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Interview with

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With your host, Clint Doran.

Clint: Today on CF Digital, we're joined by Dr. Edward Bartlett, President of the Domestic Abuse and Violence International Alliance. We're going to be talking about violence against men. So basically, domestic violence against men. Dr. Bartlett, let's start off with... What did the research show basically,

Edward: It's really interesting. There's really no other area of public debate in which the claims of the activists, the gender activists are so totally different from the research findings. And so, when I say research findings, I'm talking about literally hundreds of studies, peer-reviewed studies published in reputable journals across the world in 40 countries around the world. These studies consistently show amazingly that domestic violence is an equal opportunity problem. Women are just as likely or in some cases even more likely than men to be perpetrators of domestic violence. So, we have this amazing disparity between the – let's call it – narrative public narrative that's being pushed by the gender activists, which simply is false, according to the research studies.

But there's more to it. These gender activists, promote claims that are so implausible, that are so easily discredited. But they continue to make them and I'll give you an example. So, you probably heard during the COVID pandemic, that there is going to be an epidemic of domestic violence– and they always say domestic violence against women. Well, we have actually done a very deep dive into this issue. We've looked at police reports, we've looked at crime rates, we've looked at calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. And the bottom line is there was no increase in domestic violence during the COVID era. People who were subjected to the lockdown policies turned out they got along pretty well with their partners. There was no

increase in domestic violence. That's just one example of the really, utterly wild accusations or claims that the gender activists make. But these claims are being made with a purpose. And that purpose is to stereotype men as abusers, and perpetrators. And why? Well, because when you have this broader stereotype of the abusive male, no surprise lawmakers who are driven by chivalrous impulses will hasten to pass laws and policies that take away the fundamental due process rights of men.

So, this is the big picture that we need to understand. There is a strong gender ideology at work here.

Clint: Okay, so when we talk about domestic violence, we normally envision a big hulking man basically assaulting a little weak woman. It is what societal view pertains to domestic violence. So, in our research, we also showed that it's more likely for a man to be physically assaulted by a female partner than what normal societal norm shows. And your study shows that in 40 countries that women are as physically aggressive as men in domestic violence.

Edward: Right. And let's just take an example, the so-called innocent slap, slap on the face. Well, first of all, you don't have to be a weightlifter for a woman to slap a man. Right? So physically any woman is capable of slapping. But how is that portrayed in the media? Well, it's usually portrayed as sort of a woman's reasonable response to a man who does something inconsiderate, or even sometimes it's a cause for laughter. So as a society, we're laughing at male victims of domestic violence. Isn't that somewhat problematic?

Clint: Yeah, I tend to agree with you on this because if we watch TV, any TV show today, you're going to see some woman assault a man in the most comical way. An example is a slap in the face or something along these lines. We don't think of this as assault anymore in societal views. This is just common lot. But you go to YouTube, Tik Tok or any other social media, and you can pull up videos of women physically attacking a man and a man carrying away, reports later and nothing's done because it's a woman. Now, a lot of people don't realize that the CDC, the Centre for Disease Control actually has physical numbers that people can look at, to show the disparity between men violence and female violence.

Edward: Yeah, and those numbers are really stark and they're really convincing. I'll tell you those numbers. This comes again from the US Centers for Disease Control; they do a survey called the NISVS, which stands for National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. It is considered the most reliable survey done in the United States. Each year, 4.2 million men are victims of domestic violence by their partners. 4.2 million men, compared to 3.5 million female victims of domestic violence. So right there, you see, this is not just a 50/50 issue. Truly, women are more likely to be the aggressors. And I think we're seeing a trend; we're seeing more and more cases of women increasingly aggressive. There was a case in Colorado Springs, a few weeks ago, where a man and a woman met... It was just a one-night stand kind of thing. And so, it was all consensual until the woman told the guy that he had to not only remove all his clothes, but then she bound him with duct tape, bound his arms to his legs with duct tape. And so, after the sex act was performed, she ordered him to hobble to the bed. And she

was using a knife to threaten him, ordered him to go to the bed and cut him, and did threaten to cause more harm. Miraculously, he was able to actually get out of her apartment and call the police. He was stark naked. She was of course arrested and charged with a felony assault. I mean, I've just never heard of a man doing that sort of egregious, humiliating kind of activity to a woman. So again, this just happened a few weeks ago in Colorado.

So yeah, this is serious stuff we're talking about. The Johnny Depp trial this past summer, that's another example. I mean, everybody followed that trial, it seems. I mean, anybody who watched that trial, knew that Amber Heard was not being truthful. Okay. But even more, we learned that she was both psychologically abusive and physically abusive. On one occasion, she actually threw a glass at him, and the glass hit the tip of his finger and literally severed the end of his finger. He had to go to the emergency room. So again, when we say domestic violence against men, we're not talking about a "harmless shove", in many cases.

