

Who Cares About Male Suffering?

by Janice Fiamengo



Very few people know that July 11 is [men](#) and boys. Not surprisingly, it has no official status in any country.

Most people, if asked, will respond that it's women and girls who suffer predominantly. We hear often that men are privileged, even entitled. Societies are allegedly set up to benefit men. We expect men to apologize for their privilege and to educate themselves about women's issues. Animus against men is socially acceptable, even approved. "[Why Can't We Hate Men?](#)"

The Gender Empathy Gap Day does not seek to establish a contest over which sex has it worse. But it does seek to prompt recognition of our collective inability or unwillingness to recognize the humanity of men.

Academic researchers Alice Eagly and Antonio Mladinic have compiled data showing that [Both men and women hold much more favorable views of women than of men.](#)” Moreover, researchers have confirmed a much higher [empathy](#) towards other women than towards men, while men also feel more empathy for women.

Whether it’s homelessness ([78 percent male victims](#)), suicide ([93 percent male](#)), prison incarceration ([research](#) of Tania Reynolds, we tend to associate agency with maleness and the capacity for victimhood with femaleness, seeing men and boys as active doers rather than as sufferers deserving concern.

As a result, we are tolerant of harsh punishments for male offenders. In 2012, Sonja Starr, a professor of law, published the results of her study ([has noted](#) that such indifference to the male plight is built right into the stories our society tells about itself. He points out that when a large number of men are killed—whether in war, accident, or natural disaster—mainstream news sources report on *people* killed, making the sex of the victims invisible. It’s not news when men and boys die.

When women or girls are killed or harmed, they’re rarely if ever referred to as *people*. It’s news when women and girls are killed or harmed.

The only exception to this rule occurs when men or boys commit an atrocity, especially if the atrocity is committed against women or girls. Then the maleness of the perpetrators becomes part of the story. In this manner, newsmakers consistently represent men in a way that drains empathy away from them when they suffer and evokes anger and the desire to punish when they do harm. The opposite is true for women.

As a result, when approximately 93 percent of the prison population across the world is male, we have many special initiatives to reduce the impact of prison on women, but no special initiatives to reduce its impact on men.

When [*Epoch Times*](#).