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Subject: Someone is willing to tell it like it is.

RUSSIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT LEADER CONDEMNS STEREOTYPES ABOUT MEN. Yekaterina Lakhova, who co-founded the Women of Russia movement in 1993 and now chairs a presidential commission on women, children, and demographics, has assailed Russian stereotypes about men, RFE/RL's Moscow bureau reported on 3 March. She cited statistics showing that Russian men have a lower life expectancy than do women and far higher rates of disease, alcoholism, drug addiction, and suicide. She attributed some of those problems to the "ancient stereotype" of the man as breadwinner. She also criticized the belief that "every man must be a warrior" and that the army is a "school for bringing up real men." Lakhova slammed "senseless brutality" in the army and argued that mandatory conscription of men in peacetime is discrimination on the basis of gender. She called for transforming the army into an all-volunteer force that is open to men and women. LB

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