Clint: Let's talk about the laws in the United States. Obviously, this is where we live, in the United States. Most of the domestic violence laws that I've looked up through my years of research as a journalist and everything, use the term [Inaudible 10:00] when referring to domestic violence. They actually use the labels of men and women, and the majority of the laws pertaining to women being abused, not male victims.

Edward: So, we're going back to this narrative, this public narrative. It goes all the way back to the 1990s, when the gender activists were pushing for the passage, the name was the Violence Against Women Act. Right there that should tip everybody off. There is some bias here. So, in order to get this law enacted, which by the way, our President Joe Biden was the lead person on this, getting this law enacted into law... But they had to create a whole series of really outrageous claims. For example, one of the claims was that there was this belief in society that a man could hit his wife with a stick as long as it was not bigger than the width of his thumb. Well, I mean, that's just bizarre. I mean, there's absolutely no truth to that. So, there are just countless examples of claims that were not just wrong, they were outrageous, and they were so easily disprovable. But they played so strongly, the chivalry of the male lawmakers, and played heavily on the fears of female lawmakers. They were stampeded to take action.

Clint: You just mentioned the law that used to be on the books. Now we're located in South Carolina. And that law was actually on our legal books and was just done away with a few years back, that a husband could take his wife on Sunday mornings to the courthouse steps, and beat her with a stick no wider than his thumb. And this was just taken off our books in South Carolina in the early 2000s. So, it was kind of shocking that these laws still existed in today's modern society where we talk about domestic violence.

Let me ask you this. We're not just talking about heterosexual relationships; we're talking about relationships in general. Same-sex partners.

Edward: And that's where the story gets even more interesting and even more bizarre. It turns out— again, we're going back to the Centers for Disease Control studies. They have found that

rates of domestic violence and same-sex female partners are much higher than rates of domestic violence in either male gay partnerships, or in heterosexual partners. Now, remember the underlying ideology is that domestic violence is caused by men attempting to uphold patriarchal privilege. Now, how does that theory relate to or how does that explain the high rates of domestic violence and same-sex lesbian relationships? I don't think patriarchy comes into play in lesbian relationships. But again, the claims that are made are so wild, they are so outlandish. They're so easily disproved. But the fact that lawmakers have enacted laws, really speaks to the power of disinformation, and the power of emotion to motivate lawmakers to pass laws that directly contradict the American constitution.

Clint: Why is it that this has not changed in societal views over so many years? Why are men not reporting the abuse properly?

Edward: There are a number of reasons why men are not reporting. One reason is that it probably is not consistent with men's self-concept of being strong. Another reason is – and we know this from the research – that oftentimes when men call a hotline, that the hotline person will either ridicule the guy or even in some cases even refer to the guy as a perpetrator, domestic violence perpetrator class, even though he is the victim. So that's another reason. A third reason is that police have been indoctrinated into this ideology so extensively, that if a guy calls for help, and the police show up, he may find himself being the one who is arrested, even though there's no physical evidence that he perpetrated any kind of physical abuse. So, there's, there's a lot of reasons why guys are very hesitant to call 911 when they're being attacked.

Clint: Okay, so societal-wise, where did this myth – that's what I'm going to start calling it – come from that women will always be the victims?

Edward: So, this is back to the gender ideology. And to actually answer your question, Clint, I want to go all the way back to Marxist ideology. The Russian social economist, Karl Marx said that the family is fundamentally oppressive to women. Now, he didn't explain why, he didn't explain what circumstances, he didn't explain that maybe there are benefits to living in a family structure, he just sort of categorically decreed that the traditional family is oppressive to women. Now remember, all the research shows, people live longer, people are happier when they're in a stable married relationship. So this actually goes back to Marxist ideology. And so, this whole movement is driven by that Marxist ideology.

I'm sure you've heard of Gloria Steinem, a feminist icon, and she actually made this statement, and I'm going to quote. It says, "patriarchy requires violence or the subliminal threat of violence in order to maintain itself." So again, we're talking about this ideology that its base can be traced all the way back to Marxist ideology.

Clint: On CF digital, we deal with families and family courts and stuff. So how does this play into the family court stage basically?

Clint: So, it plays out in many ways. So, in civil court, for example, a person can get a restraining order in most states without any actual evidence of abuse. In other words, there doesn't have to be a medical report, a police report, you don't need that. You just go in and say, "Judge, I feel afraid". "I feel threatened by...", the keyword "I feel". There's no way to refute it. You know, if you're accused of making a person feel a certain way, there's no way to refute that allegation.

