

NEGLECTED GENERATIONS

INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM

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CHILDREN DO BEST WITH A MOTHER AND FATHER



The family unit is the core social building block of society, a small and vulnerable unit which societies rightly support via civil marriage and positive discrimination.

The traditional family format with an unrelated monogamous man-woman couple is the optimum environment for raising children, but community support for this marriage format has been eroded by rise of the permissive "If it feels good, do it" values that arose in the West with the welfare state, resulting in a massive increase in single parent families.

The rise of the single parent family format was largely a consequence of men shirking their familial responsibility when social constraints relating to the welfare of children were relaxed, the welfare state ensuring that children and their mothers would not starve as a result of men deserting their families.

The practical effect of the sexual revolution was to liberate men from social constraints which were primary intended to constrain their polygamous nature, in order to protect children and their mothers, as many men will leave when the romance wanes and their familial duties became onerous unless there are strong social constraints to counter their desire for sexual freedom.

Likewise, the welfare state was supposed to liberate women from dependency on men, but its practical effect was to make many of them dependant on the state, while the state cannot offer a substitute for fathers, so many children suffer developmental and emotional damage as a result of not having the paternal support they need.

This had tragic consequences for many children as the massive increase in fatherless families led to a corresponding increase in social isolation,

alienation, self-medication, mental illness, self-harm, incivility and violence among offspring, notably boys deprived of the love, socialization, support and guidance of a father.

Lucy Sullivan found the traditional family unit to be the prime source of the socialization that imbues the values that provide the internal constraints against crime, and found a strong correlation between rising crime rates and rates of divorce, ex-nuptial birth and sole parenting (*Rising Crime in Australia*, CIS, 1997).

So many people have been damaged by the increase in single parent and same-sex parent families that it was necessary to create a term to identify them: the 'Neglected Generations'. We must do more to help children, notably ensure that they all have both a mother and a father figure as an integral member of their family unit.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The large increase in the number of single parent and same-sex parent families has damaged countless children and their communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Help ensure that all children have both a mother and a father figure in their lives.

PRIMARY SOURCES

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