

Ms Aquilino & Joanna Lipper

It is well-known that if something is regularly and publicly repeated without challenge often enough it becomes accepted as established fact. Amy Aquilino states: 'Nigeria's most marginalised population: women' about the film 'The Supreme Price'.

It has become a recurrent feature of certain feminists agit-prop to make fantastic statements 'all in a good cause'. However the truth matters.

I have heard this statement made in various parts of Africa and US , mostly by white women. Consider some recent examples of western feminist agit-prop:

a) After Charles Saatchi was photographed having an unfortunate public contretemps with his wife, Sandra Horley of Refuge went on BBC to broadcast that two women were being killed every day because of domestic violence. I immediately wrote to the BBC asserting that this was almost certainly a lie and blaming them as journalist for not fact checking it. The BBC investigated it and found that she had come up with the figure out of thin air. The Home Secretary, a woman, subsequently announced publicly that the correct figure was 70 not 700 i.e. Ms Horley had exaggerated the truth by ten times. The BBC also confirmed that 40% of all domestic violence cases reported to police are of men as victims. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21372875>) Bearing in mind that this is most likely understated as men under-report. When I mentioned this issue to a group of senior UK professionals one of them volunteered that his ex-wife had gone at him with bread knife. I asked if he reported it to the police and he said 'No'. Men are reluctant and embarrassed to report violence by female partners. This suggests that domestic violence may be 50/50 men/women. This in no way defends domestic violence, which should be punished, but suggest that gender may not be primary signifier. (see also official statistics: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_298904.pdf) Anyone wishing to follow this up can read Warren Farrell: formerly the only male member of the Board of NOW (National Organisation of Women), who in his book 'Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say' documents the tendency of some feminists to deliberately lie. The truth matters.

b) Rolling Stone report of 'A rape on campus' which turned out to be a complete fabrication and was not fact checked largely because the story fell inline with the female reporters feminist pre-conceptions and explicitly with what she had said she was looking for!
See: <http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/a-rape-on-campus-what-went-wrong-20150405>.
The truth matters.

c) Femen (Ukrainian version of Pussy Riot) came to London. At the event I challenged one of the members that I suspected that their main opposition was other women not men. To the vocal consternation of the western feminist present and in contradiction to the script of the documentary, she publicly confirmed that in their experience men, particularly younger men, supported them and it was other women particularly older women who hurled abuse at them and occasionally spat at them. In fact Femen was originally founded by a man who sought to stay out of sight. The truth matters.

Kudirat and Hafsat Abiola are among the most wealthy and privileged in Nigerian society. They are not examples of marginalisation. This is in a country, Nigeria, where daughters were given equal education to sons before this happened in UK (daughters of privilege in UK in 1950's and 1960's went to finishing schools not university e.g. Camilla, wife of Prince Charles) , where Nigeria had a female Permanent Secretary (top civil servant) before UK and where in 2014 there were more women ministers in Nigeria (13) than in UK (4) which is 42% and 12% respectively . (see: <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/Nigeria.htm>)
The names of women ministers in Nigeria in 2013 are:

1. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Minister of Finance)
2. Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke (Minister of Petroleum Resources)
3. Princess Stella Oduah (Minister of Aviation)
4. Prof. Ruqqayatu Ahmed Rufa'I (Minister of Education)
5. Hajia Zainab Kuchi (Minister of State for Power)
6. Prof. Viola Onwuliri (Minister of State for Foreign Affairs)
7. Ms. Amma Pepple (Minister of Land, Housing and Urban Development)
8. Sarah Reng Ocheke (Minister of Water Resources)
9. Omobola Johnson Olubusola (Minister of Communication Technology)
10. Erelu Olusola Bada (Minister of State for Defence)
11. Hadiza Ibrahim Mailafa (Minister of Environment)
12. Oloye Olajumoke Akinjide (Minister of State for FCT)
13. Hajia Zainab Maina (Minister of Women Affairs).

More info at : <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/all-the-president-s-women/153695/>

Nigeria is not dissimilar from the rest of Africa:

South Africa, where 15 out of 36 ministers are women, or 41.7% of the total;

Rwanda, where 11 out of 31, or 35.5%, are women, and

Burundi, where 8 out of 23, or 34.8% of the total, are women.

The Chief Justice of Nigeria 2012 -2014 was a woman.

More women in Nigeria own their own business than in the UK and this has been so for at least decades.

Nigeria's culture like most African culture has no history of misogyny unlike most Western countries and this is something Western feminist do not wish to address. The truth matters.

My challenge to Amy Aquilino: either provide some evidence to justify your statement 'Nigeria's most marginalised population: women' or withdraw it and stop repeating it.

Dapo Ladimeji