

What causes domestic, family and sexual violence?

Inequality and bigotry.

On inequality:

1. I grew up in poverty + I am the child of an uneducated migrant and an uneducated orphan + I had multiple high needs younger siblings in my family home = many of my needs were neglected due to priorities and budget which led to →
2. Three traits of mine have complex and specific needs (I'm transgender + I'm autistic + I have ADHD) which went unnoticed for over 30 years which led to →
3. I left home before 18 to escape that environment as soon as I was able, then I became an "adult", then I coupled and nested with various people, then I became a parent all prior to having any sense of self, which led to
4. I was constantly taken advantage of by...
 - a. People I met in passing
 - b. People I lived with as friends
 - c. People I lived with as partners
 - d. One person I lived with as the other parent of my child
...and suffered violence/abuse in this order in the following ways...
 - a. Physically assaulted by my housemates
 - b. Financially abused by my housemates
 - c. Belittled by my housemates
 - d. Constantly belittled by an intimate partner
 - e. Gaslit by an intimate partner
 - f. Accused falsely of wrongdoing by an intimate partner
 - g. Physically assaulted by an intimate partner
 - h. Sexually assaulted by an intimate partner
 - i. Rendered homeless due to a lack of communication and accommodations by my housemates and partner
 - j. Blamed for the ill health of an intimate partner
 - k. Isolated from my family by an intimate partner
 - l. Isolated from my friends by an intimate partner
 - m. Financially abused by an intimate partner
 - n. Psychologically manipulated by an intimate partner
 - o. Delayed/denied access to life saving medical care by an intimate partner
 - p. Interference in that same life saving medical care by unwantedly attending appointments
 - q. Physically assaulted in front of my child by their other parent
 - r. Isolated from my child by their other parent
 - s. Stonewalled by my child's other parent even on topics critical to my child's care like which home they are at on what days and access to their school or medical records
 - t. Alienated from my child's school life by their other parent
5. I accepted so much of this because was raised to believe that queer and neurodivergent/disabled people deserved less or had it to good
6. I figured out this was not true, and now I work in a rights granting related role, so I can easily apply it to others, but when it comes to myself I still have a harder time believing it from so many years of feeling like a monster which leads to

7. I still don't stand up for my rights every time because some part of me believes that perhaps I (when I see myself as a monster) don't have any
8. A lack of a human rights act in South Australia is a detrimental thing for someone like me who relies upon written communication from trusted sources to understand the real truth of the world

On bigotry:

1. I spent my childhood years hearing homophobic words like "gay" and "faggot" and ablist words like "retard" and "spastic" being used almost daily at school and at home
2. Once I left home, these same words were yelled at me every time I went out (because of the way I looked and dressed I assume) usually to experience the live music scene of Adelaide (one of the few mentally and socially healthy activities I maintained throughout my poverty)
3. This constant derision of my (at the time, unknown to me) identity kept the thoughts I needed to get out from ever reaching the surface
4. Then there are the subtle ways I was suppressed
 - a. Lack of queer representation in family, schools, and media
 - b. Lack of neurodivergent representation in media
 - c. Lack of neurodivergent masking in family and schools
 - d. Australia's snail's pace granting of the right for non-hetero marriage
5. It wasn't until 2020, pandemic-isolated, where I escaped this constant all-angles assault on my identity and figured out (in the few hours my abuser slept each day) the truth about myself
6. As of today, I can comfortably say to most people I interact with that I feel Australia is itself comfortable with domestic violence when it happens to the marginalised—the purpose of a system is what it does—which I find abhorrent
7. Now when I do say this to people, they balk at the yucky feelings it brings up and the shock of being included in the umbrella term of "Australia", but so few of them are willing or able to do anything to change things
 - a. We keep giving power disproportionately to white men
 - b. We keep allowing corruption to go unchecked
 - c. We keep removing power from the marginalised via
 - i. Terrible wages
 - ii. Expensive housing (why is anyone allowed to own a second house before everyone owns their first!)
 - iii. Expensive essentials, food, medicine
 - iv. Not funding spaces for minority groups
 - v. The slow and steady eradication of bulk billed medical care
 - vi. Underfunded and insufficient DF&SV services
 - vii.

I've lost track of my thoughts on this submission so I'm giving up here. Perhaps I do this precisely because I'm an unsupported neurodivergent person who by the very nature of my disability can't help but do things to the last minute. But this is a very hard thing to do. And I need help to make a better submission. I deeply hope you can use what I've provided above. And you can see what I had planned to complete below. My incomplete submission is (not planned or on purpose) a good analogy for my life in that you can only receive fragments of what

would be my usefulness to you because I arrive at your door, at the eleventh most hour, unsupported, defeated, worn out and when I get here I have to use your preferred communication style to get through to you. I hope there are further opportunities for people like me to have our say, in our words, and in our own way.

Thanks for reading. Please don't do nothing.

What works, or will work, to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence?

The granting of human rights and the eradication of bigoted attitudes around entitlement.

The granting of human rights:

1.

The eradication of bigoted attitudes around entitlement:

1.

What existing initiatives are directed at addressing the attitudes and systems that drive domestic, family and sexual violence? Are they effective?

For people like me, none exist.