<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UK CONTEXT</th>
<th>COMPARISON of Sun and Guardian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPDV rates in the UK</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role and influence of media</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press freedom</td>
<td>Key findings</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IPDV in the UK

• Home Office (2010):
  – 1 in 4 women
  – 1 in 6 men

• Women - more likely in severe and repeated forms (Women’s Aid, 2009)

• UK women experience an average of 35 incidents before contacting police (Starmer, 2011)

• 77 women killed by partners of ex-partners 2012-13 (HMIC, 2014)

• 1 man killed approximately every 3 weeks
Freedom of the press in the UK

• Television and radio broadcasting legal obligation to be impartial
• No obligation for printed news media
• Calls for law-backed regulation of the press
• Reflect and/or shape public opinion?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Guardian</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sun</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left of centre broadsheet, known as one of the quality newspapers</td>
<td>Right-wing tabloid&lt;br&gt;UK’s biggest-selling national newspaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average daily readership of 210,000</td>
<td>Average daily readership of 2.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.95 million readers in print and online each month (monthly print readership is almost 4.1 million)</td>
<td>17.8 million readers in print and online each month (monthly print readership is 16.09 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£1.20 in December 2012</td>
<td>40p in December 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More text than <em>Sun</em></td>
<td>Economical with language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few pictures</td>
<td>Many pictures (including page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: the Scott Trust</td>
<td>Owner: Rupert Murdoch empire (wealthy, powerful media magnate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial independence</td>
<td>Appoint editors who will be true to owner’s ideology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increasing number of articles citing the term domestic violence 2000-2012. *Guardian* has more than 5 times the number of articles than *Sun*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of articles citing ‘domestic violence’</th>
<th>Guardian</th>
<th>Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2012</td>
<td>3975</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Terms used for domestic violence**

*Sun* and *Guardian*:
- disturbance
- argument
- row
- family row
- strife
- marital difficulties
- harassment
- serious assault
- woman killed/murdered
- woman, man, child(ren) killed/murdered
- knife attack
- ‘stab’ horror
- knife crime (interviewee in *Sun*)
Key findings

1. Blaming the victim
2. ‘Ideal’ victim
3. DV campaigning
4. Sexualising DV
5. Scaremongering
Who is being described?

Sun - from journalists and interviewees in 2001-2 and 2011-2:

• doting dad
• great father
• model family
• loved his wife and kids
• good bloke
• hero
• proud
• gentle man
• sensitive
• intelligent
• very well liked
• great character and friend
• would do anything for you
• very capable and respected
• worked tirelessly to support the family he worshipped
Rzeszowski stabbed wife, 2 children, father-in-law, family friend and her daughter

CAPTION: 'Pressure' ... Damian Rzeszowski
“A POLISH builder slaughtered six people at a family barbecue after he flipped over his wife’s affair”

CAPTION: 'Affair' ... tragic wife Izabela
“Just six weeks earlier Rzeszowski had learned Izabela, 30, was cheating on him”
Say case

Sun (15/02/11) quotes neighbour citing what Say had told her:
‘all his wife did was sleep and go to work’
PC Bluestone case

Sun (30/08/01) described him as a ‘devoted dad’ ‘who adored his kids’

Guardian (30/08/01) Bluestone’s parents state ‘He was a man devoted to his children, dedicated to his job and filled with love for his wife.’

CAPTION: Berserk ... Pc Bluestone

CAPTION: Dead ... Henry seen in his dad’s cap and coat

Sun
8 August
2001
Sun (30/08/01) cites salaries, ‘high-flying administrator’

Sun (07/11/01) mentions both had affairs

Sun makes no mention of Bluestone’s previous arrest and disciplinary inquiry at work due to an argument at home 2 years earlier, though details are given in Guardian (31/08/01)

CAPTION: Snapped ... Bluestone with Chandler, son he killed

CAPTION: Battered ... Jill
Sun photographs of men in uniform contrast with women perpetrators - visual content can reinforce textual content

Toby Day, 2011

Michael Pedersen, 2012 (also used in Guardian)

Karen Otmani, 2012

Emma Bushen, 2012
Evil women

Title: Evil Andrews serves up cuppas in a church cafe, Sun 15 January 2011

Tracie Andrews, convicted of fatally stabbing her boyfriend in 1996 in their car, spent 14 years in prison.

Juxtaposition of evil with church café

Caption: Tracie Andrews ... after killing

Honour-based violence

105 articles on honour killing found in the Sun (2000-12)

one article used the term ‘evil’ in its headline in relation to a grandmother who plotted to have her daughter-in-law killed: ‘Evil gran will never leave jail’ (04/10/07).
The Blame Game: Provocation

• ‘LAWYER Les Humes stabbed his wife to death in front of their children after she told him she was cheating on him.’

