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ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE PAPER 1 INSERT

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This **INSERT** consists of **EIGHT** pages.

Locating femicide within the spectrum of patriarchal male violence

By Ntebaleng Morake



Covid-19 contributing to domestic violence. (Photo: theconversation.com/Wikipedia)

- 1 Women's lives are marked by a daily range of violence by men, resulting in women being murdered every three hours in South Africa. Despite this, constructions of femicide in SA mask its politics by framing the murder of women by men as isolated incidents and not a gendered¹ phenomenon caused by toxic violent masculinities.
- 2 The 2018 Global Peace Index ranked South Africa as one of the most violent countries in the world. This violence takes a multitude of institutional and physical forms such as femicide. In the 2017/2018 financial year, 2,930 adult women died by femicide at the hands of men, making South Africa one of the most dangerous places for women. Despite this, the response to femicide in this country has largely degendered the crisis and failed to locate femicide as part of a spectrum of patriarchal violence.
- 3 Examples of degendering femicide include the use of words like "monsters" and "animals" to describe men who are perpetrators of femicide. By doing so, we are ignoring the violent masculinities of perpetrators of femicide, and thus disassociating them from their violent crimes. This is problematic because it does not engage with the politics of violence in ways that it ought to, especially in a country that has been noted to have a culture of violence.
- 4 Throughout history, violence has been used as a tool for making statements of power. In the context of South Africa, it can be argued that violence is used by perpetrators of femicide to establish and sustain separations of domination and subordination between men and women. Thus, femicides are not incidents resulting from a "loss of control" by men, but they are often carefully considered acts of violence used by perpetrators to assert control on women.
- 5 This is shown in the murder of 21-year-old Zolile Khumalo. Khumalo was murdered by her ex-boyfriend, Thabani Mzolo, in May 2018. Before shooting her in the presence of two other students, he asked her why she took him for granted and furthermore instructed her to stand up and kiss him before he shot her dead.

- 6 The court proceedings disclosed that Mzolo had killed Khumalo because he did not want to accept that she had broken up with him. This demonstrates an ownership mindset and a sense of entitlement to women by men, and moreover shows that femicide is rarely an isolated act of irrationality, but a reinstatement of patriarchal male control by men over women.
- 7 The myth of “inappropriate femininity”, often applied by the public when a victim of femicide is seen to deviate from patriarchy’s expectations of women, is used to justify gendered violence by men.
- 8 Despite men being the perpetrators of femicide, there is often a binary categorisation that classifies victims of femicide as either “good” or “bad” victims. These binaries are engraved in racialised and classed notions of respectability and are therefore used to cast doubt on the credibility of some victims. This is evident in the trial of Zarah Hector who was kidnapped, bludgeoned to death with a hammer and dumped on a farm in the Western Cape by two men in March 2016.
- 9 During the trial, there was an over-focus by the public on Hector allegedly being killed for a drug debt that was owed to one of the perpetrators. Several news publications ran articles that emphasised that she owed one of the perpetrators “a lot of money”. This shifted the discourse from the violent masculinities of the perpetrators to the behaviour of the victim. It also sent a hidden message that had she not owed him money; she would have not been killed. This not only victim-blamed Hector but it also justified the actions of the perpetrators.
- 10 The myth of “inappropriate femininity”, often applied by the public when a victim of femicide is seen to deviate from patriarchy’s expectations of women, is used to justify gendered violence by men. The history of this myth stems from colonialism and apartheid which set a standard of white heterosexual innocent femininity in opposition to black women, queer women and sex workers.
- 11 Victims of femicide who are categorised as “inappropriate” are dismissed and blamed. This became apparent in the case of 20-year-old Siam Lee, who was found murdered in January 2018. Instead of focusing on the violence that Lee encountered at the hands of the perpetrator, the focus was on Lee’s profession as a sex worker, and this was used to paint the idea that she put herself in danger. This is a justification of femicide that makes excuses for; and legitimises men’s violence against women.
- 12 Hoffmeester (2017) argues that violent toxic hyper-masculinity is engraved in South Africa’s institutional culture and that men’s violence against women is normalised. The femicide cases listed in this article are a few of the many cases that happen in South Africa at the hands of men daily. Despite this, the constructions of femicide do not hold men accountable enough.
- 13 Everything ranging from anger, monsters, and victims of femicide are blamed. Yet, men, who are the leading cause of femicide in South Africa, are not properly located in the discourse and they are moreover freed from a lot of responsibility. Men, alongside their performances of violent toxic masculinities, play a central role in why femicide exists in South Africa.

¹**gendered:** focuses on a specific gender, i.e. male or female

[Source: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-06-29-locating-femicide-within-the-spectrum-of-patriarchal-male-violence/#gsc.tab=0>]

Jess Hill's mission to understand abusive men

By Hayley Gleeson

Ironically, shining a spotlight on the underbelly of abuse triggered a fierce backlash from perpetrators, who reacted angrily to the idea that their behaviour could be exposed, that they'd have to change. It is a dangerous time because men have never had less control in society, and many sought to reclaim some of that lost power in their intimate relationships.

