

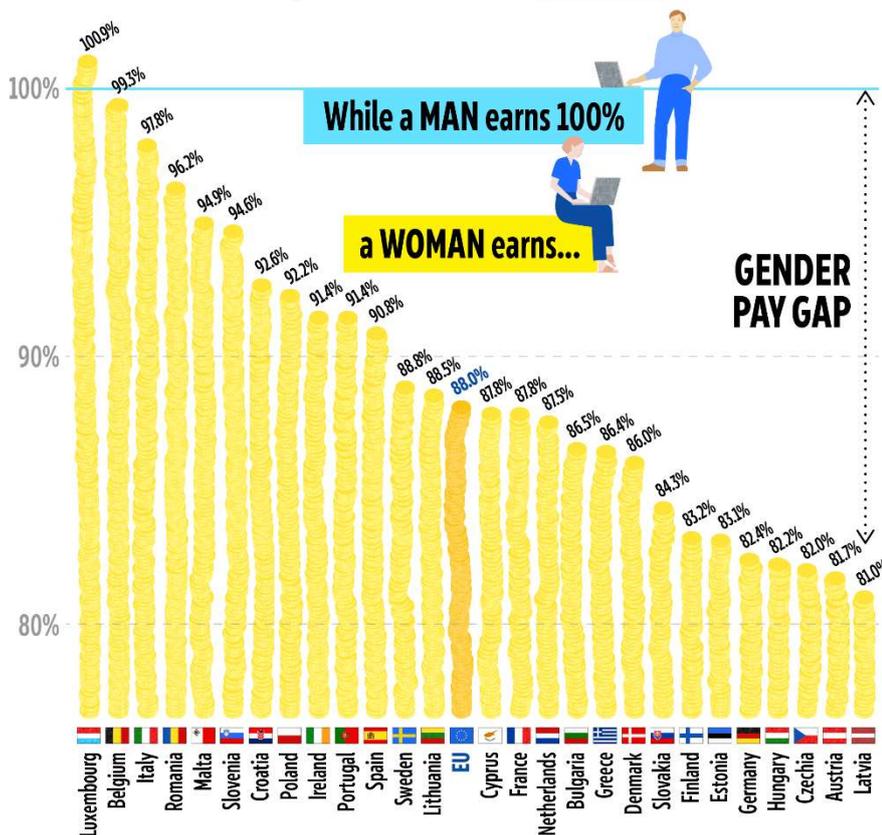
Chapter Five: Gender Equality – Is feminism still necessary today?

Step 1 : What is feminism today?

- 🗣️ What is feminism?
- What has it achieved?
- What about feminism today?

Step 2: Persisting inequalities

What does a woman earn compared to a man ?



Describe the document:

Commentary:

The unadjusted gender pay gap represents the difference between the average gross hourly earnings of men and women expressed as a percentage of the average gross hourly earnings of men.

Source: Eurostat [SDG_05_20] · most recent data available (2023)



Step 3: Misogynistic Backlash

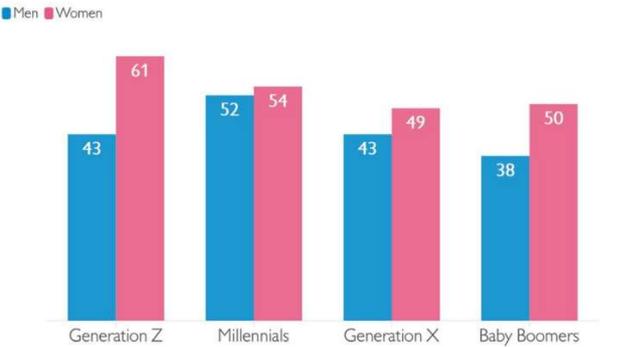
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Gen-Z men and women are more divided on feminism than any previous generation.

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Most Gen Z Men Say They Are Not Feminists

Percentage of Americans who agree the "feminist" label describes them well



| Generation | Men (%) | Women (%) |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
| Generation Z | 43 | 61 |
| Millennials | 52 | 54 |
| Generation X | 43 | 49 |
| Baby Boomers | 38 | 50 |

Note: Survey of US adults (N=5,459). Source: Survey Center on American Life, 2023.

Survey Center on American Life

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Document 1

40% of teenage boys believe women lie about domestic and sexual violence: new research

Sara Meger, Kate Reynolds, *The Conversation*, March 5, 2026

On International Women's Day, March 8, we often commemorate the progress women have made across the centuries. Rightly so, as there's much to celebrate.

But what if the more urgent story is about backlash?

We are researching a troublingly common pathway: how everyday misogyny becomes violent extremism. We're trying to better understand how gender attitudes influence radicalisation

and how we can best prevent it.

