



Equally Safe in Education: Understanding and addressing misogynistic attitudes

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What we will cover...

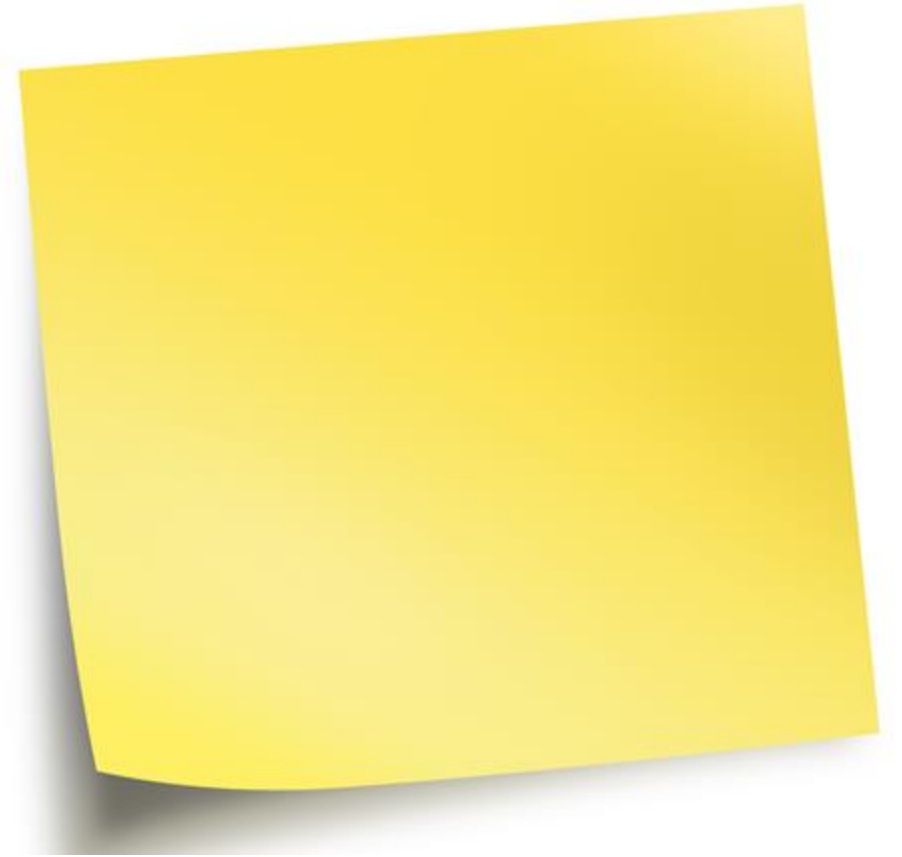
- What is misogyny?
- How is misogyny manifesting in education
- Key findings from the Stand Up from Quality Education Campaign
- Scottish Case Study, MVP, Hannah Lafferty.
- International Input, Lorvica Matthews, NAPTOSA, South Africa.
- Actions for consideration.



Welcome!

Using the sticky note on your desk can you please tell us...

(a) what comes to mind when you think of the word 'misogyny'?



Defining misogyny

In simple terms, misogyny is often defined as a contempt / hatred of women and/or belief that men are better or superior to women.

Misogyny is an entrenched prejudice against women.



What is 'Misogyny'?

Misogyny is not a one-off, or random hatred of women, but rather it's an ideology and structures founded on controlling and subduing those who challenge patriarchal norms – and creating systems that reinforce rigid gender norms.

Misogyny creates environments where women are at greater risk of facing hostility and hatred because of their gender.



Casualised misogyny and micro aggressions

Misogyny isn't always about outright hatred — sometimes, it's a lot more subtle.

It can pop up in casual comments, everyday interactions, or even in big systems which favour men and put men on top.

For example, the old stereotype that women are 'too emotional' and 'too sensitive' to be leaders – that is an example of misogyny.



Misogyny and Violence

Misogyny and harassment of women and girls is part of a continuum of violence against women, which includes stalking, domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, femicide, and so-called 'honour-based' violence.

A common cause links all forms of VAWG — women's social, economic, and political inequality.

Misogyny is a cause and consequence of women's inequality



Misogyny and Harassment

Globally

1 in 3

women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime ¹¹.

In the UK

1 in 3

women will experience domestic abuse ¹².

1.6 million

women experienced domestic abuse between March 2019 and March 2020 ¹³.

1 in 5

women will experience sexual assault during her lifetime ¹⁴.

71%

of women of all ages in the UK have experienced some form of sexual harassment in a public space ¹⁵.

95%

of all women did not report their experiences of sexual harassment ¹⁶.

In Scotland

1 in 10

women in Scotland have experienced rape ¹⁷.

1 in 5

women in Scotland have had someone try to make them have sex against their will ¹⁸.

65,251

incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland in 2020-21, 4 out of 5 had a female victim and male accused ¹⁹.



How is Misogyny manifesting in Education?

'In our branch meetings, the issue of increased misogyny from pupils toward female teachers kept coming up - the "Andrew Tate" effect if you like. Use of social media and the influences it has on young people's behaviour. Some teachers are worried about their images being used on social media.'

