

## **Individual 11**

The concepts of coercive control and emotional/psychological abuse are too nebulous to be accurately defined in legislation and criminalized. In all close relationships there will be some level of friction and attempts to control, usually involving some degree of fault on the part of both parties. To try to create a threshold beyond which these normal interactions can be criminalized and can be applied in a coherent and standardized way, is impossible both for legislators and those who will have to enforce the legislation. To prove it would be equally difficult so it will either be ineffective or as is more likely in the current climate, standards of proof will be lowered to the point where people will be convicted purely on the basis of an accusation - a fundamental corruption of the justice system which, in keeping with the Blackstone formulation, should operate on the basis that convicting the innocent is by far a greater wrong than allowing the guilty to go free.

Sadly such attacks on human rights and civil liberties are becoming too common in situations where feminist pressures are brought to bear on weak legislators, lawyers and judges. If such legislation is introduced it will be abused more than used by parties (especially women) in family law cases, particularly as there appear to be no provisions to safeguard against abuse of the legislation or penalties provided for those who do abuse it.

This is in fact just another example of State institutions corrupting the justice system to appease vociferous misandrist feminists.