



REALity

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THE CURSE OF FATHERLESSNESS

The mass shootings in the US have dumbfounded its citizens. Americans have owned semi-automatic weapons for over a hundred years, but only in recent years have school shootings become a phenomenon.

What is the common thread in all these shootings? Six out of the seven deadliest shootings that occurred in the US between 2005 and 2015 were committed by men who grew up in fatherless homes. Even a study of older male shooters, such as Stephen Paddock of the Las Vegas massacre, indicates that they grew up in fatherless homes.

A boy's relationship with his father has a profound effect on his identity. Many of the school shooters struggled with a sense of "damaged masculinity" and sought to become "ultra-masculine" by obtaining a gun which they believed gave them power. This conclusion on mass shootings has been established by much research, and refuted by none.

The consequences of fatherlessness are simply staggering. US statistics on the effects of not having a father in the home include the following:

- 85% of all youth in prison come from fatherless homes;
- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes;
- 71% of pregnant teenagers lack a father in the home; and
- 90% of runaways or homeless teens are from fatherless homes.

Father-enriched boys are able to channel their masculinity constructively as father deprived boys channel their masculinity destructively.

PERILS OF THE DIVORCE COURT

An unfortunate notion has developed that marriage is about the emotional fulfillment of adults, when it is actually

about the needs of children. Children's needs are the same today as they were one hundred years ago, but our society and current culture has changed, which is harming our young people and leading to their troubled behaviour.

One of the most significant of these cultural changes is the increase in absent fathers by no-fault divorce, not by their own choice.

Divorce is most often instigated by the wife (70%) and, in a majority of cases, divorce causes the separation of a child from his/her father.

It should be pointed out, however, that broken homes are not just caused by divorce and separation, but also by infidelity, substance abuse, criminal behaviour, domestic violence and child abuse, that are far too prevalent in our culture.

FALSE ALLEGATIONS

Under current Canadian legislation, divorced or separated mothers have been provided with an opportunity to undermine their children's relationship with their father by accusing him, without evidence, of abuse, whether sexual or physical. With this allegation, the father is immediately removed from the home in order to protect the mother and her children. This removal can be critical since 18 women and two men have been killed in Canada between January and April, 2018 by their intimate partner. However, with this allegation, the father is jailed overnight and then released on bail terms which include a provision requiring that he stay away from his wife and children until the allegation has been resolved by the courts. The mother can further enforce the father's absence by obtaining a restraining order against him, requiring he not return to the home. Because of the courts' backlog in domestic cases, court hearings are frequently delayed for 12 to 18 months. This delay is harmful to

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**The REAL Women Board and Staff
wish you and your loved ones
a Blessed Christmas
Season and
a Joyous New Year.**



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the child-father relationship since the father is absent from the child's life for this prolonged period of time.

Further, family law does not require that "guilt" of abuse be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, as required in criminal cases, so that the complaining parent alleging violence or abuse, can basically say anything about the other parent and the burden of proof is shifted. That is, in the absence of witnesses, there isn't much in place to prevent a parent from fabricating false allegations. Consequently, an innocent parent doesn't have much of a chance against such an allegation.

There must be a recognition that in the often emotional context of a family breakdown, allegations of violence made by one spouse against another can be exaggerated or even fabricated. There should be provisions in the legislation for penalties for false allegations.

According to *Statistics Canada Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile* which was released in January, 2016, 4% of the 19.2 million Canadians with a spouse or common law partner, reported having been physically and/or sexually abused. This was significantly fewer than the proportion who had reported in 2004 (7%) and in 2009 (6%) that they had been victimized by a spouse or partner. It is to be noted that this statistic refers to only a "report" of abuse, but not that of proven abuse by the court.

While it is always necessary to protect women and children from abuse, it is equally critical that substantial evidence first be obtained to support the charge of abuse before it is acted on. At the present time, police do not necessarily properly investigate the domestic abuse allegations. The mere statement of one spouse accusing the other of domestic violence or abuse is simply not sufficient. Rather, such allegations should be substantiated by credible evidence, such as pictures, doctors' notes, videos, as well as witness testimony, in order to provide balance to the allegation. Investigation by properly selected and trained individuals would help eliminate illegitimate

claims that result in separating parents from their children.

FATHERS UNDERMINED BY CUSTODY ORDERS

When a hearing occurs, the father's position is usually undermined because in the majority of cases, custody is awarded to the mother, with only limited access to the child by the father.

