

Barbara Kay: Why does a report on 'gender equity' in mental health all but ignore the illnesses of men and boys?

[National Post](#) - Tuesday May 16th, 2017

In a column last March, I described the radical progressive mind's inability to see iniquities on the left and its fixation with right-wing evil as the ideological equivalent of a neurological syndrome called "hemispatial neglect." Those afflicted with hemispatial neglect lose recognition of space on one entire side of the body. It isn't that they have a desire to see what's on the side that is lost to them, but simply cannot see it. Rather, it is that they have lost awareness that there is another side. Give them a plate of food, and they will only eat the food on the side they can see, but they will believe they have finished their meal. Ask them to draw a line down the middle of their body and they will draw the line through the middle of their perceptive side.

The syndrome in its ideological form is apparent in the radical feminist assessment of human evolution and its skewed approach to strategies for society's improvement. We have a case study in ideological hemispatial neglect, for example, in a recent motion adopted by the European Parliament. The motion forms part of a "Report on promoting gender equality in mental health and clinical research," which was submitted by the Committee on the European Parliament's Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

The words "gender equality" in the report's title imply a bilateral concern for the mental health issues facing men and women. But the report disproportionately refers to women and girls' mental health issues, making little mention of the mental health issues that afflict men and boys.

The words "gender equality" in the report's title imply a bilateral concern for the mental health issues facing men and women. But the report is completely imbalanced.

The motion begins with a slew of "having regard to's" and "whereas's" that sound reassuringly universal. Like "Having regard to the Commission Green Paper entitled 'improving the health of the population – Towards a strategy on mental health for the European Union,'" and "Whereas the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a fundamental human right and includes an obligation of non-discrimination...."

But when it comes to actual recommendations, the Committee is evidently more concerned about the female population. There are 163 paragraphs in the report; two are devoted to men's mental health. The document calls for "women and girls (to) have access to screenings," but not for boys and men. Member states are asked to ensure "free access to health services for unemployed women," but not for men (who are far more likely to be unemployed).

Likewise, the Committee calls for "access to mental health services – including women's shelters" for women, even though men account for more than 75 per cent of the homeless population. Member states are urged to "take account of the specific needs of lesbians and bisexual and transgender persons." There is no mention of gay men. And yet, according to Rob Whitley, Assistant Professor in McGill University's Department of Psychiatry, gay men have some of the highest suicide and self-harm rates in Europe.

Most bizarrely, the report claims women's mental illness is partly due to "men who do not devote themselves sufficiently to household tasks and bringing up daughters and sons, causing many women to suffer from depression, anxiety and stress." This statement is rooted wholly in theory; Whitley says he's seen no literature in the field of psychiatry to support the claim that an imbalance in domestic duties causes clinical depression.

The individuals behind the report could not have consciously believed they were ignoring the demonstrable problems of half the population.

Commenting on the report in an article in *Psychology Today*, Whitley notes that the most common risk factors for suicide or depression are adverse childhood experience, financial strain, social isolation, divorce and bereavement. The report makes no mention of these factors, or the fact that they "can be experienced differentially by men and women." Social isolation after divorce, for example, is far more likely to be experienced by men than women and can lead to suicidal ideation or action. Unmentioned.

The rapporteur behind the report, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, as well as the individuals who voted on the motion's adoption (of the members present for the final vote, 26 out of 30 were women), could not have consciously believed they were ignoring the demonstrable problems of half the population. The likely explanation for their indifference is ideology-induced hemispatial neglect. Sadly, there is, as yet, no cure for this affliction — of either the neurological or political kind.

By contrast, in March, Whitley took part in an event hosted by Spanish Member of Parliament Teresa Gimenez Barbat, entitled "Gifted Women, Fragile Men." The event, which focused on areas in which men and boys experience disproportionate harms and inequalities, provided an enlightening balance to the "gender equality" report. Whitley's own

presentation on male suicide and its causes is worth watching. It's informative and — more importantly — evidence-based

National Post

kaybarb@gmail.com

Twitter.com/BarbaraRKay

(--image--)

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```
CommentsnpReady(function(){npJ('.npStoryShare .npIconComments').unbind().bind('click',function(){npJ('html, body').animate({scrollTop:npJ('#disqus_thread').offset().top});return false}})}
```

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Topics: Full Comment, European Parliament, Gender Studies, mental health, Rob Whitley, Women's Health, Women's

