

When I was young, and the brilliant Chris Morris made the 'Paedogeddon Brass Eye special, I remember having an argument with my mum.

This was the time when people were smearing Paedo in shit on the walls of paediatrician's houses. There was something of a moral panic, and I was

young, and fancied myself hiply cynical. My mum, who worked as a child protection specialist, was horrified I seemed to think this wasn't to be taken seriously. For years, front line social workers and health professionals had known that CSA was endemic and epidemic.

But it was so often hidden and excused by male authority, that it was hard to drag out into the light.

It's years later now. We've had Saville, and Smith, and Epstein. We've had the USA gymnastics scandal. The Catholic Church. And of course, Weinstein as well.

And all these years later, supposedly progressive people are claiming that women's concerns about safeguarding children, and their own rights, is just a moral panic.

Which frankly, is just a lefty, hiply cynical, way of calling women hysterical.

Supposedly progressive people are genuinely asking us, with a straight face, whether we really believe that men would abuse a statutory declaration to get access to women and children.

After everything that has been exposed, and how much is left to be exposed, about the

lengths some males will go to to find victims, and the lengths they will go to to cover it up.

Given all we know about this epidemic abuse, and how hard we have had to fight to even begin to get it recognised, civil society, in the name of progress and

equality, has signed up to a political program committed to smashing all normative sexual boundaries.

There are lots of forms of sexuality we can unfetter. And then there are forms which we cannot. Because it devastates lives.

We know this.

There is nothing conservative about wanting to protect women and children from the horrifying effects of male sexual violence.

And handwaving that harm as 'moral panic' isn't progressive.

It's just patriarchy as usual.

Stupid 24-year old me.

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