The limited access granted a separated parent, which allows only brief dinners and occasional week-end visits, is not rich, broad or extensive enough to nurture a relationship. In contrast, weekday and week-end daytime and night-time activities by a separated parent are important for child development.

Until we come to grips with the dismal effects of no-fault divorce, broken homes and the court ordered interference in family relationships, good fathers will continue to be shut out of the lives of their children. This results in damaged lives, and in some horrible instances, which are now occurring with alarming frequency, terror and death to innocent people because of the lack of meaningful father/son relationship in the life of the young man holding the gun.

POSITIVE PROGRAMS

Instead of removing barriers to divorce, as occurred during the latter half of the 20th century, the government should fund efforts to help couples form and sustain healthy marriages. Education programs, not therapy, have proven very helpful in saving struggling marriages.

Those who received classroom instruction had fewer destructive conflicts. Importantly, women reported less physical assault from their partner. The couples had generally warmer and more supportive relationships and they worked more effectively as co-parents.

Shattered family relationships are creating havoc in society. There is increasing evidence that relationship education works. Society should build on this success. †

JULIE PAYETTE'S FAILURE TO LAUNCH AS GOVERNOR GENERAL

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's appointments are based on appearances rather than substance. Optics take precedent over prudent judgment. In pursuance of his obsession with "gender equality", Trudeau appointed a number of women to his cabinet for which they were painfully ill-prepared. Bardish Chagger (Waterloo), a brand new MP elected in 2015, was appointed as Liberal House of Commons Leader. She was the first woman to occupy this strategic government position and had absolutely no "hands-on" experience for this role, which requires an understanding of the House of Commons rules as well as a grasp of the mood and inclinations of the MPs. This takes time and experience to acquire. She failed utterly to bring in new Parliamentary rules proposed by the Trudeau government. He appointed Mélanie Joly (Ahuntsic—Cartierville) as Minister of Heritage before she had served a day in the House of Commons. She was a disaster in the role and was

subsequently demoted to Minister of Tourism. Another newly elected female MP was Maryam Monsef (Peterborough—Kawartha), appointed Minister of Democratic Institutions. In this role, she tried to bring about electoral reform, with no result. In doing so, she made ludicrous statements in the House of Commons and became a laughing stock.

In keeping with bizarre female appointments, Trudeau appointed Julie Payette as Governor General in October 2017. Since her appointment, Ms. Payette, whose role is supposed to be a living symbol of the Crown which unites Canadians, has been a failure. Her responsibilities include signing decrees, providing royal assent and swearing-in cabinets, meeting the public and supporting Canadian organizations. She has made limited attempts to carry out these duties. She has given every appearance of believing that it is she who

ennobles the office, rather than the other way around. For example, in her first major speech in November, 2017, she pompously ridiculed those holding religious beliefs, which views did not, according to her, measure up to her scientific knowledge and understanding of the world.

Julie Payette appeared, on paper at least, perfect for Trudeau's purposes, in that she was a bilingual, youngish (53 years of age) astronaut and engineer. Trudeau was so excited about her appointment that he did not bother to carry out background research on her, or seek advice from the Advisory Committee on Vice-Regal Appointments or from his own Privy Council.

Since assuming her responsibilities as Governor General, Ms. Payette has carried out only one-third of the activities carried out by her immediate predecessor, David Johnston. She has refused to carry out duties, such as presenting the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards to recognize achievements of young people and presenting the traditional award for the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, as well as the Governor General Historical Society of Canada awards. As Governor General, Ms. Payette is the Commander in Chief of the military, and Governors General have always attended the annual Army Run in Ottawa to raise money for the military ill and injured and their families. Not Ms. Payette. She has declined to accept daffodils from cancer patients during the Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Month.

The role of Governor General requires diplomacy, tact, and the ability to connect with people. Ms. Payette, although no doubt an excellent engineer, hates small talk and disdains those who are not supposedly as intelligent as she believes herself to be.

According to authorities responsible for the Governor General, Payette routinely challenges the traditional boundaries of her role. She has pushed back on the idea that she should uncritically rubber stamp other people's decisions. For example, although she is supposed to have only an honorary role determining those awarded the Order of Canada, she has insisted upon sitting in on these meetings. She has sometimes also blurred the line between promoting the study of science

and trying to effect science policy within the government.