'I have been in teaching for 6 years and feel that this has got worse every year. To the point where more staff are leaving ... or are off with stress. This type of behaviour can seriously reduce your motivation and energy and reduce your effectiveness as a teaching professional...Boys showing a very worrying increase of sexually violent language towards female teachers.'

'There is often a lack of respect for female teachers (particularly younger ones) and when a pupil is angry, language towards a female teacher is often sexist.'

Of the hand mild sexist remarks occur daily, such as calling all female members of staff 'Karens', or telling females they're ugly/fat, or telling them to 'go back to the kitchen.'



How is Misogyny manifesting in Education?

'In our school at present, there are no male teachers, however, we have many coaches and visitors who work with the children who are male, and the boys tend to view and react to them in a different manner; in recent years boys have been more aggressive to female teachers than male colleagues.'

'We have seen alarming behaviour where some boys are exhibiting sexually aggressive behaviour towards women teachers, controlling behaviours towards women and violent behaviour. The verbal abuse is disgusting, and sexual assault has occurred.'

There has been a very significant rise in the number of boys making comments related to Andrew Tate and using threatening behaviour towards female teachers telling them they have power over them. Teachers have had large groups of boys in their classes sitting with "finger guns" pointed at teachers under the desk in a menacing way. Comments from Andrew Tate are repeated such as: "It's not rape if they enjoyed it."



Case study (Scotland)

Hannah Lafferty
ESAS/Mentors in Violence
Prevention



Case study (South Africa)

Lorvica Matthews

Male Gender Champions within the
District



Activity

In pairs/small groups, discuss the following questions

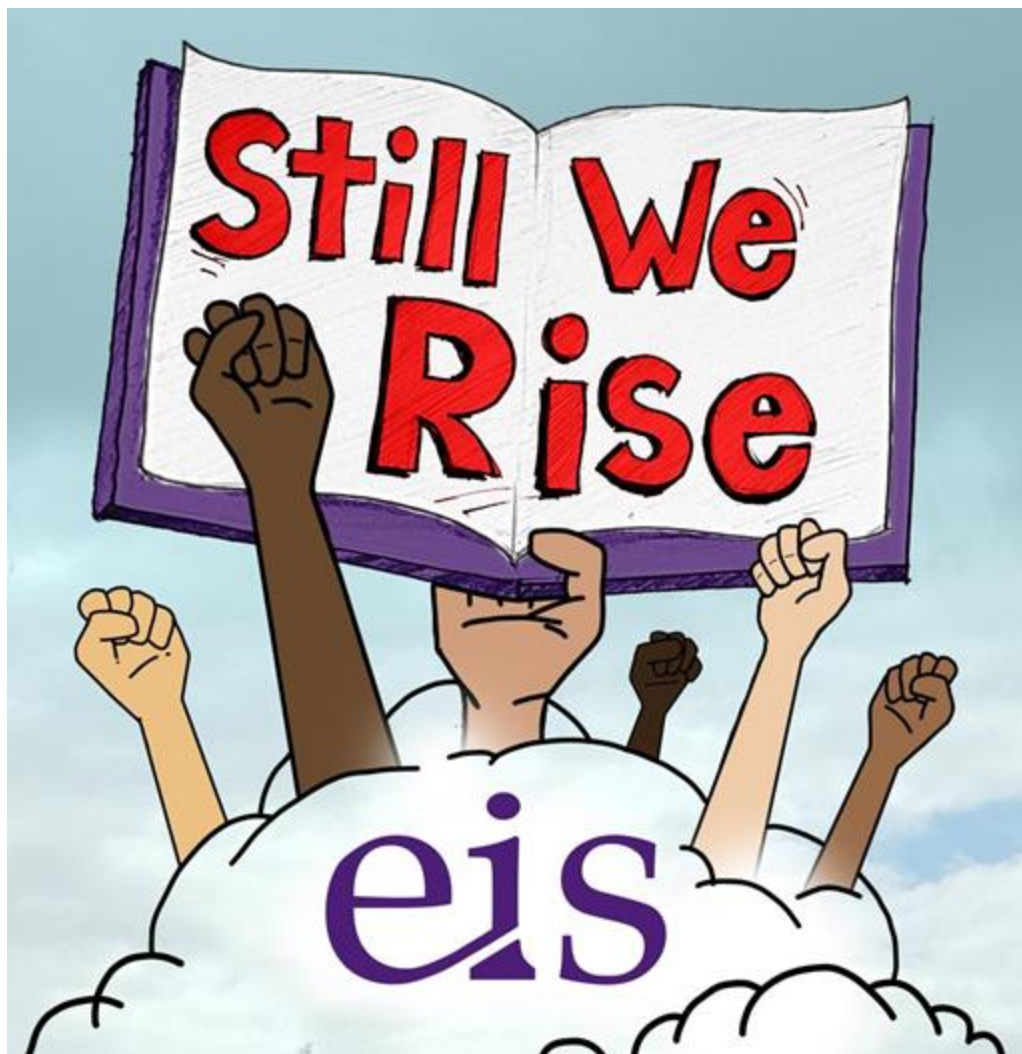
1. Are you seeing misogyny manifest in your classroom setting/education? If so, can you share any examples?
1. What do you think would help tackle misogyny in education from (a) staff perspective (b) pupils.
1. Are you confident that schools/staff know what misogyny is and how this might be playing out in schools? Do you think schools are calling it out for what it is?

