

From The Times
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‘Victimhood’ culture

Increasingly sensitive society impairs reasonable judgements made in the workplace

Sir, Gary Hancock’s assertion (letter, [Feb 9](#)) that “a remark is offensive if it causes offence to those about or to whom it is addressed” illustrates a worrying trend in today’s increasingly sensitive society. We are told by our human resources departments that behaviour is defined as harassment or bullying if it is perceived as such by the complainant: there is no requirement for that perception to be subjected to any examination of its rationality.

In a culture where “victimhood” seems to be regarded as a lifestyle option, sensible management in the workplace is fast becoming a defensive exercise in avoiding the industrial tribunal, and expressing a challenging opinion on almost any topic invites accusations of bigotry, or worse.

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