```

jQuery( document ).ready( function() {

googletag.cmd.push(function() {

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adSlots.push( gpt_bigboxtop ); gpt_bigboxtop.addService( googletag.pubads() )
.setTargeting(
'loc'
, "top" )

; pnJustInTime.route(
{
ad_id: "#gpt-bigboxtop",
pixels_away:100,
pixels_away_count:1,
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}
);

});

});

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Full Comment Videos(function() { pnShowVideo("1_9hi1opyb", 90589, "", "", "false", "", "", "kaltura", "playlist", "http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/video/{videoId}", null, "", "false"); })(); Post Picks

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off a few years, there is little doubt about the direction

French Open denies Maria Sharapova a wild-card spot in second tennis major of the year (--image--) 'It's my responsibility ... to protect the game and protect the high standards of the game,' the French federation president said 'I'm not going to change': Ryan Kesler 'laughed' after Predators centre said he plays dirty (--image--) While Kesler couldn't care less about what Ryan Johansen had to say, hearing that he was upset with the extra attention was music to Kesler's ears

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  googletag.cmd.push(function() {
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    var gpt_bigboxbot = googletag.
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    defineSlot ("/3081/npo_opin/full-comment/story", [[300,250],[300,253],[300,600],[300,603]] , 'gpt-bigboxbot');
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adSlots.push( gpt_bigboxbot ); gpt_bigboxbot.addService( googletag.pubads() )
.setTargeting(
'loc'
, "bot" )

; pnJustInTime.route(
{
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pixels_away:100,
pixels_away_count:1,
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refresh_enabled:"on",
refresh_count:5,
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}
);

});
});
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```
var NPFreeScreen = NPFreeScreen || {};  
NPFreeScreen.ajaxUrl = 'http://news.nationalpost.com/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php';  
NPFreeScreen.nonce = 'cac1a523a3';_fskparameters=[];
```

```
if ( localStorage && localStorage.getItem("janrainCaptureToken") ) {
  _fskparameters['_sid'] = localStorage.getItem("npPostPointsSid");
}
if ( ! _fskparameters['_sid'] ) {
  _fskparameters['_sid'] = "";
}
} else {
  _fskparameters['_sid'] = "";
}
}
```

```
janrain.settings.borderColor = '#ffffff';
janrain.settings.fontFamily = 'Helvetica, Lucida Grande, Verdana, sans-serif';
janrain.settings.width = 300;
janrain.settings.actionText = '';
janrain.settings.capture.modalCloseHtml = '';
janrain.settings.capture.noModalBorderInlineCss = true;

janrain.settings.capture.flowName = 'standard';
```

[Sign Up / Sign In](#)

With your existing account from:

```
{* loginWidget *}
```

or with your account:

```
{* #signInForm *}
```

```
{* signInEmailAddress *}
```

```
{* currentPassword *}
```

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```
{* /signInForm *}
```

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Welcome back, { * welcomeName * }!
{ * loginWidget * }
Not { * welcomeName * }? Switch Account

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Welcome Back, { * welcomeName * }!

{ * #signInForm * }
{ * signInEmailAddress * }
{ * currentPassword * }

Sign In

{ * /signInForm * }
Not { * welcomeName * }? Switch Account

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Account Deactivated

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Account Reactivation Failed

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Your account has been reactivated.

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Email Verification Required

You must verify your email address before signing in. Check your email for your verification email, or enter your email address in the form below to resend the email.

{* #resendVerificationForm *}
{* signInEmailAddress *}

{* /resendVerificationForm *}

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Almost Done!

Please confirm your details below.

{* #socialRegistrationForm *}

{* firstName *}
{* lastName *}
{* emailAddress *}
{* displayName *}

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Birthdate{* birthdate *}

Gender{* gender *}

Attention Print Newspaper SubscribersFor verification of Print Subscriber offers (e.g. epaper, Digital Access, Subscriber Rewards), please input your Print Newspaper subscription phone number and postal code.

{* phone *}

{* addressPostalCode *}

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I also accept and agree to be bound by Postmedia's Terms and Conditions with respect to my use of the Site and I have read and understand Postmedia's Privacy Statement. I consent to the collection, use, maintenance, and disclosure of my information in accordance with the Postmedia's Privacy Policy.

