

There is a culture that accepts men's abuse of power



Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, who stands accused of serial sexual harassment and abuse of women. (Paul Buck/European Pressphoto Agency-Efe/Rex/Shutterstock)

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While the Oct. 12 editorial “[Abuse of power](#)” correctly noted the “culture of complicity” of Hollywood and the mutually beneficial entanglement of powerful movie and media moguls, it overlooked one major aspect of the story: that beyond the women who remain silent because of legal constraints or fears about their careers, many others, perhaps more, shrug off, accept or are flattered by sexual advances of powerful men.

This is not a hypothetical proposition. The 2016 election provided ample evidence of a vast group of women who, at best, were not bothered by the accusations of sexual harassment by a presidential candidate and, at worst, applauded his behavior. These women, and their partners and friends, had nothing to fear or directly expect from candidate Donald Trump. They voted for him because they accepted the gross elements of male chauvinism as part of their own class consciousness.

Political analysts, pundits, clinical psychologists, researchers and other representatives of the professional elite are not likely to come up with a realistic and viable legal framework for the minimization of such incidents unless they take into account the existence of “the other side,” which reflects the white masculine identity. If not, their quest is bound to fail due to what feminist legal scholar Joan C. Williams has aptly called “class cluelessness.”

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