and thrive without paying any respect to feminists or their ideology. We shall not permit feminists to dictate what we say, how we say it, or how we interact with the world.

Given the extent of feminist entrenchment in institutions, we recognize that we are embarking on a project that may last for decades, but we shall not waver in our determination to roll back feminist influence over state and other institutions.

With this Declaration, we take a public stance in opposition to feminism, and invite others to join us.

End of Declaration.

It's been almost five years since Swayne O'Pie and I were in a debate at Durham University with the delightful Julie Bindel, and another feminist. We were reliably informed that women from the Durham University Feminist Society, DUFS – they were known as Duffers to non-members, I was pleased to learn – had planned to picket the event, but eventually decided not to, as it was a bit chilly, and light rain was forecast.

My party is keen to do more to support men – and women for that matter – at universities, both students and academics, who wish to raise awareness of issues affecting men and boys, and challenge feminism and feminists. Elizabeth Hobson is, as you probably know, our Director of Communications. We're both willing to meet with students and academics, give presentations, or engage in debates, at universities in the UK, and the party will cover our related costs.

One of the most welcome developments in recent years has been the increasing number of women willing to publicly criticise feminism, and to self-identify as non-feminists or, even better, as anti-feminists. They understand that feminists are the enemies of most women, as well as the enemies of men and the nuclear family, and by extension the enemies of children too.

A survey published by the Fawcett Society, a feminist charity, almost three years ago, found that 9% of British women identified as feminists, while 4% of British men did. The charity's wonderfully-named chief executive – Sam Smethers – was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph* as follows:

“The overwhelming majority of the public share our feminist values but don't identify with the label. However the simple truth is if you want a more equal society for women and men then you are in fact a feminist.”

End of quote.

Increasingly I believe women's unhappiness will do more to end the evil ideology of feminism as a political force, than the suffering of men. I have a simple question for women, who I think face a stark choice, as a class. Do you want to support women as a class exerting ever more formal power over men, or do you want personal happiness? Feminists, of course, get bitter satisfaction from women wielding ever more power of men. But here's a paradox. While women as a class have exerted ever more formal power over men in recent decades, they've become more unhappy. Why would women wish that direction of travel to continue?

Normal women – I exclude feminists, by definition – want balance in their lives. Nobody should have been surprised by Preference Theory, a term coined by the British sociologist Dr Catherine Hakim to describe an issue she researched and published a paper about in the year 2000. Her research covered a number of European countries, and found similar results. In the UK, while four in seven British men were work-centred, just one in seven British women were. This work ethic gender gap accounts for most of the gender gaps we see in organizations where more men than women work at more senior and demanding levels.

There must be vast numbers of women in their twenties, thirties, forties, and beyond, deeply unhappy at finding themselves with no partner, no children, and poor prospects of either. To feminists, of course, these women – most of them in paid employment – are successes. But the women know they've become wage slaves, at the cost of their personal happiness.

It's time, I think, for women as a class to up their game and tell feminists in no uncertain terms, publicly, that they don't represent women as a class. Of course there are great websites such as "Women Against Feminism", but they have no impact on the feminists manipulating organizations to deliver agendas guaranteed to make women unhappy, never mind men and children.

I'm a deep admirer of women who publicly criticise feminism, some of them self-identifying as anti-feminists, which I think takes character and courage. The next International Women's Day is on Friday, 8th March. It would be great to see banner-waving women protesting outside the Houses of Parliament, declaring their rejection of feminism. It might not take a large number of women to attract mainstream media attention and publicity, while the same media would utterly ignore a protest by a far larger group of male anti-feminists.

Finally, a few words about an award-winning film about Male Genital Mutilation, namely *American Circumcision*. It was screened for the first time outside the US during our London conference in July. It was very well-received, and we've come to a commercial agreement with Brendon Marotta, the director, to fund further screenings in the UK. So if you can provide a room, a projector, and even a modest audience, I'll travel to you, maybe give a short introduction, and try to answer any questions people might have afterwards. My contact details are on the J4MB website. Thank you.