



# The Second Sexism: Discrimination Against Men and Boys

*By David Benatar*

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**Does sexism against men exist? What it looks like and why we need to take it seriously**

This book draws attention to the "second sexism," where it exists, how it works and what it looks like, and responds to those who would deny that it exists. Challenging conventional ways of thinking, it examines controversial issues such as sex-based affirmative action, gender roles, and charges of anti-feminism. The book offers an academically rigorous argument in an accessible style, including the careful use of empirical data, and includes examples and engages in a discussion of how sex discrimination against men and boys also undermines the cause for female equality.

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**The Second Sexism: Discrimination Against Men and Boys** By David Benatar Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

“I recommend *The Second Sexism* to scholars who investigate gender relations, and I urge academic feminists to take Benatar’s thesis seriously and to respond to it with respect rather than with disbelief or derision.” (*American Philosophical Association's Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy*, 1 May 2013)

“This book simply must be read . . . Highly, highly recommended.” (*Mens News Daily*, 4 January 2013)

“The Second Sexism is well researched, with voluminous references. As such, it serves the useful function of raising consciousness about an important social issue. Benatar’s research makes a strong case for an in-depth examination of the injustices and discriminations that men suffer in this and other societies in the 21st century.” (*PsycINFO/PsycCRITIQUES*, 21 November 2012)

“The Second Sexism is a strong and early step on the way to the awareness, amelioration, and treatment of a widespread and unaddressed problem that affects a not insignificant portion of the human population.” (*New Male Studies Review 3*, Jonathan Badiali's, 26 September 2012)

“Benatar’s analysis brings much needed clarity to contemporary debates in gender studies, whose discourse runs the risk of becoming stagnant and dogmatic against a constantly changing social backdrop. Benatar does well to remind us that it is not only females who are constrained and disadvantaged by the roles that they have been socially encouraged to take up.” (*New Male Studies Review 2*, J.P. Messina's, 26 September 2012)

“And now, thanks to Professor Benatar, we have an incisive, comprehensive discussion of the phenomenon that feminism has unwittingly brought to the forefront . . . The writing is jargon-free. As a philosopher, Professor Benatar is attentive to conceptual nuance and clear, precise usage.” (*New Male Studies Review 1*, Miles Groth's, 26 September 2012)

“This is a very well-argued book that presents an unorthodox thesis and defends it ably. It would be a useful text in both undergraduate and graduate courses in philosophy and gender studies, where it is certain to arouse a lot of discussion, much of it excited. Since it is very clearly written, and would be interesting and accessible also to the educated layperson. Most importantly, however, it is likely to change our understanding of gender relations.” (*Metapsychology*, 21 August 2012)

### **Review**

With clarity and cogency, *The Second Sexism* presents the first sustained philosophical examination of systematic discrimination against men. This is not part of a backlash against feminism; it is part of the next crucial step toward the construction of social arrangements that are fairer, more humane, and less restrictive of individual freedom.

-Don Hubin, Ohio State University

This book is as courageous as it is brilliant and as honest as it is thought provoking. The issue is not whether women have been wronged, but whether the responses to the wrongs against women have often resulted in there being wrongs against men. In quite surprising ways, David Benatar’s book is a wonderful reminder of

the tremendous importance of John Stuart Mill's distinction between "living truth" and "dead dogma"; for it is not at all a conceptual truth that the dogma of sexual inequality has been replaced by and only by living truth with respect to equality for all. Benatar is absolutely masterful—nay, majestic—in illustrating that reality.

- Laurence Thomas, Syracuse University

David Benatar once again enters the ethico-political debates of our time with his controversial argument about the neglected side of sexism—wrongful discrimination against men. Justice is never a zero-sum game to Benatar, and his well argued and thoughtful book makes a compelling case for taking seriously men's hidden injuries if we are to genuinely build a better world.

-Daphne Patai, University of Massachusetts

From the Back Cover

While the manifestation of sexism against women is widely acknowledged, few people take seriously the idea that males are also the victims of many and quite serious forms of sex discrimination.

So unrecognized is this form of sexism that the mere mention of it will be laughable to some. Yet women are typically exempt from military conscription even where men are forced into battle and risk injury, emotional repercussions, and death. Males are more often victims of violent crime, as well as of legalized violence such as corporal punishment. Sexual assault of males is often taken less seriously. Fathers are less likely to win custody of their children following divorce.

In this book, philosophy professor David Benatar provides details of these and other examples of what he calls the "second sexism." He discusses what sexism is, responds to the objections of those who would deny that there is a second sexism, and shows how ignorance of or flippancy about discrimination against males undermines the fight against sex discrimination more generally.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **James Snyder:**

The reason why? Because this The Second Sexism: Discrimination Against Men and Boys is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

#### **Angela Harris:**

The Second Sexism: Discrimination Against Men and Boys can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase

your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing The Second Sexism: Discrimination Against Men and Boys although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

**Sally McGarvey:**

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book than can satisfy your short period of time to read it because this all time you only find book that need more time to be study. The Second Sexism: Discrimination Against Men and Boys can be your answer mainly because it can be read by anyone who have those short time problems.

**Irene Navarro:**

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