



National Coalition For Men (NCFM)

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OPEN LETTER regarding the domestic violence video *Monsters* produced by the Verizon Foundation and National Domestic Violence Helpline:

NCFM has advocated for the prevention of relationship violence (intimate, dating, child abuse, elder abuse) for decades. In fact, in 2008, NCFM won a landmark court case that held it unconstitutional to exclude male domestic violence victims from state-funded services in California (Woods v. Shewry (2008) 167 Cal. App. 4th 658.).

We strongly object to the harmful and sexist stereotypes incorporated into the video, which paints all relationship violence as male-on-female, leaving male victims and female violence invisible as usual.

Women create monsters too, even without a male to blame. It *is well established* that women commit most child abuse, elder abuse, dating violence, and no less than an equal amount of intimate partner violence, except in woman-on-woman relationships which reveal even higher rates of partner abuse.

The video is misleading by omission, cruel, and hateful. Whoever reads this surely cares about at least one young man; perhaps a son, grandson, nephew, or neighbor. Any boys being abused, especially if being abused by their mother, will only feel more confused, battered, helpless, and abandoned after suffering through *Monsters*, even the boy we trust you care about.

While we applaud efforts to end relationship violence, we now ask that the Verizon Foundation and National Domestic Violence Hotline withdraw and destroy *Monsters*; and, support only providers of gender inclusive services. Otherwise, Verizon, the DV Hotline, and anyone who supports *Monsters* are just as guilty, if not more so.

Both females and males can be abusive and contribute to the creation of monsters. Shaming and blaming is abuse too, not solutions.

Respectfully,

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EXAMPLES OF USEFUL REFERENCES

Although men are less likely to report being abused, hundreds of empirical surveys confirm "women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners," as California State University Professor Martin Fiebert shows in his comprehensive online bibliography at <http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm> .

For example, a recent 32-nation study by the University of New Hampshire found women are as violent and controlling as men in dating relationships worldwide. www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2006/may/em_060519male.cfm?type=n

The Centers for Disease Control recently funded a major study of heterosexual relationships throughout the U.S. and found: "Almost 24% of all relationships had some violence, and half (49.7%) of those were reciprocally violent. In non reciprocally violent relationships, women were the perpetrators in more than 70% of the cases," and both sexes suffered significant injuries. <http://www.aiph.org/cgi/content/abstract/97/5/941>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Victims by Perpetrator Relationship, 2005 establishes that 40.4 percent of child victims were maltreated by their mothers acting alone; another 18.3 percent were maltreated by their fathers acting alone; 17.3 percent were abused by both their mother and father. Victims abused by a nonparental perpetrator accounted for 10.7 percent. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/figure3_5.htm

Fiebert and Gonzales have looked at the reasons why women assault from a sample of 978 college women. Within a 5-year period, 20%, or 285 of the women surveyed admitted to physical aggression against their male partners. There would not seem to be any support in the available data for the feminist idea that women only use violence in self defense.

Violence against children by women is an issue where the public attitude is very different than the facts revealed through scientific examination. The Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-3) from the US Department of Health and Human Services (call 1-800-FYI-3366 for a copy) reveals data about child abuse by mothers. Women commit most child abuse in intact biological families. When the man is removed from the family the children are at greater risk. Mother-only households are more dangerous to children than father-only households. Children are 3 times more likely to be fatally abused in Mother-only Households than in Father-only Households, and many times more likely in households where the mother cohabits with a man other than the biological father. Children raised in Single-mother Households are 8 times more likely to become killers than children raised with their biological father. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/statistics/nis.cfm>

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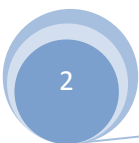
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