{* backButton *}

{* /socialRegistrationForm *}

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Almost Done!

Please confirm your details below. Already have an account? [Sign In](#).

{* #registrationForm *}

{* firstName *}

{* lastName *}

{* emailAddress *}

{* displayName *}

{* newPassword *}

{* newPasswordConfirm *}

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Gender{* gender *}

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{* phone *}

{* addressPostalCode *}

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{* backButton *}

{* /registrationForm *}

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Verfiy your email

We have sent you a confirmation email to {* emailAddressData *}. Please check your inbox and follow the instructions to confirm your email address.

Close

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Create a new password

Follow these simple steps to create a new password:

1. Enter your email address below
2. Wait for the instructions to arrive in your inbox
3. Follow the instructions to update your password

{* #forgotPasswordForm *}

{* signInEmailAddress *}

{* backButton *}

{* /forgotPasswordForm *}

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Create a new password

We've sent an email with instructions to create a new password. Your existing password has not been changed.

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```
{* mergeAccounts {"custom": true} *}
```

Merge Your Accounts

```
{| rendered_current_photo |}
```

```
{| current_displayName |}  
{| current_emailAddress |}
```

```
{| foundExistingAccountText |} {| current_emailAddress |}.
```

```
{| moreInfoHoverText |}  
{| existing_displayName |} - {| existing_provider |} : {| existing_siteName |} {| existing_createdDate |}
```

```
{| moreInfoText |}
```

```
{| existing_displayName |}  
{| existing_provider_emailAddress |}
```

```
Created {| existing_createdDate |} at {| existing_siteName |}
```

{| connectLegacyRadioText |}

{| createRadioText |} {| current_provider |}

Validating

{| connect_button |}

{| create_button |}

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Sign in to complete account merge

{* #signInForm *}

{* signInEmailAddress *}

{* currentPassword *}

{* backButton *}

Sign In

{* /signInForm *}

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Resend Verification Email

Sorry, we could not verify your email address. Please enter your email below, and we'll resend the instructions for email verification.

{* #resendVerificationForm *}

{* signInEmailAddress *}

{* /resendVerificationForm *}

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Verification Email Sent

Check your email for a link to verify your email address.

Close

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FAQ

Email Verified

Thank you for verifying your email address.

Close

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Change Password

{* #changePasswordFormNoAuth *}

{* newPassword *}

{* newPasswordConfirm *}

{* /changePasswordFormNoAuth *}

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Password Changed

Your password has been successfully updated.

Close

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Create New Password

We didn't recognize that password reset code. Please enter your email below, and we'll send you a new code to reset your password.

{* #resetPasswordForm *}

{* signInEmailAddress *}

{* /resetPasswordForm *}

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Create New Password

We've sent you an email with instructions to create a new password. Your existing password has not been changed.

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/* */

/* */

/* */

//

```
_tkq = window._tkq || [];
```

```
_stq = window._stq || [];
```

```
_tkq.push(['storeContext', { 'blog_id': '37979189', 'blog_tz': '-4', 'user_lang': 'en', 'blog_lang': 'en', 'user_id': '0' }]);
```

```
_stq.push(['view', { 'blog': '37979189', 'v': 'wpcom', 'tz': '-4', 'user_id': '0', 'post': '1377872', 'subd': 'nationalpostcom' }]);
```

```
function st_vt() { var
```

```
x=document.createElement("img");x.src="http://pixel.wp.com/g.gif?blog=37979189&v=wpcomvt&tz=-
```

```
4&user_id=0&post=1377872&subd=nationalpostcom&rand="+Math.random();}
```

```
_stq.push(['extra',
```

```
{ 'crypt': 'UE40eW5QN0p8M2Y/RE1BNmNJfGhxNCVxUDExYmtib2E/SzdEJm0lUEtbdFU0fFk4cHZvcUFRZT90Tn4yQr
```