• ‘Humes worked long hours to provide his family with a comfortable lifestyle and a beautiful home.’ (Sun 25 July 2002)

• Humes charged with manslaughter on the grounds of provocation

• jailed for 7 years for manslaughter

• Message to readers - rationale for perpetrator’s actions and lenient sentence (2010 - provocation no longer permitted as a defence)
Comparison of photographs and captions

Guardian 7 September 2012
TITLE: ‘Jealous teenager who stabbed girlfriend 60 times jailed for life’
Refers to his jealousy causing problems throughout 9-month relationship

CAPTION:
Andrew Hall, 18, used two knives during his assault on Megan-Leigh Peat, at a house in Ampthill, Bedfordshire

Sun 7 September 2012
TITLE: ‘Teenage football star admits murdering girlfriend, 15’
No reference made to volatile relationship, article laments the loss of his promising football career

CAPTION:
Player ... Andrew Hall was set to sign pro deal with Stoke
‘Ideal’ victim

- *Sun* expresses sympathy towards certain victims
- newsworthiness of homicide cases (Gekoski et al., 2012):
  - young
  - female
  - white
  - middle-class
  - respectable
  - physically attractive
- Undeserving, non-ideal victims perceived as contributing to their ‘expected’ fates (Gekoski et al., 2012)
- Jane Clough (nurse) & Heather Cooper (police officer) – ‘ideal’ victims
DV campaigning

• *Sun* giving a voice to women who have experienced DV and encouraging others to speak out

• Sandra Horley, Chief Executive of Refuge, interviewed and weblink to Refuge’s 1in4 women campaign included

• Contact details of support for male victims also given

• Sandra Horley in *Guardian* too (10/10/12) - writes that DV cases are not about a man ‘losing his temper’ or ‘flipping out’, they are about systematic control and abuse

• Losing their temper and ‘flipping’ - precisely the terms used by *Sun* to describe some men who commit violent acts
Sexualising DV

• Association between sex and violence in the *Sun*
• Rihanna abused in 2009 by her boyfriend Chris Brown also a singer
• Sympathetic treatment of Rihanna as *Sun* shows her injuries and condemns Brown’s attack on her
• However, articles depict sexualised images of her attached to sexual headlines positioned next to photographs of her injuries
The association between sex and violence

Sun 4 September 2012
(image from Eaves et al., 2012)

Headline focuses on the items found on boat and their link to sex and violence
Sexualising DV

• Diana Garbutt fatally beaten with metal bar in bed
• ‘sex cheat’ (24 March 2011)
• ‘string of affairs’ (2 April 2011)
• ‘used internet dating sites’ (24 March 2011)
• ‘had sex with a man on a sofa’ when visiting friends with her husband 15 months before she died (22 March 2011)
• ‘romped with a cousin’s husband’ (22 March 2011)

➢ continues to be referred to as ‘unfaithful’ and as having visited dating websites after her husband’s conviction of murder (25 May 2012)
Scaremongering

• ‘Self-righteous’ (22/11/02), ‘overzealous’ social workers (22/06/11)

  ‘the tyrants of child protection’
  ‘playing-God mindset’
  deny parental access on ‘mere suspicion’ and ‘hearsay’
  Child Protection Plans often ‘based on nothing more than an unfounded suspicion plunging one or both parents into a Kafka-esque nightmare’ (28/11/12)
Sun’s messages to readers about DV

- Blaming victim
- Sexualising DV
- Normalising DV
- Reinforcing guilt, shame, fear and silence
- Absolving perpetrator
- Scaremongering regarding social services
Guardian adopts a more progressive agenda on a wider range of themes

- Gender issues
- Welfare reform
- Education
- Social issues
- In-depth analysis
- Policy debate
Is the UK free press 

“the envy of the world”?

(Jane Moore, *Sun*, 30 November 2012, p.10)

or portraying 

“demeaning and sexualising representations of women”?

(Leveson on the *Sun*, 2012b, p.664)
Discussion

• Increased newspaper coverage over 10 years, yet portrayal remains primarily unchanged in tabloids like *Sun*

• Continuity with concerns over 20 years ago - Soothill and Walby (1991, p.47): ‘It is the cuckolded husband who kills who gets the sympathy’.

• Women can be blamed for *action* and *inaction* such as not standing up to abusers or not leaving them

• Language and photographs within *Sun* carry a parable-like message: women need to conform to gender-appropriate behaviour to avoid provoking domestic abuse
Conclusions

• Not naming cases as *domestic violence* - not joining up dots and seeing pattern of violence and control linking incidents

• *Sun’s* misrepresentation ranging from subtle and implicit to overt and explicit

• Multiple faces of the *Sun*

• Moved paradoxically with the times

• Sexualising violence and blaming victims remain consistent across the time span of our research
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