

**Submission  
No 42**

## **COERCIVE CONTROL IN DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

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Submission in regards to coercive control bills (Preethi's Law and the Domestic and Personal Violence Amendment: Coercive and Controlling Behaviour), made by Anna Watson and Abigail Boyd respectively.

1. I'm concerned about these new coercive control bills before Parliament. To me, they seem to be skewed to punish men. They are supposed to be irrespective of gender.
2. This type of coercive control in relationships and in regard to children in split families etc are committed by both genders.
3. Men are less likely to come forward to make complaints of this kind because of fear that they will not be believed. The public support, driven by certain groups making big noises attract the media and the government follows. This is merely kowtowing to perceived pressures, and yet does not reflect the full community thinking nor actualities.
4. The type of legislation being proposed mimics laws which were introduced in the UK in 2015. These laws are supposed to be gender-neutral. Yet these laws appear set up to punish men. Information that I have been made aware of talks about the UK system where these laws exist. 24,845 coercive control incidents recorded in England and Wales up to March 2020, resulting in 305 convictions, 301 men and 4 women. Again, men know if they complain they won't be taken seriously by police. Men often suffer in silence because they don't want to be seen as weak. Just because they are silent does not mean that they are not there and not being abused.
5. The rise of domestic violence by women against men, children and other women in same sex relationships has seen a staggering rise in the past year. In the early weeks of 2021 alone, we've seen horrific violence committed by women against children and men. Whereas the media and others find these women suffering from mental illness problems or substance abuse, men are not given such excuses, merely made out to be 'evil monsters' and have more laws introduced to further punish them and innocent people.
6. We're seeing systemic sexism in regards to removing the rights of men over and over in the past five years. This has to stop. Domestic violence, in all its forms, along with mental illness, poverty and substance abuse, is a genderless, raceless problem. Government must not make the problem worse by further gender discrimination.
7. It is not right for government to introduce laws which will be used to discriminate against one gender, when both genders are victims of this sort of controlling behaviour.