As an explanation for this failure to function as expected, her office stated that delays in requests were due to Ms. Payette putting everything under review, including all programming, travel and patronage.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ANNUAL SALARY AND BENEFITS

An overview of benefits and personal considerations provided to Payette by the Privy Council Office just before her appointment in July 2017, indicates that she earns an index-linked annual salary of \$290,600. In addition, she enjoys two official residences, meals, chauffeur-driven transport, health and life insurance plans, and receives services from housekeepers and cooks, plus laundry services. Upon leaving office, Governor General Payette will receive \$143,242 (adjusted to cost of living index), every year for life. Since she is only 53 years of age, considerably younger than most of her predecessors, this is a comfortable return for her efforts, as marginal as they currently are.

Governor General Payette may eventually grow into the job, but it seems more likely that this will not be the case. Her appointment as Governor General is just another file on which Trudeau has failed to deliver.

Her appointment as Governor General, however, is not the first failure of female Governors General. Two other previous appointments were just as disappointing. Former CBC journalists Adrienne Clarkson and Michaëlle Jean sought and obtained the appointment for their own advantage—money and prestige, but with only a cursory interest in actually serving the public (see REALity, January 2018, "The Curse of our Female Governors General"). In contrast, the immediate former Governor General, David Johnston, handled the role superbly. Besides his impeccable credentials as a dean of law and a professor, he had a profound understanding of the parliamentary system and the many duties of a Governor General, as well as a great respect for the role. It also helped that he, unlike Ms. Payette, had a down-to-earth personality without any airs or pretensions. †

XII WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES 2018 CHISINAU, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, SEPTEMBER 14–16, 2018

The World Congress of Families, which is one of the leading social conservative organizations in the world, held a conference from September 14–16, 2018, in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova (a former Soviet republic located between Romania and Ukraine). It was a huge success. The theme of the Congress was "The Natural Family: Uniting East and West". It was extremely well organized, with the President of Moldova, Igor Dodon, speaking several times at the conference. The President of Poland, Lech Kowalewski, and Olga Epifanova, Deputy Chairperson of the State Duma (Parliament of the Russian Federation), also addressed the meeting. Many outstanding religious leaders, such as Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, Elder Christoffel Golden of the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and Archpriest Dmitry Smirnov, Official Representative of Patriarch Kirill and the Russian Orthodox Church, also spoke at the Congress.

Participants included Members of Parliament from various countries, such as Russia, Italy, Australia, Serbia, Romania, Malawi and Mexico. Also present was Anna Zuburska, Slovakian Member of the European Parliament. These members of Parliament have been speaking out in defence of life and family in their national legislatures, even if their countries are hostile to such issues. Their meeting together at the Congress provided them with additional valuable information to assist them in their pro-family efforts, and also gave them encouragement and acknowledgement that they are not alone in their important work.

There were also representatives present from key pro-life/family organizations from around the world who exchanged ideas and expertise on the defence of our shared values and the promotion of the natural family. REAL Women National Vice President, Gwen Landolt, chaired a panel at the conference, entitled “Motherhood—Where the Sanctity of Life, the Meaning of Marriage and the Ideology of Gender Intersect”. Participants on this panel came from Russia, Kenya and the U.S.

A brief video, from Dr. Steve Turley, a writer and teacher of theology, Greek and Rhetoric (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4RCA-vSK74>), has provided background information and very usefully explains the strategic position of Moldova and the pro-family efforts of the Moldovan President, Igor Dodon, against globalization, and the return to traditional values that is occurring in some eastern European countries.

On the last day of the Congress, Brian Brown, the President of International Organization for the Family (IOF), which organizes the World Congress of Families, announced that he had received word from the Deputy Prime Minister of Italy and other key Italian officials, that the World Congress of Families has been invited to meet next year in Verona, Italy, March 29-31, 2019. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet again and to gain inspiration for our efforts on behalf of the family.