Remember: everyone has a right to Health and Safety and Dignity at Work.

If you are experiencing misogyny in your setting, contact your line manager in the first instance



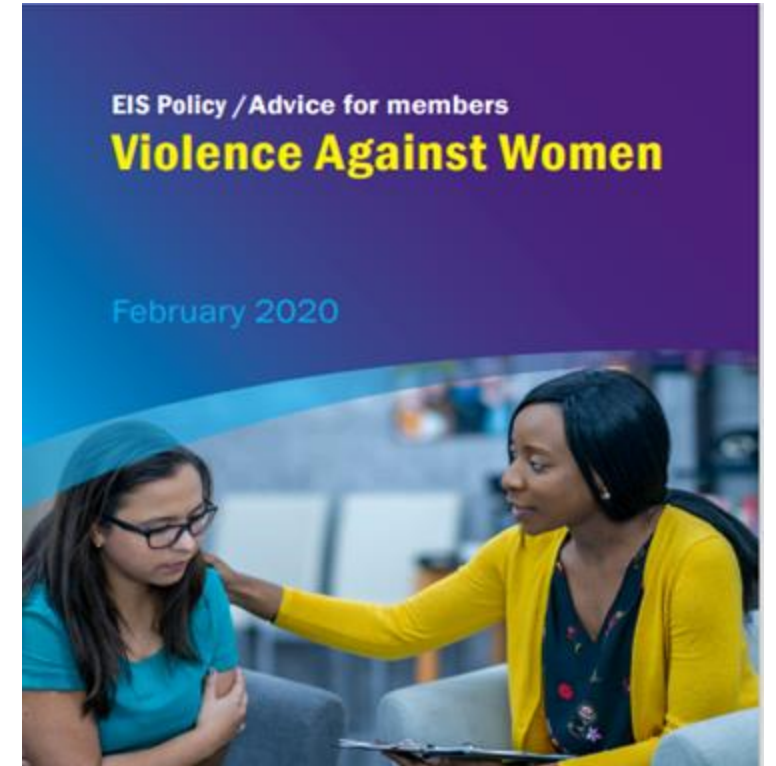
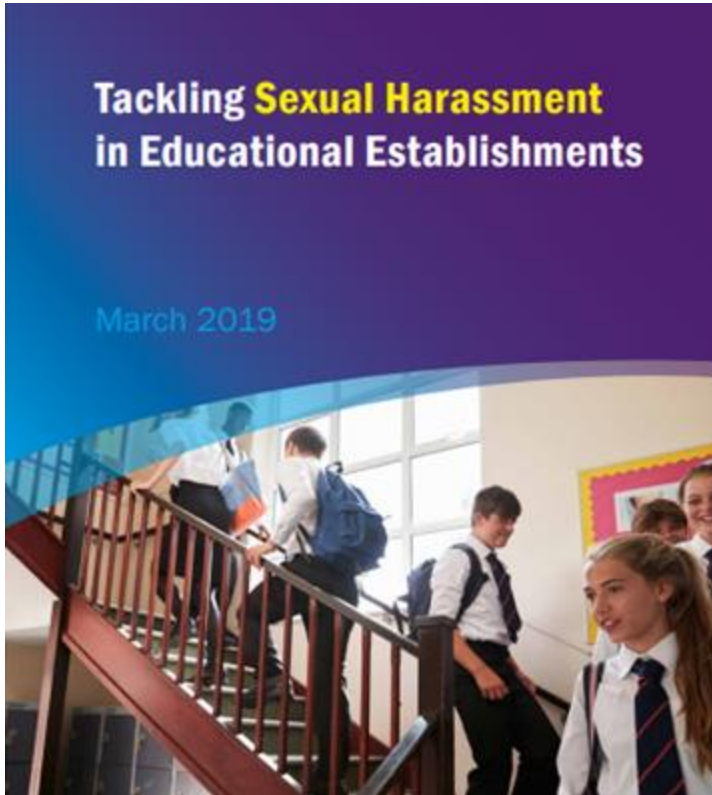
EIS Podcast: The Malady of Misogyny



Listen here for more insight on Misogyny



Please read EIS guidance and support on challenging misogynistic attitudes & VAW in Education



Key Takeaways

- Misogyny is widespread in society.
- Misogyny is manifesting in schools in multiple ways for both staff and learners
- Schools need support to better understand, recognise, and challenge misogynistic attitudes and behaviours in the classroom.
- There is a need for whole-school approaches – see the Scottish Government's whole school framework:
Preventing and responding to gender based violence
- Discuss/raise the issue of misogyny with your colleagues.
- Speak to your trade union rep.
- Engage with wider learning on this area.
- Seek to understand and educate.
- Label misogyny for what it is.



What will you take away?

- **Use a sticky note to reflect on one thing you will be taking away from this session**

