

Us pesky wimmin have gone and done it again. Not content with getting ourselves jobs and the right to vote, we're now lining up to punch each other silly in the Olympics. Those kind men trying to take care of us weaker sex are of course up in arms at the very thought of it. It seems as though we need to be protected from the dangers of breast cancer and that the pregnancy test we would have to take before fighting might turn out not to be reliable after all and our foolish endeavours would put those unborn babies at risk. Never mind that the tests are 99% reliable and that women competing at the very highest levels of sport are unlikely to become pregnant, as their diets and exercise regime usually mean their body's reproductive system goes into hibernation.

I have to declare here that I really, really hate boxing. I can't bear to watch people thump each other. If you see slow motion footage of a professional punch hitting the mark, the distortion to the recipient's skull really quite disturbs me. Then there is the blatant exploitation of (usually) poor (often) black youngsters by bloated moneymen, and of course the sad spectacle of those injured by one punch or by many punches over the years.

But that is just me. My father loves to watch boxing as do many of the men and some of the women I know. If there are people who want to watch boxing and there are people who want to box, then I say let them. It doesn't matter if they are men or women, as long as they are adults; they are free to what they choose.

It's not just men who think women are getting out of control, though. Our trans-Atlantic cousins think the same about us Scots too. As soon as word was out that the Justice Secretary was thinking of freeing al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds, they began telling us how to run our justice system. I am not arguing here about the rights and wrongs of what is clearly a very complicated situation. What I do know is that a crime was committed in our country, and someone was tried and jailed according to our laws. If medical evidence shows that the same man is now dying, the Justice

Minister is obliged to consider releasing him on compassionate grounds for the sake of him and his family. That is our law like it or not.

Many Americans clearly do not and they have wasted no time in trying to force us into doing what they think is appropriate. I heard one commentator describe our government and legal system as 'provincial' and throwing out patronizing comments about the naivety of our politicians. I know many of their people died in that tragic mass-murder and I am truly sad about that, but nothing gives their government the right to bully our government in the shocking way they have been doing.

Some of the Westminster mob even got in on the act, ignoring both Scotland's long-established legal system and more recent devolution legislation. They were demanding that their Secretary of State for Scotland (and goodness knows what else too) be allowed to over-rule our country's decisions just because they don't agree with them.

Here you go little Scotland, pretend you are a real country and play at running your own affairs until you do something that we don't like and then we will come along and change it just like some over-protective parent, or school bully. Perhaps if we do many more things that do not please our bigger neighbours they will invade us and replace our government with one more to their own liking. And just like those men seeking to protect women boxers from the folly of their own actions they will only be doing it in our best interests, of course.