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Op-Ed: Rape as a Tool of Dominance

After reading Laura Sjoberg’s *Women and the genocidal rape of women: the gender dynamics of gendered war crimes* several times it is clear that gendering in any form is detrimental to the forward progress of the women’s movement and egalitarianism as a whole. The article discusses the way in which women who take part or help to plan war crimes more specifically gender specific war crimes are not held to the same standard and are often given excuses as if they did not know what they were taking part. There are several examples in the article of women who take part in rape as a tool to win war and only one of those women are ever found guilty of any war crimes, and that women who was found guilty was the last example chronologically to perform her part in rape on a wide scale. To this fact it can be said that society is making progress in the way of not allowing gender to clout its judgment of the actions of persons, however just because gendering is becoming less of an issue in legal proceedings does not mean that gendering in the form of separating humans by their genitals.

From early ages we walk down the isles of store and all of our shopping is separated by gender, when a child makes it to the toy section it can be seen above their head the designation of which isle has male toys and which has female toys. I wrote earlier this semester on Target stores nation wide moving away from this with the exception of clothing isle which many would agree is ok, in their stores they have decided to no longer designate the toy section by gender. In the same way our society need to stop separating crimes by the sex of the perpetrator.

In Sjoberg’s article, she writes about women who took part in over seeing of women in concentration camps and the way they were much lesser sentences after World War II than the men who did similar during the war. It was said that these women were coerced by their husbands which assumes that these women could not make decisions on their own. This way of thinking in all aspects of life is detrimental to the forward progress in the equal treatment of both sexes that is what Sjoberg is getting to in her article, everyone should be treated equally in both their congratulations and reprimands.