Drawing from our soon-to-be-published survey of more than 2,300 adults and 1,100 young people (aged 13–17), our findings suggest misogyny is not a side issue. It may be a driver of extremism.

While public debate often frames extremism through race, religion or nationalism, our research suggests that gender politics may be just as – if not more – central.

1. After reading the introduction, explain what March 8 is.
2. Give a definition of misogyny.
3. What have the authors decided to study? What sort of article is this?

Finding the common threads

Though vastly different, extremist movements, such as far-right ethno-nationalists, religious fundamentalists and online “incel” communities, have something in common. The ideological language may differ, but the underlying insistence on women's “rightful place” in society binds these movements together.

Around the world, there is a growing sentiment that “feminism has gone too far” or that men are now discriminated against. In Australia and other Western countries, this sentiment has risen steadily since 2021.

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Online, it's amplified through what's been called the "manosphere": a network of influencers and communities that frame gender equality as a threat.

10 We are interested in whether this growing sentiment is generating anti-feminist and misogynistic attitudes in Australia, and whether these attitudes form a pathway into violent extremist views.

Explain in your own words what extremist movements have in common.
Explain what the "incel" communities and the "manosphere" are. What do they reveal about feminism today?

Our research

In our recent national survey of Australian adults and adolescents, we examined general misogynistic attitudes and support for violent extremism.

5 We asked whether it is legitimate to use violence to resist feminism. More than 17% of all Australians agree feminism should be resisted with violence. It was the second most supported form of extremist attitude.

Our study included a representative sample of 13–17-year-olds across Australia. The findings are even more confronting among these participants.

10 We were surprised to learn that 25–30% of boys in this age group expressed agreement with various forms of violent extremism. More than a third (36%) agreed with misogynistic attitudes.

Support for violence to resist feminism was highest among adolescent boys (28%), followed closely by adolescent girls (21%).

15 Perhaps most alarming: roughly 40% of boys aged 13 to 17 agreed that women lie about domestic and sexual violence.

These results raise crucial questions going forward. We don't yet know how these views have changed over time, whether they are on the rise and what the links are between violent extremism and the negative treatment of women.

20 A generation under strain?

Another avenue of enquiry our team is investigating is how the perception of threat to masculine status and lack of belonging can play a role.

25 Social research has shown boys and men increasingly feel alienated, humiliated or uncertain about their place in the world.

Narratives that reassert male dominance can become psychologically attractive and are being pushed online – often for profit. They blame the plight of men on feminism, immigrants and women at large.

30 [...]Online communities validate men and boys' grievances and offer an "outgroup" to scapegoat and blame – women. At the same time a new "ingroup" is being crafted, coalescing around misogyny, and shaped and led by key figures online.

This new social identity that defines men and boys (and allies) as an ingroup in need of defending may be operating as a gateway to violent extremist ideologies.

1. What does research indicate about young adults' perceptions of violence against women?
2. What factors help explain these findings?

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The public and the private

5 One of our study's most nuanced insights concerns how young people conceptualise violence against women. We found two distinct clusters of attitudes.

Some respondents justified violence in the private sphere. If a woman disobeys in the home, a man should be able to control her with violence.

10 Others supported abstract restrictions in the public sphere, such as limiting women's reproductive rights. Some agreed with the sentiment that "sometimes a woman just pushes a man too far", forcing him to commit acts of violence.

Different types of extremism appeared to align with different clusters. This suggests misogyny is not all the same. It's expressed in many ways, from intimate coercion to political control.

15 The intergroup conflict comes to the fore in social and political debates about men and women's rights and freedoms, and the perception that advances in women's rights has come at the expense of men's.

Understanding these distinctions is vital for understanding misogyny and violent extremism in Australia and beyond. Misogyny is not just a "social issue", but a potential national security concern.

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Explain in your own words the distinctions the authors make and why it's important to understand them

Interrupting the pathway to extremism

By identifying misogyny as a pathway rather than an endpoint, we can think about prevention.

Researchers at the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne have developed Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships teaching resources.

5 The approach is guided by research that shows curriculum that promotes social and emotional skills and positive gender norms leads to improved mental and social health, and reduces involvement in bullying and the perpetration of gender-based violence. Such approaches have already had measurable success in Australia.

10 One question still being investigated by the researchers is what more needs to be done in schools and to support teachers. Given the expansion of online influences, how are programs like this meant to "compete" and how can these efforts be enhanced?

So while International Women's Day often centres visibility and empowerment, the initial findings from this research alert us to another truth alongside that celebration: progress can provoke backlash.

15 But the pathway from misogyny to extremism is not inevitable. It's shaped by social norms, institutional responses and all of us taking action for inclusion, respect, equality and safety.

