

Good Morning.

My name is Kev Corbett. I have worked in the music sector locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for 20 years now as a side musician, songwriter, instructor, festival staff, booker, board member, soundman, the list goes on.

Like all of us, I owe everything I am to excellent women. I was raised by my mom and the circle of women around her, so it follows naturally that to the extent I have friends at all, they tend to be female-identifying. When I moved here, I began volunteering at Red Herring books, Halifax's first alternative bookstore, because I had a creeping feeling that I was 'very small town', and there I was hip to social factors like misogyny and feminist response, homophobia and the pride movement's response, racism and the solidarity movement's response. It was around that time that I met my excellent partner and the profoundly ass-kicking quality of women with whom she regularly surrounds herself. It was not long after that I was welcomed into the exceptional community of people at the Company House – an arts hub opened by and for women and allied and queer artists - and it is in grateful solidarity with all of them that I speak.

I'm going to get the hell out of the way and quote my excellent partner here.

This is a piece from a blog post she wrote in 2014, and it speaks to women being lectured to about how to deal with their lives. I would encourage anyone interested to read the full piece at stephaniedomet.com. The piece is called Now Is The Time For All Good Men To Get Out Of the Way If they Can't Lend a Hand, and this is an excerpt. It's from 2014, the week her former employer fired an abuser about whom women had warned each other for years. In it she says:

Much as I've been heartened by the ability of people to change their point of view through discussion and careful consideration, I have been disheartened by the number of times this week I have been lectured to, by men who ought to know better, who've had every opportunity to educate themselves and think critically. I've been lectured on equality, and the need for it. I've been lectured on the suffocating culture of silence around sexual violence. I've been lectured on the necessity of letting the courts do their work. I've been lectured six ways from Sunday on issues I've been breathing like air and drinking like water since I was six years old.

Men: it is time for you to shut up if you can't be helpful. It is time for you to stop assuming you know more about this than we do. Just stop it. Listen to us. Don't jump in to give us solutions as if we haven't thought of them, tried them, watched them fail, started again just in case we hadn't tried hard enough the first time. If the pace of social change on the issue of women's equality is too slow for you, well, we have that in common. Why don't you ask yourself why that pace is so slow, instead of blaming women for not getting it done faster?

We have been rolling this boulder up the hill for decades. It is time for you to help.

And if you can't do that, then get out of the goddamn way. Sit down and shut up. The women are talking.

In solidarity with my mothers, aunts, my cousins, my sisters, my partner, my niece, my friends and colleagues, I say abortion is legal, and women's access to health services should never be predicated upon whether they can beat their way through a line of scrimmage.

Thank You.