Anyway, so with a restraining order – and in the vast majority of cases, it's a woman who gets the restraining order – that restraining order is served. The husband, he literally has to vacate the house within an hour or two, he has essentially no time to gather his belongings. He's forced out of the home, away from his kids, away from his computer, he can pack a backpack or suitcase. But that's about it. Some of these guys end up being homeless.

So, the next step in this process is the woman filing for divorce. All right. And part of that divorce says, "Oh, well, you know, judge that there's a restraining order out against my husband right now. Don't you think I should get temporary custody of the kids?" Well, in most cases, the judge will say, "Yes, of course, we certainly don't want an abuser fighting or hurting the kids, especially at this difficult time." So, it's called the silver bullet. That's what the lawyers call this. And so, here the guy is out of his home, may not even have access to his bank accounts. And now he's forced to stay away from his own kids.

And so, then the divorce goes to the next stage of the final custody decision. And in many cases, the decision is based on precedent. So, the guy who was originally just accused of making his wife feel afraid, now finds that he's truly been cut off from his family, his own kids. That's not an unusual scenario. So yeah, this has dramatic effects. And again, Karl Marx said that the family was oppressive to women. So, what better way than to actually force them out of the family home and give mom custody of the kids.

Clint: Some people don't know that these hearings that we're referring to in this interview pertain to civil court. They usually only last 10 to 15.

Edward: That's absolutely correct.

Clint: And Family Court isn't ruled by a clear and convincing rule like we see on TV where you have to have evidence or proof. It's all just allegations that are used in these courts.

Edward: Yeah, it is really a disgrace to our Constitution, it's really a disgrace to our notion of fairness and due process. But the goal of the ideologues has been achieved. Dad has been removed from the family, he has essentially no rights in terms of being with his kids. And that's the Marxist dream; to break up the nuclear family. And so Supposedly, this is eliminating the oppressive patriarchal figure.

Clint: We spoke with a few attorneys on this particular subject a while back for another interview. And we asked them, "Why is it that these allegations of violence by these men never

rise from a civil court, such as a domestic violence court, to a criminal court? And the reply we got is because meeting the standard is different, both these courts. The criminal court has a higher standard family court, virtually no standard whatsoever, or whatever they can get the judge to plead. Now I want to bring this just a little bit around. This is basically using allegations of abuse against children to separate them from their fathers in a manner, in these courts.

Edward: Yes. And there's actually more of the story. And I don't want to make this too complicated. But an important part of the story is, let's say that the guy gets partial custody. Realize all of this is very expensive. So, we're talking about 10s of 1000s of dollars being spent for lawyers' fees, missing time from work, etc., etc. So, the guy is financially distraught. This is really the worst nightmare that anybody can imagine. Let's say the guy does get partial custody of the children. And of course, we know that having a father involved in the kids' lives is so important, for their academic performance, and for their mental health. I mean, basically, every social indicator in our society is affected in one way or another by father absence. So, we're talking about broad-scale social impacts.

So, another piece of this puzzle is called parental alienation. And it's not always moms, sometimes fathers do it. But parental alienation is when one parent begins to badmouth the other parent in front of the kids. Saying something like, "Your father really doesn't love you", or "the reason your father was forced out of the house is because he's a bad guy, or you couldn't keep a job." So ultimately, kids who are 10, and eight years old, may begin to believe this stuff, and may become emotionally and psychologically aligned with what's called the alienating parent. And in severe cases, the kids simply refuse to go see the other parent. This is called parental alienation. It really does happen. It's devastating. It's a form of child abuse.

Clint: Now, a lot of people don't realize, I mean, as we've already said, the media and everything has taken off with this violence against women aspect, but there's actually an International Day for violence against men.

Edward: There is and by pleasant coincidence, that is called the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against men. It is tomorrow, November the 18th. And so, my organization, which is the Domestic Abuse, and Violence International Alliance, will be holding an international press conference. There'll be events taking place all around the world. And so yes, we have decided to bring visibility to this issue. It's been swept under the rug for far too many years.

Clint: Now, let me ask you this, for male victims that are out there. Where can they seek actual help?

Edward: So, for male victims of domestic violence, if it's relatively minor but psychological abuse, I think I would recommend calling the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which is based in Texas, but it is a national hotline. I have found that this hotline is fair to all persons who call. So, I think it's fair to say that male victims will be treated respectfully and get help. So that's a good first step there.

