

Women and children bear brunt of anger

The Toronto Star, AA7, June 29, 2007
<http://www.thestar.com/comment/article/230633>

Re: "Suddenly, his anger exploded", June 27

The recent murders of women and children have been portrayed as sudden explosions or isolated consequences of drug use and depression. But the prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women and children demonstrates that its roots run deep – right to the reality that women and children still don't get the full power, rights or respect they deserve at home or in society.

Barriers, stresses, depression and joblessness can create tensions in families. However, women and children too often bear the violent brunt of those frustrations. Indeed, boys and men are often socialized to deal with problems in an unhealthy, abusive way, and these murders are an acute manifestation of that.

If we over-personalize or simplify the issues, this violence will continue. How many more murder-suicides have to happen?

Wendy Komiotis, Executive Director, METRAC (Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children), Toronto