The participants and speakers at the conference in Moldova came from different cultures and regions around the world, and spoke many different languages. They were all united, however, by the bond of concern for the sanctity of life and the family. As a result, they spoke in a common language, trusting one another as they shared similar beliefs on the family and respect for human life. †

A MESSAGE FROM SPAIN ON THE FAMILY WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES 2018, CHISINAU

By: Dr. Margarita (Gari) Duran Vadell

An example of the shared beliefs of those attending the World Congress was the paper presented by Dr. Margarita (Gari) Durán Vadell from Majorca, Spain. Dr. Duran is a former Spanish Senator (2011-2015). She has a PhD in Ancient History, as well as a degree in geography and history, and a Master's Degree in archival studies. She has written numerous articles in favour of human rights, particularly in defence of life and the dignity of the human being from conception to natural death. She has also written extensively in favour of religious freedom. She is the spokesperson for Family and Human Dignity and Values and Society. She is Vice President of the International Council of Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy (INCO Human Rights). Below is an edited speech that she presented to the Congress on the importance of the family. Her message from her country, thousands of miles away, reflects the very same thoughts of so many of us living in Canada today.

THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY

Our historical, sociological and political differences do not diminish our unity in facing our common challenges. The identical struggles that our countries are facing tell us the source of threats to the family is not regional, but global.

The family is the best social guarantee against State interference into individual liberties. Values and traditions, the soul of a country, are transmitted in the family. Above all, when we are part of a family we are not isolated individuals who can be manipulated by political and economic powers.

Today, the family in Europe, and even Spain, my native country, has singular strengths but clear weaknesses, such as the high rate of family breakdown, the low birth rate and fewer marriages. A political response to reverse this situation appears to be lacking.

REVERSING HARMFUL TRENDS

There are social dynamics in some countries that are very difficult, but not impossible, to reverse:

- We can create conditions whereby those who choose to create a family with many children can do so freely, with fewer economic and employment obstacles.
- We can implement a family basis for all policy areas: education, taxation, employment, social services, housing, etc.
- We can favour the political and social recognition of the family as the foundation of social cohesion and the transmitter of positive values.

OPPORTUNITIES

Solutions are more easily found if we view evidence of the family as primarily an investment, rather than an expense:

- When an economic crisis was most severe in Spain, it was family permanence which prevented further social deterioration. High unemployment did not lead to a social catastrophe thanks to support from the family structure.
- Many unemployed were not obliged to live on the street because they were able to return home to their parents. Many grandparents shared their pensions with struggling children and grandchildren.
- Welfare state benefits are insufficient to provide for the increasing dependence of an aging population. What the administration does not do is done by the family. Women, especially, are the main caregivers of the elderly and dependent persons.
- Deficient family public policies have led to grandparents being called upon to take care of grandchildren during holiday periods. Working hours, not at all designed for

harmonious family life, prevent working parents or mothers from providing proper care of their children.

These and other shortcomings illustrate that even if politicians limit their concerns to economic and social matters, not protecting the family is suicidal for any society.

THREATS TO THE FAMILY

Blindness and incompetence may be the reason that politicians ignore the obvious, but this neglect of the family is mainly ideological. Threats to the family are global and have serious consequences for societies everywhere.

Some threats to the family are:

- An intentional absence of political recognition of the importance of the natural family as a factor in social cohesion and, as a consequence, intentional absence of policies to favour a healthy birth rate and family unity.
- In some countries, having more than three children is considered irresponsible. The dominant opinion is that your choice is only due to religion (including religious radicalism). With the popular notion that religion must be kept out of the public sphere, calls for more family support are not taken seriously.
- Mass media impose a vision of the family that fails to portray the real, natural or traditional family. With the insistence that the media promote diversity, the natural family, despite being the majority, is made to appear as merely one option, and is even seen as a minority, which it is not.
- A growing nihilism imposes the view that the natural

family is an outdated institution, comparable to any other type of association.

- Laws passed to defend certain interest groups, using the excuse of defending their rights, now violate longstanding individual rights: freedom to educate our children according to our beliefs, the equality of all citizens before the law, and the presumption of innocence.
- With surrogacy laws, having a child has been converted into a legal imperative. A desire to have a child now involves the law.
- Finally, gender ideology, appearing as an innocuous theory, claiming to be correcting historical persecution, is, in fact, lethal to the natural family, especially when it is imposed in schools. Parents are prevented from transmitting a different point of view to their own children, under threat of penalty. Even scholars who question these theories, physicians, journalists, etc., are sanctioned as gender ideology is becoming state ideology.

