

Don't just blame the women

Ng Tze Yeng, published 27 November 2006 in [The Star](#)

I refer to Normal Man's letter dated 24th November "Some women do unknowingly invite advances". Whilst I agree that the media has been partly guilty of perpetuating the perception that women are to be regarded as sex objects and agree that some form of regulation should be in place; I do object to his other points.

Firstly, I object that "that most men are attracted and aroused by the sight of naked flesh of women." Many I know, though they admit will turn their heads to the sight of an attractive women, they would much prefer long term intellectual and spiritual stimulation. I think it is a great insult to men to reduce them to beings guided only by their basic sexual instinct.

Secondly, if he were to compare sexual passion to other sensual passion, just like eating, I would then ask; if a hungry person sat next to another person who is about to tuck into a delicious meal; what are the chances that the hungry person will snatch the meal away? Does this mean that we have to check each time we eat in public if the person next to use is hungry to protect our meal? No! Why when it comes to sexual passion, there seems to be an exception for it? Living in civil society, we do have some form of control over ourselves to enable us to live, well, with civility.

Thirdly, Normal Man's argument that rape could be reduced if women "dressed properly" reminded me of the senior Muslim cleric in Australia who caused a storm when he suggested that women who do not cover their heads are to be blamed for sexual assaults; comparing them to uncovered pieces of meat. If a person's expensive car gets stolen, we would blame the thief, and not the owner of the car. Why then is rape and other forms of sexual violence crimes we blame the victim for?

Nobody invites rape, knowingly or unknowingly. To divide rape victims between "deserving" and "non-deserving" is to shift the blame from the perpetrator to the victim. Enough of this already, women have been made scapegoats for too long.