

George Carlin, working class men, fAcT fInDiNg, literal suspension and babies... in the glorious Kingdom of Condom

Hey, how are you all doing? Probably not great if you're in search of justice for men and boys, please accept my sympathy. For personal reasons I don't want to reveal my identity as of now and I am not sure whether what I am going to say is libel, so I won't reveal anybody else's identity either. You are about to read a cautionary tale about exercising your freedom of speech at work. Buckle up, because it's a ride. Or not, since you're not living it first hand.

In May 2022, I picked up a new job. It was a simple working class job, but I thought it might look better on my CV than a gap. To my surprise, I got two promotions, so in January 2023 I was no longer common cannon fodder, but rather what other companies call a team leader. I was really happy and that allowed me to kickstart some changes in my personal life. Little did I know that my happiness will not be slowly diminished over time, but rather abruptly struck, leaving me in a difficult and unhappy situation.

One day at work, I was called to see operations manager in a meeting room. When I entered the room, he asked me to make sure the doors are shut and then to sit down. One day I will tell more complete and less anonymous tale, right now I will keep it short and tell you that it was an "investigation meeting", because there were two complaints about me. First, someone heard me in the canteen shouting that more women should kill themselves, which distressed them, as they have had family members dying to suicide. Second, someone was complaining about my allegedly poor performance and then proceeded to attach some hearsay to the complaint, about sexism, suicide and babies. I will never forget the Ops Manager asking me if I have any idea "...what do babies mean?" Why didn't the person processing the complaint ask the complainant, I have no idea. I said what I said and that was a great mistake, because despite me being honest and cooperative, I was suspended, my ID badge was taken away and I was also escorted out of the premises. After I arrived home, I said: "I could have waited an hour, come back at usual time and pretended that I still have a job, but that would be dishonest."

OK, before we move on, let's talk about why I was allegedly shouting "more women should kill themselves". I had a conversation with my (female) manager in the canteen and for a reason revealed later in the story, I performed a routine by my favourite stand-up comedian of all time, George Carlin.

"Men are four times more likely than women to commit suicide, even though women attempt it more. So men are better at it! [laughter] That's something else you gals will want to be workin' on. [laughter] Well, if you want to be truly equal, you're gonna have to start taking your own lives in greater numbers. [cheers and applause]"

source: <https://www.quotes.net/mquote/1009331> Life Is Worth Losing, 2005

Nobody ever figured out what was the actual thing I said, how did it offend the complainant, it wasn't concluded I engaged in illegal speech, nobody was able to point out what rule I supposedly breached, etc. So this is my best guess at what was an ostensible cause for the alleged offence. And this is the reason you can read about it here, at Justice for Men & Boys. It is a sad world where women are still adored, protected and worshipped like in ancient times, but men, just like the ancient times, are treated as canon fodder. I don't know about you, but I constantly hear about women getting more and more quasi reparations for being oppressed by patriarchy, but where are any of the protests for guys who can't have children, because women unilaterally decided they are losers and will not partner with them? Where are funds for guys being domestically abused? (As you can easily look up, women are only ever so slightly less violent in long term partnership.) And to strike closer to home, who is advocating for all the fathers, who are blackmailed by their former partners, for just trying to not get estranged from their own kid? And speaking of their own kids, how many women are prosecuted for paternity fraud? I took it upon myself to not be silent about these issues and living in (supposedly) free country, I thought I can express my opinion at work, where I am constantly encouraged to be completely authentic (actual expression changed to maintain anonymity). I couldn't have been more wrong, but let's move on.

I spent my time suspended mounting a defence for the disciplinary hearing. Again, a more complete story will be told later, right now, let's press on. The entire case of my employer rested on them tricking me into saying I said what I said and then confirming I knew at the time it was inappropriate to say that. You might object, that the problem was me offending someone, so where is that mentioned? Nowhere. It was a sloppy job all the way through. I came in with a fresh haircut, white shirt, blue blazer and smart shoes, which prompted humorous comments from my colleagues, such as "Looking like that, I have no doubt you're gonna be fine." As far as I knew, I was losing my job on that day, but I didn't want to give up this fight, as I saw it as an

attack on my core beliefs. Despite I said I have prepared a statement, my employer decided to only hear me out when they asked all their questions. In many ways it was an encore of the investigation meeting, including asking me about babies again, especially since the chair of the meeting went on record saying he is still at fact finding phase. Sorry, fAcT fInDiNg phase, as nobody was bothered about the facts.

