Make the pie higher.

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Last week the men’s rights activist blog Return of Kings posted a list of the nine ugliest feminists. But even more unfortunately than the list itself is that the blog is not alone in its views. Columns and websites that are misogynistic and openly anti-feminist plague the internet, whose screen names protect identities and allow for so-called free speech. Even Edmonton has its own chapter of Men’s Rights Activists.

It’s important to define what men’s rights activism is. Coming from the local group, an MRA is a man or woman concerned with is- men like “male circumcision, men’s reproductive rights, domestic violence awareness, antifeminism, misandry, chivalry and false allega-
tions.” These vague descriptors are explained in further detail on the website itself, but the basis of the legiti-mate causes are explained and argued for in the feminist’s anti-feminism.

When it comes to defining anti-
feminism, don’t look to Edmonton’s MRA for the answer. They choose to brush over it, instead linking to oth-
er websites that are just as skewed in their view of feminism, avoiceformen.com regards feminism as a corrupt, hateful and disingenuous ideology based in female elitism and misandry,” calling feminists individuals who deserve “no more country or consideration than KKKmen, skinheads, neo-Nazis or other purveyors of hate.”

It has to be acknowledged that other MRAs don’t spread the same message as Return of Kings. They don’t have the same mission as feminist state-
ments or the same content on their sites. Further, advocating for men’s rights is truly an important cause — rates of suicide and homelessness are higher in men than women and rampant workplace injury and even death is a scary reality. As well, court

Qualified foreign workers must be welcomed

MRA’s misunderstand feminism

cases typically see women gaining custody. However, what certain MRAs do share with Return of Kings and what makes them so hopeless is a common dogma of anti-feminism and a nasty habit of spreading more time attacking feminists than on actual activism. In the end, this is the reason neither should be taken seriously.

Take for example MRAs belief that men have no say in their own circumsicion. Instead of explaining the issue and giving evidence to support that cause, they post their argument as a response to feminists and the ‘double standard’ of female genital mutilation being illegal. One of these procedures can result in fatal hemorrhaging and infection, not to mention the complete removal of the individual’s ability to experi-
ience sexual pleasure. The other is an outdated practice that can lead to complications, but causes much less pain and vulnerability.

By framing their argument as a retort to another real issue, the MRA minimizes their own claim. It sounds like whining instead of ad-
vocacy. It sounds like trusting some-
one else down in hopes of building yourself up. And this is only one example. Every sunset of Edmonton’s Men’s Rights Activists is flawed this way, as though feminists are the ones causing the problems. The

reality is that feminism is fighting for the feminist’s goals and nothing more.

It’s the anti-feminist perspective that makes Edmonton’s MRA Activists a face. There’s a big differ-
ce between defending criminals or champions championing free speech and going out of your way to hate on other groups. These two afore-
mentioned sites aren’t so much pro-
men as they are anti-woman. They don’t recognize and respect common and share some similar goals and that what feminists want is what MRAs want too — feminists challenge the patriarchy because they hate domini-
cent codes of civility as much as men do. We want to get the bill, join the army and gain marriage and divorce equality for all.

Men’s rights activists, by all

means, fight for awareness about their causes, and they’re often right, but we can’t neglect other issues like a less than equal waged, gender recognition and equal rights, or even for one group in soci-
ety. But to do this you’ll have to stop blue and green and red and yellow and purple. All. And stop aligning yourself with ant-
ifeminists. That’s a surefire way to see your goals and legitimacy go up in flames.

In context:

Bush was explaining that tax cuts would get everyone a bigger piece of the economic pie.

* MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

It’s all about perspective.