

I have experienced violence which was worst because of the passivity and submissiveness that was encouraged in me as a child. These typical feminine traits made it harder for me to speak out or stand up for myself.

I also think that the attitude encouraged in me as a child-- when you are 'bad' you deserve to be beaten, has meant that I am more likely to accept violence even when the reason for it is clearly nonsensical.

Similarly I watch boys and know that the fastest way to start a fight in a school playground is to call a boy a sissy or suggest he is similar to a girl.

We deny young men any emotions except anger and when they base their identities on Not being girls and girls base their identities on being 'good' is it any wonder that many young boys have violence as a core feature of their personality.

We need to allow young people to form identities where boys are not Forced into the role of naughtiness because they so badly do not want to be docile girls.

Also that girls dont just accept violence as their 'just desserts' because the male authority figure in their lives called them 'bad' and said they 'deserved it'.

This begins in hearts and minds and the programs starting now wont be apparent for kids for twenty years.

But it's wrong for domestic violence to be so prevalent. I hope we can learn to be kind to one another.

Sincerely and
anonymously,