When I was finally told to read my statement, I read it and when the dust settled, the chair said "There is a lot to unpack." and adjourned the meeting. After an hour I was summoned back and some new evidence was admitted into the file. Despite the chair was aware of the missing evidence, it didn't prevent him starting the disciplinary process. The new evidence was a statement from my manager, who said she was reading the news and there was a story about a young girl going abroad to get killed (euthanized). Ostensibly, it could have been this story (<https://www.liveaction.org/news/youtuber-euthanasia-illness/>), but I can't say for sure. And here you can see how the story changes. The complainant would have everyone believed I am misogynist at heart and that was why I performed the above-mentioned routine unprovoked, but the reality is, I did say that as she's a girl, if she would get the help she needs, she can live a perfectly normal life (unlike guys who resolve their mental health issues, because unlike women, just being available, doesn't mean you get selected as a mate), but I am happy she made the decision, because "...for every woman killing herself, there are four men suicides, despite women attempt more. If women want to truly be equal, they should take their lives in greater numbers."

Naturally, the fact that it was my manager who brought up a practice illegal in the UK, made no difference in the decision. Here is a good time to think about how did I cause offence to a third party, when I was having a private conversation with my manager, albeit in a public place. I am not sure if I have to, or even can express how profoundly strange the situation is. The meeting was adjourned one last time and after nearly three hours I was summoned back, to hear the decision. Upright, I was ready for the sack. Instead, I received a final written warning and a retraining (joke of a) session with an HR lady (although I should really say person, as it is more politically correct and there are very few people in HR that I would call a lady).

What happened next? Naturally, I appealed the decision. In the meantime, I learned some details that shed yet new light on the case. I realized that the complaints are poorly redacted and I can read the names of the complainants. Big problem for the company, as the process states I must not learn the identity of the complainants. Knowing their identities, I believe they colluded to abuse the system and get me into trouble. Set aside the problem of a man taking offence at a what I said, they are both

my staff. Especially since I now know for sure who they are, and have revealed it during the appeal process, the decision was upheld and now I am supposed to go back to work, trying to give orders to people who hate my gut.

Believe it or not, this is a short version. I like to end with a lesson learned. Never engage in your own investigation and “take the fifth”. During the disciplinary hearing, the complaints were virtually dropped and the case against me was made up with what I said during the “investigation” meeting. Is there any other lesson learned? Personally, I come from a country, that was under communistic totalitarian regime not that long ago. That was, of course, before my time, nonetheless freedoms were always been cherished and celebrated where I come from. More than that, specifically as far as freedom of speech goes, the stereotypical innkeeper says “Say what you want, as long as you buy a pint.” Never ever I have been in a similar situation where I come from, I don’t know about anyone that was in similar situation, and all my non-English friends can’t quite understand what was the problem. UK in 2023 feels like a totalitarian regime, where you say one thing at home, another at school/work, very much *unlike* any Eastern European country today that westerners like to laugh at. It makes sense then, that the English would produce such a depressing film like *Children of Men*, where the UK is an oppressive regime, humanity will die off soon as we’ve lost the ability to reproduce and if you make it to the end, you realize there is no redemption for us, as the supposed good cause is the miraculously conceived baby and not the hope of regaining reproductive capabilities.

I do realize that fathers separated from their kids don’t really care about this, but I am sure there are single guys, causing no trouble, just trying to do “the thing”. You know, to work most of their days and to pay their bills and to try to save for that down payment on a house. For those I have shared my story, so at least they know they’re not alone in that situation. I can’t offer any hope for a better tomorrow, as I don’t see it myself. Only thing I can do is quote Charles Bukowski’s *Factotum* “It pays to be a tough son of a bitch. The world belongs to the strong.”