



# LARISSA NOLAN

Straight talking...

## Soccer chief is stupid but he's no sex offender

**THE ridiculous freak-out over the World Cup kiss is proof we are living in hysterical times.**

Spanish football president Luis Rubiales threw the lips on star player Jenni Hermoso during the country's victory celebrations and the world lost its reason.

What followed was a level of mass hysteria not seen since the Dancing Plague of 1518.

Rubiales got a 90-day suspension from FIFA for his actions and could now be charged with sexual assault.

If so, it will arguably be the lowest level of sex assault ever recorded in the history of the criminal justice system.

I'm convinced a lot of people denouncing Rubiales for his actions haven't actually seen the footage.

I had to watch it about three times, as I was sure I'd missed something of import that would explain the scandal.

But no, it was a one-second, impulsive kiss on the lips.

Uncalled for, by all accounts, but hardly traumatic. If the gender roles were reversed, no one would have cared.

To add insult to injury, Rubiales' elderly mother then went on hunger



**STORM** Luis Rubiales kisses Jenni Hermoso

strike saying he was the target of a witch hunt and "inhumane hounding".

Player Hermoso, 33, was filmed laughing and joking about the amorous ambush afterwards on the team bus.

But soon she realised - after "delving deeper" into her emotions - that she had to report the incident as "no one should ever be victim to this kind of non-consensual behaviour".

Protests have taken place all over Spain in what is being called the country's own "#MeToo movement".

The players staged a mutiny and most

refused to play for Spain until head coach Jorge Vilda was removed.

Vilda applauded when Rubiales made a speech saying: "I will fight this to the end."

This team of high-achievers - who should have been celebrating the win of their lives - then stood in protest over the whole palaver, with placards reading: "You are not alone."

She's not alone in what? Having an over-excited man in patriotic party mode planting an unforeseen smacker on her? No, she's not. And it's not that big a deal.

Honestly, the whole thing makes me embarrassed to be a woman - it has unleashed all the worst female stereotypes in one projectile vomit.

In the rush to make every grievance a mortal sin, the so-called "progressives" have swung back to Victorian times of chasteness and chaperones.

If human behaviour is to be policed at such a level - with every move enough to collapse your life -

then we're not living in a free world. We just have a new and dangerous form of authority, ready to come down on us with the latest arbitrary, overnight taboo.

Luis Rubiales seems to be a bit of a naive eejit, thinking he could get away with an impulsive kiss in this era of re-booted puritanism where spontaneity itself is banned.

But I tend to side with him on his view that the moral panic is a "false feminism" and a "social assassination".

He's become the poster villain for the obsession with neurotic levels of consent that deems anything without express prior permission as sexual assault.

In order to be outraged by Rubiales' actions, you have to believe he is some kind of covert sexual predator so desperate for female physical contact that he has to kiss a top football player on live television.

That he can't contain his male desire and so forces it upon unsuspecting maidens.

It is all such a load of BS and paints women, once again, as the eternal victims, forever virtuous and pure, having to constantly bat off the overtures of over-sexed men.

#MeToo was a dark time of guilty-because-accused in uneventful 2017.

I would have thought that after a global pandemic, a world war and an international cost of living crisis, we'd have had enough of such melodrama.

Kissgate shows it's all about control, masquerading as compassion.



**POIGNANT** Victims' memorial

## Carnage on roads a scandal

THE class of 2023 has been beset by awful tragedies on our roads this summer.

To think of young people, at the start of their adult lives, dying on the way to the Debs and to Leaving Cert results celebrations is especially heartbreaking.

Those two crashes - in Monaghan and Clonmel - resulted in the deaths of six young people, aged 16 to 24.

There have been 126 fatalities on the roads this year so far, up by 25 from 2022.

The vast majority happen on country roads, with Sligo being Ireland's most dangerous county for road deaths.

I was in Sligo last weekend and I couldn't believe how some roads had 80kph speed limits. Other drivers on my tail seemed to think it was a target to be hit. These outdated limits need to be revised down, urgently.

Young people are one of the most at-risk groups, with one third of fatal crashes in Ireland involving those under the age of 25.

According to road safety experts, this age group is sadly also the one least likely to wear a seat belt.

Seat belts are proven life-savers and those who don't wear one are eight times more likely to die in a crash. We need to do more to encourage everyone to buckle up.

## WOMEN FOUND THEIR VOICE

THE music industry is dominated by women - which should be celebrated by feminists.

But this key fact is ignored by those obsessed with patronising gender quotas, who are determined to see being female as a disability.

So Electric Picnic boss Melvin Benn was asked about gender balance at the festival, headlined this weekend by Billie Eilish, right. Apparently, it's not enough that the biggest artist on the bill is a woman - there has to be an exact 50/50 split.

Benn explained festival promoters have more common-sense concerns, such as working around touring schedules and the artists that are available.

When it comes to music, women have been victors since the Victrola,

with early artists such as Billie Holliday, Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee leading the way.

Women have been all over music for generations, from Diana Ross and Debbie Harry to Madonna, and today's singers like Rihanna, Katy Perry, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga and Adele.

Ireland has produced some of the best females in music, from the late Sinead O'Connor and Dolores O'Riordan to Roisin Murphy, Enya and Kate Bush, whose mother was from Waterford.

Baz Halpin, the Irish concert creator, said previously: "There are more female popstars than male, that's just the metrics of it." So why do we continuously act like this is not the case?



### Lar's HERO of the week

**Roisin Murphy** Irish singer Roisin was the subject of a predictable pile-on when she slammed the medicalisation of children through puberty blockers. She was right about the massive profits involved when she pointed out: "Big pharma laughing all the way to the bank."



### Lar's ZERO of the week

**Aidan from And Just Like That** The Sex And The City reboot ended with this pathetic loser asking Carrie if she can wait five years for him. What is she supposed to do, exactly? Sew it up until he gets his life together?