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We can interrupt this pathway. Successfully doing so will help protect and further gender equality into the future.

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| What solutions do the authors suggest? |
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Document 2

La Guerre contre les femmes est déclarée

Juliette Cerf, 10/05/23, *Télérama*

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Révocation de l'arrêt Roe vs Wade, en juin 2022, qui garantissait aux États-Unis le droit constitutionnel à l'avortement. Deux ans plus tôt, en France, nomination d'un ministre alors qu'il était accusé de violences sexuelles. Abandon de la « diplomatie féministe » en Suède, qui en avait pourtant été pionnière en 2014 . Réduction des femmes à leur fonction maternelle en Italie, où Giorgia Meloni refuse de féminiser son titre pour se faire appeler « il presidente ». Décret forçant les femmes à écouter battre le cœur du fœtus avant de recourir à une IVG, en Hongrie. Obligation faite aux médecins, en Pologne, d'inscrire le nom des femmes enceintes dans un registre qui pourrait devenir un gigantesque outil de surveillance alors que l'avortement y est quasiment interdit. Sans parler des filles effacées de la vie publique en Afghanistan. Ou de la répression massive du mouvement Femme, Vie, Liberté, en Iran.

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Tous pays confondus, la séquence internationale 2022- 2023 a été marquée par une spectaculaire série d'entraves à l'émancipation des femmes. À l'ONU, le secrétaire général António Guterres s'en est vivement inquiété, dès l'ouverture, le 6 mars dernier, de la session annuelle de la Commission de la condition de la femme : « Les progrès réalisés au fil des décennies s'évanouissent sous nos yeux. L'égalité des genres est un horizon de plus en plus lointain. ONU Femmes estime qu'au rythme actuel il faudra attendre trois cents ans avant de l'atteindre. [...] Le patriarcat contre-attaque. Mais nous ripostons. » Combative, cette déclaration émanant d'une instance de paix fait froid dans le dos, dans le sillage encore brûlant de la bataille #MeToo, menée depuis 2017. En une vertigineuse accélération de l'histoire, le mouvement semblait avoir réussi à transformer nos sociétés grâce à la libération massive de la parole et de l'écoute. Grâce aussi à une moindre impunité pour les auteurs de violences sexuelles et intrafamiliales. Cinq années seulement auront suffi à traîner le mouvement dans la boue. Sur les réseaux sociaux, où il avait pourtant éclos, une levée de boucliers est allée jusqu'à ridiculement renommer #MeToo en #MePoo (to poo, « faire caca ») pour mieux y humilier l'actrice Amber Heard. Laquelle a perdu en juin 2022 le procès en diffamation que lui avait intenté son ex-mari Johnny Depp, qu'elle accusait de violences conjugales. En France aussi, les réactions n'auront pas tardé. Emblématique, le cas Polanski : alors que le cinéaste, accusé de viols multiples, renonçait en 2017, sous la pression féministe, à présider la cérémonie des César, il reçut, en 2020, le César du meilleur réalisateur pour *J'accuse*, pied de nez masculiniste le faisant, lui, passer pour une victime, à travers la réhabilitation du capitaine Dreyfus racontée par le film... Un pas en avant, deux pas en arrière ? Forgé en 1991 par la journaliste américaine Susan Faludi, le concept de *backlash* (« contrecoup ») a refait surface. Traduit en 1993 par les éditions Des Femmes, *Backlash. La guerre froide contre les femmes* nomme et analyse avec maestria le ressac conservateur des années Reagan. La légalisation de l'avortement en 1973 avait alors entraîné une « puissante contre-offensive pour annihiler les droits des femmes », émanant de la nouvelle droite alliée aux réseaux évangéliques. Le tout véhiculé par une nouvelle

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Chapter 5 : Gender Equality: Is feminism still necessary today?

40 mythologie selon laquelle le féminisme aurait fait le plus grand tort aux femmes, dont le récent malheur serait en fait dû à leur conquête de la liberté et de l'égalité... (...)

1) Vocabulary: translate these words and expressions

- Révocation de l'arrêt Roe v. Wade
- IVG, avortement
- 45 • Violences sexuelles, violences conjugales
- Des entraves à l'émancipation des femmes
- Les droits de femmes
- Impunité

2) Understanding the text

- 50 a) What do all the events listed in the first paragraph reveal?
- b) Why is Giorgia Meloni's wish to be called "il president" implicitly criticized by the journalist?
- c) Why is there a reference to the cinema industry?
- d) When it comes to women's rights, what is the origin and the meaning of the word
- 55 "backlash"?

3) Summarising the text

- a) Why were 2022-2023 pivotal years for women?

4) Going further

- a) Do you have more examples of an erosion of women's rights?
- 60 b) Can you explain why there is a feminist backlash today?