

WHAT TROUBLE I HAVE SEEN: A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WIVES

David Peterson Del Mar. Cambridge:
Harvard University Press, 1996.

PAR SYLVIE SAVOIE

Depuis le milieu de 19e siècle jusqu'à aujourd'hui, des hommes ont utilisé la violence afin d'affirmer leur autorité sur des femmes, qui souvent l'ont contestée ou ont tenté d'y échapper ou d'y résister.

Basée sur une vaste documentation (environ 3 500 demandes de divorce réparties tout au long de la période étudiée et issues de femmes de différents milieux de l'Oregon), l'étude présente une analyse fine et globale de la violence conjugale. Les demandes de divorce utilisées par l'auteur dévoilent, grâce aux témoignages des femmes, des hommes, des mem-

bres de la famille ou des voisins, les causes de la violence infligée aux épouses, les réactions de ces dernières et la possibilité d'interventions extérieures (famille, voisinage, amis, police). La littérature de l'époque, les journaux, la formation d'associations féminines et les discussions entourant l'adoption de lois visant à enrayer la violence faite aux femmes, révèlent les perceptions et la position de la société face à la violence conjugale.

L'auteur démontre habilement que l'histoire de la violence conjugale est intimement liée aux transformations culturelles, sociales et économiques. Une constante remise en contexte permet de saisir les motifs des hommes et d'expliquer la façon de réagir des épouses selon les périodes.

Battre sa femme devient moins acceptable et moins fréquent à la fin du 19e siècle, moment où le contrôle de soi et l'influence des femmes prennent davantage d'importance dans la société. Au cours du 20e siècle, l'intérêt accru pour l'intimité et l'individualisme, le désir de se réaliser

et la culture de consommation, provoquent une augmentation de la violence des hommes perplexes face à ces transformations profondes; tandis que les épouses acceptent de plus en plus difficilement les mauvais traitements de la part de leurs conjoints.

Cet ouvrage, basé sur une méthodologie rigoureuse, reste agréable à lire et accessible à un large public. La division des chapitres permet de bien saisir le contexte expliquant la violence subie par les épouses, leurs réactions, ainsi que les changements intervenus dans ce domaine. De plus, l'auteur laisse la parole aux femmes par le biais des témoignages présentés.

Ces femmes, plus ou moins soutenues par leur entourage selon les périodes, doivent souvent affronter la violence parce qu'elles la contestent. Cet ouvrage permet donc une meilleure compréhension d'un phénomène qui perdure et incite à la réflexion sur la violence conjugale d'aujourd'hui.

DIRECTOR

Human Rights and Equity Office

Reporting to the President and serving as a member of the President's Executive Group, this senior position provides leadership in and is responsible for ensuring the delivery of comprehensive programming and services to meet the University's goals and objectives in the area of human rights. The incumbent manages a staff and budget and contributes actively to educational and employment equity efforts. With due attention to the institution's commitment to academic freedom and free and open debate, the incumbent also will work with the entire University community toward the goal of sustaining a learning, living and working environment which is equitable, inclusive, and free from all forms of harassment and discrimination.

Responsibilities: providing leadership, information and advice on promoting an environment that is safe and free from discrimination/harassment; working with the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Senate in the promotion of educational equity policies and programs; working closely with the President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights and associated sub-committees to ensure that recommendations, policies and procedures (including complaint procedures) are implemented; ensuring that legislative mandates, reporting requirements and information requests regarding employment equity are met; ensuring the development and evaluation of University policies and programs designed to eliminate discrimination in employment; coordinating the delivery of a sustained program of education on human rights and equity issues and principles; supervising the work of the Human Rights Consultants and providing a supportive mechanism for mutual accountability of the team to the President; serving as the University's spokesperson in human rights and employment equity related matters.

Requirements: a university degree together with substantial experience (including managerial experience) in equity and/or human rights related positions in a complex and diverse organization. Demonstrated personal commitment to understanding and eliminating discrimination in all its forms (individual and systemic) and to organizational change. Knowledge of legal issues relating to human rights; skills in the design, delivery, assessment and implementation of educational programs. Demonstrated competence as a facilitator in the development and formulation of policies and procedures at a senior level as well as excellent communication and mediation skills. Proven programming and analytical skills; ability to function in a collegial environment; strong interpersonal skills. Candidates will be evaluated on their ability to display empathy, perseverance, creativity, discretion, fairness, skill in relating to all levels in the University community, equanimity, pragmatism and a strong commitment to the type of work involved in this position. Post-secondary education employment experience is an asset.

It is expected this appointment will commence June 1, 1999. Applications or nominations for this position, indicating the qualifications on the basis of which the individual merits consideration, will be reviewed commencing March 10, 1999, and will continue to be received until a selection is made.

Position Number: 373-003

The University of Guelph is committed to an employment equity program that includes special measures to achieve diversity among its faculty and staff. We therefore particularly encourage applications from qualified aboriginal Canadians, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and women.

Resumes should be forwarded to Human Resources Client Services, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1. Fax: (519) 763-2780.

We thank all applicants for their interest but wish to advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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