And that, Hill says, is the predicament — the "cruel twist" — we now face.

"The increased attention on men's violence" — once again amplified, this time by the #MeToo movement — "may actually be making perpetrators more dangerous," she writes in *See What You Made Me Do*, her gripping new book about power, control and domestic abuse.

But all the while, Hill told ABC News, we've continued to ask the wrong questions about domestic violence, a "confusing" and "frightening" phenomenon she's spent more than four years researching. The "stock feminist answer", Hill says — the idea that men's violence occurs because "society" permits and encourages it — had previously shaped her own views towards abuse.

A popular phrase by the novelist Margaret Atwood, Hill said, sums up this dilemma perfectly: "Men are afraid women will laugh at them," Atwood famously wrote, "and women are afraid men will kill them." We don't have decades to fix 'attitudes': Women are dying now.

[Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-23/jess-hill-domestic-violence-cruel-twist-abusive-men/11188842>]

TEXT 2B

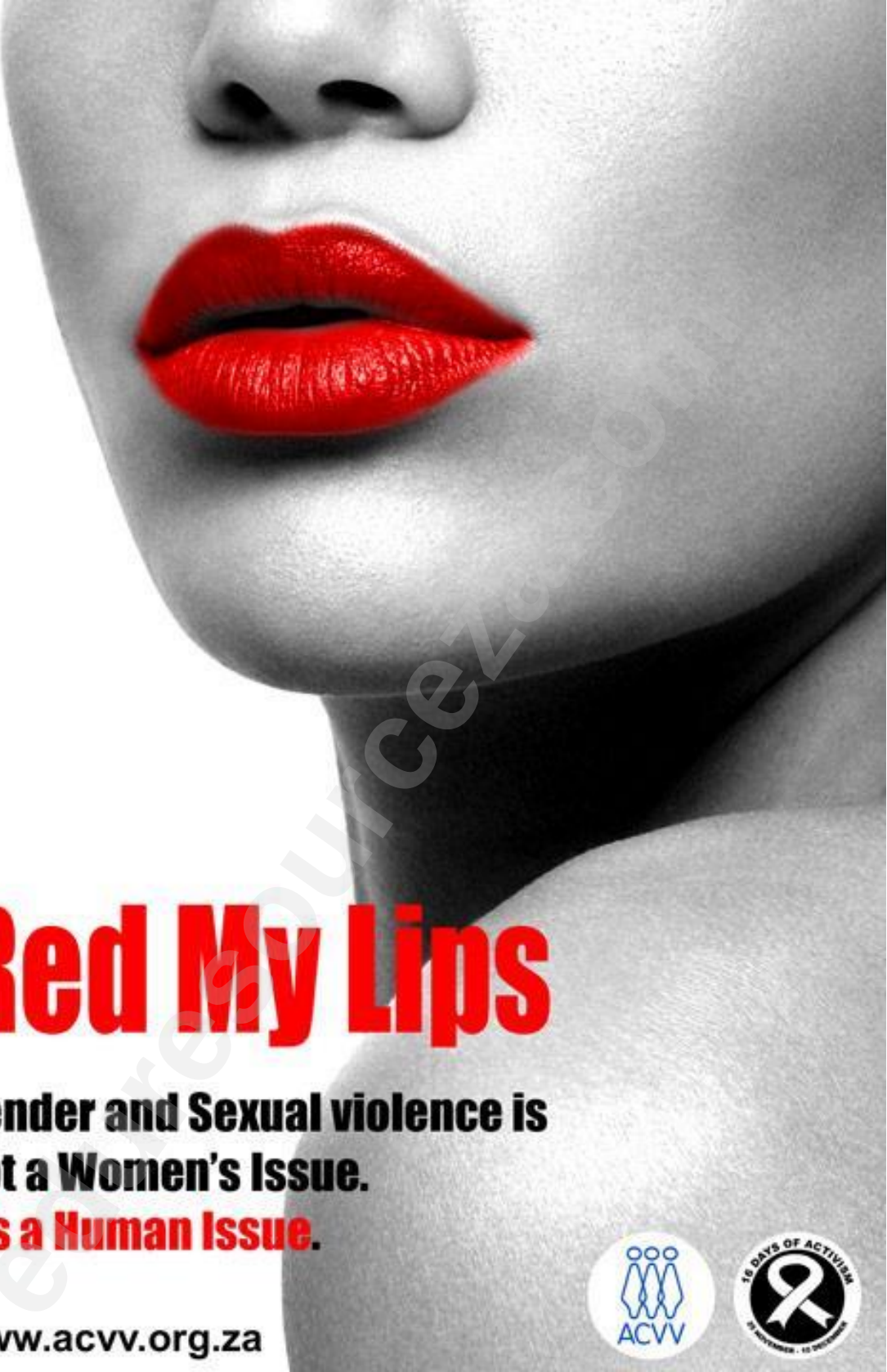
Why good men need to reclaim masculinity from the toxic cliché of power and aggression

By Darren Saunders

A recent survey of over 1,000 men aged 18-30 in the US, UK and Mexico, for example, found that young men who embraced rigid clichés of manhood and how "real men" should act were more likely to suffer depression, engage in self-harm and display risky behaviour like binge drinking and dangerous driving. These young men were also more likely to experience and perpetrate verbal, physical and online bullying. He argues we need to champion a fairer, gentler notion of manhood, shifting our focus from being "real men" to being and raising "good men".

