

The Rape of Men...

... Seriously; a Gender Issue?

A Gender & Sexuality Provocations Event

Thursday 19th November 2015, 12:30 to 14:00

Room 221

All Welcome

In this seminar we will pick up a highly contested issue in gender; that of the rape of men in conflict settings. We will hear about a current project between the Refugee Law Project (RLP) and the Men of Hope Association (MOHA) in Kampala, with IDS – a project which adopts a feminist understanding of ‘empowerment and collective action’ from a position of marginalisation – but here applied to men..! After screening a 20 minute dramatised film by the members of MOHA, *‘Men Can Be Raped Too’*, we will hear two short provocations about the reality of male sexual victimisation in the context of the Congo conflict, and how transitions into refugee contexts conspire to hide such men’s vulnerabilities in a context of frenzied homophobia in Uganda and an ill-equipped international asylum response, compromised by outdated gender frameworks. This will be followed by short reflections on the from an IDS colleague and from the CEO of a Brighton-based group, supporting male survivors of abuse in the UK. The final 40 minutes or so will be an open discussion with the audience, on such questions as:

- ★ *“Does appealing to male ‘victimisation’ and ‘vulnerability’ in relation to sexual violence not detract from the bigger problem of women’s victimisation and men’s ‘perpetration’?”*
- ★ *“Is the problem significant enough to risk jeopardising the gains made in drawing global attention to violence against women and girls?”*
- ★ *“What does homophobia have to do with any of this and how does it connect to gender?”*

Speakers: **Chris Dolan**, RLP, Kampala; and (via Video-link) **Steven Kighoma** and colleagues, MOHA, Kampala

Discussant: **Martyn Sullivan**, CEO of Mankind, Brighton

Chairs: **Jerker Edström and Thea Shahrokh**, IDS

provocative

adjective

Synonyms and Antonyms of PROVOCATIVE

serving or likely to arouse a strong reaction <a *provocative* editorial that sparked a heated discussion>

Synonyms charged, edgy, exciting, inciting, instigating, instigative, piquing, provoking, stimulating

Related Words explosive, fiery, incendiary, inflammatory, triggering; inducing, inspirational, inspiring, motivating, motivational; activating, energizing, galvanizing, quickenning, vitalizing