Beyond that, I think it's very important to get documentation of the abuse, photographs, especially photographs, or possibly surveillance cameras, but using your cell phone to document statements. If your girlfriend or wife sends you a threatening text message, keep that. Preserve that, it'll be important. So anyway, keeping the evidence. And if you need to call the police, that's a possibility. Some men will just decide, I'm not going to risk the police arresting me even though I'm the victim. So, the guy will just terminate the relationship if the couple is not married. So, there are so many variables in this picture. But yeah, there are actions that abused men can take.

Clint: Now, let me ask this really quick now. How realistic are some of these numbers pertaining to violence against women and violence against men?

Edward: And when you say realistic, are you saying in terms of are they really accurate?

Clint: Correct?

Edward: They are the most accurate numbers we have. Again, it's 4.2 million male victims each year, and 3.5 million female victims each year. And these numbers come from actual telephone calls to a representative sample of Americans across the country. So, it's considered reliable, it's considered valid. In contrast, if you look at arrest statistics, or if you look at convictions, if you look at crime figures, those are very biased for the reasons we're just discussing that male victims often don't reach out for help. So, crime statistics are very biased, whereas the CDC numbers are very good numbers, are reliable numbers.

I'll also add, we've been focusing on physical domestic violence, but there's also psychological abuse, often called coercive control. And coercive control is where one partner is continually berating, controlling, and devaluing the other person. And surprise, surprise, again, it turns out, according to the CDC, women are by far the most common perpetrators of coercive control compared to men. So again, men need to be aware of the problem of coercive control. And if a man is being repeatedly humiliated or told "you have to do this, you have to do that", that's coercive control. And as a first step, speak up and say, "Honey, you are speaking to me in a demeaning tone or voice. You don't need to do that."

Clint: And as you mentioned, I think everybody watched the Johnny Depp/Amber Heard trial. And she basically stated it when she made the statement, "Go ahead and report the abuse. No one's going to believe you, you're a man." That's our societal view here. What does society need to do to start changing that view? What can people do on an everyday basis to start changing that stigma that people have about domestic violence?

Edward: Well, I think it starts by talking about this in the public square. So, we're having this interview right now. This is an important first step. So, media coverage. In the last go around with the Violence Against Women Act in Congress, leading members in the House of Representatives did say explicitly, this law is designed to help male victims as well as female

victims. Nancy Pelosi was one of those persons. So anyway, the bottom line is that people are more and more speaking out. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against men is another effort to bring this issue to the forefront of public consciousness.

Clint: Violence against anyone is wrong, whether it be a simple slap in the face or a frying pan across the head, as the old adage goes, domestic violence is such an underreported issue, both men and women out of fear. Is this a driving force in these sorts of cases, that fear dictates the stuff because of the psychological attacks?

Edward: Fear can certainly be a factor. And especially in the more severe cases, I mean, think about this. This guy I mentioned in Colorado who was bound by duct tape and threatened with a knife, yeah, he was very much in fear for his life. He felt lucky to get out of that apartment. So yeah. This is a complicated issue. And there are many different motivations. Another part of the mythology that the gender activists like to say is, this is all about power and control. Well, that's one factor, one of many factors, one of many reasons.

Sometimes women will strike out, and lash out physically because they feel ignored, or they're lonely. I mean, there are so many different reasons. We know that people who are under the influence of alcohol are far more likely to engage in domestic violence. So, people, when their relationship is breaking up, there's more domestic violence in those situations. So again, the stable family unit is the safest place for both men and women in order to avoid domestic violence. But our friend Karl Marx preached a very different message.

Clint: So, in closing Dr. Bartlett, what can legislators do? What aspects of laws need to change?

Edward: Yeah, that's a big question and a very important question. So, the first step is to look at the actual terminology of the law, the Violence Against Women Act, the Federal law. Obviously, there's a lot of bias there. The name of these laws needs to be changed. Many of these laws include congressional findings or legislative findings. Those findings need to be scientifically accurate and valid. So, look at the findings. But more importantly, lawmakers need to dig down, for example, look at the criteria used by police to make an arrest when both persons say the other person is abusing me like she slaps the guy, he shoves her back. And that scenario is fairly common. So, what are the police protocols for when you have mutual violence? Well, unfortunately, right now, most police use what's called a predominant aggressor policy concept. And predominant aggressor is just a polite way of saying arrest the guy unless you have overwhelming evidence that the woman is the perpetrator. And that's why 80% of all persons arrested for domestic violence are – you guessed it – male. And that's obviously extremely biased. In minority communities, that's extremely deleterious to the guy in terms of his future employment prospects. So, there are so many facets to this issue, but those are just some ways that lawmakers could act to remedy these really extraordinary human rights, and civil rights violations happening right now.

Clint: And with that, Dr. Bartlett, we appreciate you being on the show.

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