

President's Message



Say Something True Every Day

I ran across a great article in *National Review* by Carrie Lukas, President of the non-profit Independent Women's Forum. Her opening paragraph grabbed my attention: "Some progressives have decided that rather than convincing women that their candidates and policy proposals are better than those of conservatives, they will shame women who fail to vote for the Left by defining them all as racist and self-loathing tools of the patriarchy."

That was a powerful statement, and Ms. Lukas backed it up with two examples, an article in *The Guardian* entitled "Half of White Women Continue to Vote Republican. What's Wrong With Them?" and an article in *Vogue* titled "Why Do White Women Keep Voting for the GOP and Against Their Own Interests?"

This not-so-subtle caricaturing of conservative women as not just wrong, but as inherently vile, cruel and ignorant, encourages Democrats to feel justified in shaming, silencing, and marginalizing us – we must be brainwashed, racist or traitors to our sisters.

I have often found myself in a totally benign public place – the grocery store, standing in line at the bank – in a casual conversation with a perfect stranger with whom I would never bring up politics – yet that stranger feels no discomfort in expressing their loathing for our President and for anyone who would support him. I suspect we have all had similar experiences. Often, we are too kind or non-confrontational to inform this stranger that we are not in agreement and we simply disengage.

Increasingly, women on the left seem to have no actual contact with women outside of their own ideological bubbles, and they cannot understand why conservative women might reach different conclusions about politics and policies, other than racism, sexism, or down-right ignorance. Carrie Lukas says that "in this, conservative women have an advantage, since we have been steeped in a culture that showcases the world from the perspective of the Left. I know why my progressive friends vote Left. I know that they hope that greater redistribution and more government oversight of everything from guns to education and health care will lead to fairer outcomes . . . If you went to college, it's a near certainty that your professors were almost uniformly liberal and exposed you to the liberal worldview. If you open a women's magazine or watch any TV drama, the liberal worldview will dominate."

The conservative worldview is harder to find unless you specifically hunt for it, which has allowed much of the Left to assume that all Republicans are part of the "fringe" that fits the cartoonish stereotypes of conservatives presented on liberal programming. We must be the antidote to this. Progressives must have more exposure to conservative ideas and this exposure can only come through our willingness to share our perspectives and experiences.

A conservative pundit recently suggested that we "Say something true in public at least once a day." That is our mission – speak the truth – you may be the only voice of reason and perspective to which some of your friends and neighbors have ever been exposed.

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