```
_stq.push(['clickTrackerInit', '37979189', '1377872' ]]);
```

```
(--image--)
```

```
if ( 'object' === typeof wpcom_mobile_user_agent_info ) {
```

```
wpcom_mobile_user_agent_info.init();
```

```

var mobileStatsQueryString = "";

if( false !== wpcom_mobile_user_agent_info.matchedPlatformName )
mobileStatsQueryString += "&x_" + 'mobile_platforms' + '=' +
wpcom_mobile_user_agent_info.matchedPlatformName;

if( false !== wpcom_mobile_user_agent_info.matchedUserAgentName )
mobileStatsQueryString += "&x_" + 'mobile_devices' + '=' +
wpcom_mobile_user_agent_info.matchedUserAgentName;

if( wpcom_mobile_user_agent_info.isIPad() )
mobileStatsQueryString += "&x_" + 'ipad_views' + '=' + 'views';

if( "" != mobileStatsQueryString ) {
new Image().src = document.location.protocol + '//pixel.wp.com/g.gif?v=wpcom-no-pv' + mobileStatsQueryString +
'&baba=' + Math.random();
}
}

//right rail native ads position
jQuery(document).ready(function(){
if (jQuery("#npContentSide .pn_kaltura").length>0) {
jQuery("#npContentSide .pn_kaltura").prev("#npContentSide
.npGutterBot:not(.npAd)").removeClass("npGutterBot").css("margin-bottom","30px");
}
});

jQuery(document).on('keydown', '.sponsored-icon img', function() {
jQuery(this).click();
});

jQuery(document).on('click', '.sponsored-icon>img', function() {
var popUpBox=jQuery(this).next(".sponsored-icon-popup");
if (popUpBox.css("display")==='none') {
popUpBox.fadeIn("slow");
} else {
popUpBox.fadeOut("slow");
}
});

jQuery(document).on('click', '.sponsored-icon-popup>img', function() {
jQuery(this).parent().fadeOut("slow");
});

jQuery(document).on('click', '.sponsored-icon>input[type=image]', function() {
var popUpBox=jQuery(this).next(".sponsored-icon-popup");
if (popUpBox.css("display")==='none') {
popUpBox.fadeIn("slow");
}
}
});

```

```
popUpBox.focus();
} else {
popUpBox.fadeOut("slow");
}
});
```

```
jQuery(document).on('click', '.sponsored-icon-popup>input[type=image]', function() {
jQuery(this).parent().fadeOut("slow");
});
```

```
window.fbAsyncInit = function() {
FB.init({
appId : '114466555268868',
xfbml : true,
version : 'v2.4'
});
};
(function(d, s, id){
var js, fjs = d.getElementsByTagName(s)[0];
if (d.getElementById(id)) {return;}
js = d.createElement(s); js.id = id;
js.src = "//connect.facebook.net/en_US/sdk.js";
fjs.parentNode.insertBefore(js, fjs);
}(document, 'script', 'facebook-jssdk'));
```

(--image--)

```
var _sf_async_config = {uid: 34988, domain: 'postmedia.com', sections:'nationalpost.com,nationalpost_full comment',
path: window.location.pathname};
_sf_async_config.authors = 'Barbara Kay';(function(){
function loadChartbeat() {
window._sf_endpt = (new Date()).getTime();
var e = document.createElement('script');
e.setAttribute('type', 'text/javascript');
e.setAttribute('src',
(('https:' == document.location.protocol) ? 'https://a248.e.akamai.net/chartbeat.download.akamai.com/102508/' :
'http://') +
'static.chartbeat.com/js/chartbeat_video.js');
document.body.appendChild(e);
}
var oldonload = window.onload;
```

```
window.onload = typeof window.onload !== 'function' ? loadChartbeat : function () {
oldonload();
loadChartbeat();
};
})();

var _gaq = _gaq || [];
_gaq.push(['_setAccount', 'UA-17097415-1']);
_gaq.push(['_setDomainName', document.location.hostname]);
_gaq.push(['_trackPageview']);
(function() {
var ga = document.createElement('script'); ga.type = 'text/javascript'; ga.async = true;
ga.src = ('https:' == document.location.protocol ? 'https://ssl' : 'http://www') + '.google-analytics.com/ga.js';
var s = document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0]; s.parentNode.insertBefore(ga, s);
})();

var _comscore = _comscore || [];
_comscore.push({ c1: '2', c2: '10276888' });
(function() {
var s = document.createElement('script'), el = document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0]; s.async = true;
s.src = (document.location.protocol == 'https:' ? 'https://sb' : 'http://b') + '.scorecardresearch.com/beacon.js';
el.parentNode.insertBefore(s, el);
})();

(--image--)

/* */

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```