

# LAW WITH DR CAROLINE HENAGHAN

## TALKING POINTS

### KNOWLEDGE:

1. What is premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD)?
2. What are some of the symptoms of PMDD?

### COMPREHENSION:

3. Why is it important to highlight the existence of PMDD in terms of its impact on criminal law?

### APPLICATION:

4. How might increasing awareness of PMDD benefit women when it comes to questions of criminal responsibility?

### ANALYSIS:

5. What do you think about how menstruation and premenstrual disorders are currently viewed in society? In what ways do you think understanding has improved in recent years? In what ways could understanding be improved further?

### SYNTHESIS:

6. Can you see a possible solution to the problems of having social stigmas attached to menstruation and premenstrual disorders? What would an ideal world look like?

### EVALUATION:

7. Some feminists have raised concerns about the implications of a premenstrual defence. It has been suggested that such a defence could negatively impact on women's status when it comes to issues of equality. On balance, what do you think and why?

## MORE RESOURCES

The University of Manchester is part of the innovative Pathways to Law programme that aims to inspire and support academically able state school students in years 12 and 13. The specific focus is on students from backgrounds underrepresented at university. [www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/connect/schools-and-colleges/pathways/](http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/connect/schools-and-colleges/pathways/)

### WIDENING PARTICIPATION

The University of Manchester Widening Participation scheme aims to remove all barriers to studying and learning. [manchester.ac.uk/discover/social-responsibility/social-inclusion/widening-participation/](http://manchester.ac.uk/discover/social-responsibility/social-inclusion/widening-participation/)

## ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

1. **Write a brief article** explaining the core aspects of Caroline's research. Think about the problems that exist and how Caroline's research might help women – and the law – overcome them.

2. **Read this article** from a recent case where PMDD was referred to in court:

[www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6190911/Suicidal-doctor-downed-four-beers-drove-leaving-man-wheelchair-bound.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6190911/Suicidal-doctor-downed-four-beers-drove-leaving-man-wheelchair-bound.html)

- **Imagine you are on the defence team** and write a closing statement for the case. Aim to sum up the impact PMDD had on the defendant's actions and explain why this needs to be taken into account.

**Remember, this is a real-life case involving real people. Be sensitive in your discussions about the defendant and the impact this incident had on the victim.**

- To what extent do you think the *Daily Mail* article is a balanced write up of the case? Do you believe that this article reflects a society that understands the issue of PMDD or do you think the case has been sensationalised in any way?
- How would you feel to work as a lawyer on such a case?
- What challenges do you think this case posed for the lawyers on both sides?
- To what extent do you agree with the judge's verdict and why?

3. **Read this article** that Caroline is featured in:

[www.bbc.com/future/article/20191213-pmdd-a-little-understood-and-often-misdiagnosed-condition](http://www.bbc.com/future/article/20191213-pmdd-a-little-understood-and-often-misdiagnosed-condition)

- How does this add to your understanding of PMDD?