

The Latest News

Cameron Panders To Gender Pay Gap Nonsense



FEATURED GNEWS NEWS

POLITICS

By Alexander Baron

**29**
SHARES

It's an old story, tell a lie, tell it big enough, repeat it continuously, and someone will believe it. When that someone is the man running the country, we are in trouble. David Cameron has pledged to **eliminate the gender pay gap** within a generation.

We had this nonsense earlier this year, check out **this report** for the background to it and the probable hidden hand behind it this time, the Fawcett Society. Since then, its football analogy looks even more telling. The England Women's Football team has **eclipsed the men's team** by turning in our best performance in the sport since 1966. This will almost certainly lead to more interest in the women's game, but will big money follow? Only if significantly more people turn out to see women's matches, and for whatever reason there is no sign of that. This applies to women as well as men.

Cameron's plan to audit big companies will have detrimental effects on the economy. This exercise is aimed at high earners, ie it will do nothing for ordinary working women struggling to make ends meet. It is aimed especially at putting more women in the boardroom. The simple truth is that a

woman who may be eye candy in the bedroom can be toxic in the boardroom, as two American companies found out recently.

Ellen Pao was a high earner, she was hired by venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers in 2005. Seven years later she was a partner, but in May of that year she filed a [sexual harassment lawsuit](#) against the company alleging both that she was sexually harassed by her superiors and denied promotion because she is a woman. Pao was on a salary of \$400,000 plus bonus, talk about *chutzpah*. Pao found another post, with Reddit, then her \$16 million claim against her former employer was thrown out. Now guess what, she has been fired by Reddit too.

There are those who see this as a conspiracy, including it appears Pao herself. It is truly amazing that getahead women and even self-professed feminists will resort to damselling when they are in trouble.

Without passing judgment on Pao, there are some women who are simply toxic, so a company that thinks twice and thrice before hiring a woman for a high paying position is simply protecting itself. If you want to know about toxic women, [ask Alan Sugar](#) about Stella English.

Companies must be able to fire bad employees. With the plethora of anti-discrimination legislation (so-called) now in place, a company that fires a useless black, Asian or female employee risks being hit with a spurious but expensive discrimination or harassment lawsuit, so better not to hire these people in the first place, certainly women. Unlike his predecessors who permitted this legislation, David Cameron should think long and hard about the actual consequences of changing the law or even changing the culture. Again, it is not women in the boardroom who need help, but ordinary working class women. And is it so necessary for women to go *out* to work? Wouldn't it be a better idea to create more jobs that married women can do from home so they don't have to dump the kids in the nursery then rush off in the morning, dash home at night and make the tea? We do live in the cyber-age, after all.

The Government's gender pay gap consultation closes in September; make sure you have [your say](#), the Fawcett Society will.