

**Painful truth in black and white.** By Janet Albrechtsen, The Australian. 3 December 2014

LAST week former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani shared the same fate as Winnie-the-Pooh. AA Milne's fictional bear was banned from a Polish playground because local councillors regarded the bear's state of undress and lack of genitalia as too confronting for young children. "(Pooh) is half-naked, which means it is completely inappropriate for children," said one councillor.

Giuliani has been similarly scorched by a different set of morality police, this time in the US, for confronting black protesters and activists with the facts about violence in black communities.

Giuliani was part of a debate on NBC's *Meet the Press* when the host pointed out cities where the percentage of white police far exceeded the proportion of blacks. Host Chuck Todd concluded: "All of those places could become a future Ferguson," in reference to the shooting death of black man Michael Brown by a white Ferguson policeman, Darren Wilson. The death was back in the news last week when a grand jury decided not to indict Wilson.

Giuliani said: "I find it very disappointing that we are not discussing the fact that 93 per cent of blacks are killed by other blacks." The former mayor, who oversaw a dramatic fall in murders in New York, said to panel member Michael Eric Dyson, a Georgetown professor: "I would like to see the attention paid to that that you are paying to this (the Ferguson killing)."

For stating the facts, Giuliani became the instant enemy of the black activists who have used a statistical aberration — Brown's death — to ratchet up racial tensions with accusations of racism rather than address the sadly constant statistics of everyday violence within black communities.

Giuliani's comments made instant headlines. He "stunned audiences" with his "infamous" comments. He was a "racist". He was "beyond offensive". According to the black professor on *Meet the Press*, Giuliani's comments revealed a "defensive mechanism of white supremacy".

Why didn't media reports tilt the other way? Where were the stories about audiences stunned by the accusation that Giuliani was a white supremacist? Why wasn't the black professor labelled a racist for describing Giuliani in that way? Why wasn't the treatment of Giuliani described as "beyond offensive"?

Put it down to the suffocating political correctness that allows a black man to accuse a white man of being a white supremacist for stating the facts. The reason the black professor and other activists came down so hard on Giuliani is they know the facts don't suit their agenda of using accusations of racism to hide the truth about the real causes of black problems.

It's true that most whites are also killed by other whites, but as Jason Riley, author of the 2014 book *Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make it Harder for Blacks to Succeed*, wrote last week in *The Wall Street Journal*, it's hardly relevant given that most murders are committed by black men. Riley reminded us that blacks commit violent crimes at seven to 10 times the rate that whites do; homicide is the leading cause of death among young black men who are 10 times likelier to be murdered than young white men. While blacks are 13 per cent of the population, they are responsible for the majority of murders in the US; and, as Giuliani correctly said, more than 90 per cent of black men are killed by black men.

Giuliani's attackers accused him of playing the politics of distraction. In fact, that's what his accusers did, trying to distract people from the uncomfortable facts. Giuliani's words caused a fracas not because they weren't true but because they were true. Even then Giuliani's crime wasn't talking about the facts of black-on-black violence. His bigger sin was exposing the shamefully barren agenda of the activists who claim to be helping and protecting black people.

Giuliani is like the candid child in Hans Christian Andersen's fable who tells the emperor he is wearing no clothes. Giuliani showed what happens when political correctness and its indispensable accomplice, victimhood, take hold leading to an industry of self-appointed moral guardians.

These guardians determine the boundaries of debate, they expunge facts and logic, they build up a victimhood narrative that bolsters their positions as protectors of the victims. They look after children in Poland by banning Winnie-the-Pooh. They protect black people in the US by deriding Giuliani for exposing the facts. The unstated net effect is to emasculate the people they pretend to champion, ensuring steady and secure employment for themselves as protectors.

Ergo, individual responsibility and facts that don't fit the victimhood narrative spell certain and immediate unemployment for these self-appointed activists. Lucrative jobs, high-profile gigs, self-satisfying roles will grind to a halt. That's why they came out against Giuliani with full force.

As Riley told Mary Kissel, host of *The Wall Street Journal's* Opinion Journal, racism has become an "all-purpose explanation for everything that ails the black community", and the reason there are not more blacks like Riley who deal in facts and logic rather than excuse politics it's simple: "It's not as lucrative," Riley said.

In the marketplace of outrage, you hear a lot about the incarceration rates of black people, but not much at all about the crimes that put them in jail. You hear hip black academics scream racism when a white policeman kills a black man, with little exploration of the facts or the decision of a grand jury that found no case to answer for the policeman. You hear nothing from the racism activists about the black witnesses who went to police confidentially and confirmed the policeman's version of events. Why did they go confidentially? Did they fear repercussions for telling the truth?

It's laughable when Pooh is banned on the ground that a pants-free fictional bear may confuse children. But it's corrosive and downright dangerous when the truth about violence in black communities becomes a casualty of political correctness. And along the way, racism — a once powerful word — is neutered, harming the same people whom the activists purport to champion.

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