We must stand up when it matters: Call out bad behaviour, challenge our friends and colleagues in conversation, and make it clear that even casual sexism will not be tolerated. Which is why we need to find a way in modern society — with omnipresent cameras and social media — to allow space for boys and young men to make mistakes and learn from them. Facing the consequences of bad decisions is fundamental to that learning experience.

[Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-29/what-makes-a-good-man/9091960>]



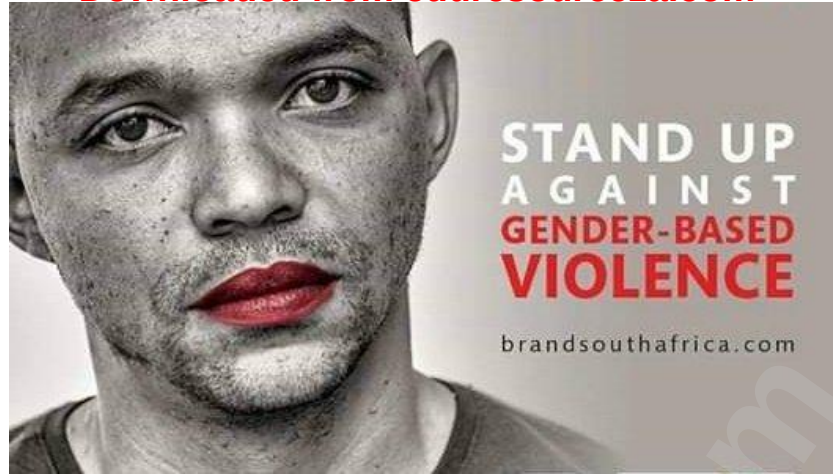
Red My Lips

**Gender and Sexual violence is
not a Women's Issue.
It's a Human Issue.**

www.acvv.org.za



[Source: <https://www.acvv.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/16-days-content.jpg>]



Heterosexual men in red lipstick will not put an end to violence against women and children

We've had this conversation before.

Remember when a reputable glossy publication once put a few select public male figures in suits and stiletto heels - one of whom had recently been embroiled in a domestic violence case against his then girlfriend?

And the discussion that sprouted from it, where we reached the consensus that men in superficial signifiers of femininity or womanhood does little to nothing for the causes we are collectively fighting for as women and marginalised groups.

It seems Brand South Africa missed this conversation. This custodian of South Africa's national brand launched their well-meaning #IAM campaign this week. The campaign fronted by men in red lipstick - or who have at least had their images edited to appear as though they are wearing it - has a primary objective of "encouraging all South Africans to be active participants in the fight to eradicate violence against women and children".

[Source: <https://www.wheels24.co.za/>]

TEXT 5



[Source: <https://www.thegazette.news/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/credit-uncolorblind-am-i-next.jpg>]



[Source: <https://feministsinkenya.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/DegYK5IX0AA98x1.jpg>]



[Source: https://cdn.primedia.co.za/primedia-broadcasting/image/upload/c_limit,fl_progressive,q_80,w_700/mvx5jqidvmivnx71kgmd.jpg]

No more 'nagging wives': how Oxford Dictionaries is cleaning up sexist language

By Alison Flood



'All the examples were either 'she was doing the housework' or 'he wasn't doing the housework' ... Photograph: Steven Gottlieb/Corbis via Getty Images

After extensive research, reference publisher is quietly replacing examples that 'unnecessarily perpetuate stereotypes' – while also reflecting how language is used

- 1 In years past, a reader Googling the definition of "anatomy" on their phone would have found a couple of example sentences demonstrating how the word might be used: "He left dusty handprints on his lady customers' anatomies," or "She was unable to reach for the bag in case she revealed more of her anatomy than she already had."
- 2 Not anymore. After a huge project that involved picking over tens of thousands of example sentences, Oxford University Press (OUP) has been quietly replacing hundreds of those that "unnecessarily perpetuate sexist stereotypes" in Oxford Dictionaries, the dictionary source licensed by Apple and Google. Now the example given for anatomy is "people should never be reduced to their anatomies" – and the "lady customers" have been consigned to the past.
- 3 Housework, for example, had been illustrated with the sentence, "She was doing the housework." OUP's lexicographers went back to the dictionary's corpus – it's huge collection of texts drawn from real life – to find examples "that would not perpetuate unnecessarily sexist stereotypes about housework", said Martin. "And it was unreal, all the examples were either 'she was doing the housework' or 'he wasn't doing the housework', that's so tied into the notion of housework."
- 4 New editorial standards and practices have been established for example sentences "so we can be factually based but not unintentionally cause harm", said Martin.

[Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/06/no-more-nagging-wives-how-oxford-dictionaries-is-cleaning-up-sexist-language>]