

Then as a dig at the BBC's anodyne approach to providing neutrality he added a comment attacking the strikers, saying that the strikers be shot in front of their families. For some it was a funny way of showing up the banality of balance as formula when trying to understand developments in current affairs, and especially through inviting people to provide comment on events.

Either there does seem to be a increasing propensity to be offended these days or I'm becoming sharper and more obnoxious than ever. Actually, I think that although I can be a little sharper than I used to be, I think I'm far less obnoxious yet I seem to cause more offence than I ever did - maybe I'm becoming more sensitive, but I think there's a more generalised sensitivity and **desire** to be offended. People today express their offence at things I'm involved in who I would never have thought were such fragile things, and do so in such a profoundly contradictory way it exposes that their 'offence' is not caused by what they say it is. Having offence officially recognised also seems to be such an important component of being offended now, it's like there's a desire to seek offence though only really if and when it can be used to include others in recognising that offence. I appreciate the cynical side of complaining to businesses in the hope of extracting recompense, but much 'offence' today seems to seek attention and public recognition of hurt rather than financial recompense. Are we becoming a society so desperate for public hugs?



Some background readings

[Stewart Lee on Top Gear](#) , YouTube 08 Jan 2011

[Jeremy Clarkson's critics should be taken out and shot](#) , by James Delingpole The Telegraph
01 December 2011

[Jeremy Clarkson insisted he would not apologise over 'shoot strikers' comments - then did](#) , by
Mark Jefferies, Daily Mirror 02 December 2011

['Pretend offence' over Clarkson](#) , BBC Radio 4's Today programme, 03 December 2011

[It's Jeremy Clarkson's fans they really fear](#) , by Rob Lyons, spiked 05 December 2011