How does one fight against these threats? I believe we must fight where the struggle is taking place: social media, the streets and, above all, in parliament, by:

- Promoting the family
- Exposing the truth about these ideologies and the behaviour models some are trying to impose
- Not being ashamed of our beliefs, as ordinary citizens and as professionals
- Opposing, above all, the weakness and lack of conviction that allows the implementation of harmful ideologies. †

OPIOID CRISIS SHORTENS NATIONAL LIFE EXPECTANCY

“Deaths by despair” is a synonym for the opioid crisis: it is causing life expectancy in Canada to fall.

This was the conclusion of a paper published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (April 2018), which claimed that Canada’s life expectancy is being affected by opioid deaths.

In 2017, the opioid crisis caused the deaths of 4,000 individuals in Canada. Deaths have also been due to alcohol related causes, such as an increase in cirrhosis of the liver, and to suicides. The average Canadian lifespan is 82 years, but this is up only slightly from 81 years in 2006. Canada’s current ranking in life expectancy is two notches lower than it was a decade ago.

Medical literature informs us that people who are depressed are more likely to be prescribed opioids. But, people who are prescribed opioids are also more likely to become depressed! Since two-thirds of opioid overdoses involve prescription medications, physicians should be aware of this pattern before prescribing opioids.

This link between mental health disorders and substance abuse is well documented. According to a new study, in the journal *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epide-*

miology (October 3, 2018), for every additional 1% of the population with a depression diagnosis, there is a 25-35% increase in the number of opioid overdose deaths.

Deaths by opioid, alcohol abuse, and suicide are deaths caused by despair. These deaths disproportionately occur among men who are divorced or never married and individuals from rural areas with a high school education.

This development paints a disturbing picture of a social and spiritual crisis today. Despair can be caused by many factors, including chronic unemployment, loneliness and failure to fit in to our technological society. Why are these men experiencing such despair leading them to turn to drugs, alcohol and suicide for solace and escape? Why do our social services not reach out more to these individuals? Why are mental health and drug treatment beds not more plentiful? Instead, society leaves individuals to their despair by providing them with even more spaces in drug injection sites to inject their drugs.

It also seems that Canada is paying a large social price for the widespread collapse of values, such as marriage and family, which is leading many men to bear the brunt of this crisis. †

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear REAL Women of Canada supporter:

On behalf of our National Board of Directors and our dedicated administration support staff, I extend to you and your families all the blessings of this joyous Christmas season.

On November 1, 2018, REAL Women of Canada, together with 5 other like-minded groups, submitted a joint brief to the House of Commons Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The brief was on Bill C-78, An Act to Amend the Divorce Act, and was entitled "Best Interests = Presumptive Equal Shared Parenting". Our brief advocates that the Committee studying this Bill take the opportunity to improve the situation for future children of divorce by enacting shared parenting, where there is no abuse, in all jurisdictions in Canada. On December 3, 2018, REAL Women sent a letter to all our MP's advising them of our brief, and urging them to amend the bill to include the presumption of shared parenting as the default in a divorce, which is not the case at present. On December 4, 2018, REAL Women sent an ALERT to our supporters asking them to write their MP's requesting that they vote to include this important issue in Bill C-78.

On November 14, 2018, REAL Women issued a Media Release on surrogacy, "Canadian Taxpayers Fund Surrogacy Births for Foreigners". On the same day, we sent recommendations to the consultations at Health Canada urging that surrogacy arrangements by foreign couples made with Canadian surrogate mothers be banned in Canada. Please refer to the article on this topic in the 2018 November e-REALity and in the 2018 November/December REALity issue.

Thank you for being women and men doing your very best to build a better society. Your efforts will be rewarded, one way or another.

Pauline Guzik
Pauline Guzik,
National President



This cartoon by Tim Dolighan, was published: on September 30, 2018 in The Toronto SUN.

CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

FOR

REAL Women of Canada

Our Fundraising has gone global!

Find our recently launched Crowdfunding Page on the WonderWe platform.

<https://www.wonderwe.com/real18>

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MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2019 NOW DUE

This is a reminder that your 2019 membership in REAL Women of Canada is now due. The annual membership fee is \$30.

Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope for your convenience in forwarding your annual membership renewal and fee.

It is your wonderful support that enables REAL Women to continue its work on behalf of the traditional family of mother, father, children, and to promote values that sustain and protect society.

Thank you so much for your faith in us as indicated by your financial and moral support. In return, we promise to remain faithful and diligent in supporting the family and traditional values.

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