### What is sexism?

#### Fact:

Sexism is prejudice or discrimination based on one's gender. Sexist attitudes stem from stereotypes of gender roles.

#### Think about:

Why is sexism more acceptable than racism?

#### **Discuss:**

- What is sexist banter? Do you engage in it? Why? How difficult is it to stand up to it? Would racism be more or less acceptable?
- 2. What are some common sexist stereotypes? How do they affect men and women?
- 3. Does it contribute to violence against men and women?
- 4. How does sexism affect girls? How does sexism effect boys?

#### Take Action:

Visit the site **<u>oiimysize.com</u>** 

## THAT CHICK TOTALLY BLEW ME

### AWAY WITH HER COURAGE IN DECLINING TO PARTICIPATE IN GENDER STEREOTYPES

mede en Imeur



### **Feminist?**

#### Fact:

Feminism is defined as movement to bring about equal social, political and cultural rights for women and yet it has become a controversial concept and is often seen as a threat to men.

#### Think about:

What does feminism mean to you?

#### **Discuss:**

- 1. Are you a feminist? Why, why not?
- 2. Why is feminism under attack?
- 3. Do feminists need to lighten up? Is this humour or does it promote sexism?

#### **Take Action:**

Take the feminist test at **areyouafeminist.com** 



"Because we need to reclaim the word 'feminism'. We need the word 'feminism' back real bad. When statistics come in saying only 29 per cent of American women would describe themselves as feminist - and only 42 per cent of British women - I used to think, What do you think feminism IS, ladies? What part of 'liberation for women'



is not for you? Is it freedom to vote? The right not to be owned by the man you marry? The campaign for equal pay? 'Vogue' by Madonna? Jeans? Did all that good shit get on your nerves? Or were you just DRUNK AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY?"

- Caitlin Moran

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1. WIN HER OVER	2. OPEN HER EYES	3. TREAT HER RIGHT	4. SHIFT HER FOCUS
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know how to approach	feminism, which is far	you're interested in,	tinged interests so you
her. To prove you're not	more moderate than the	Baumgardner advises.	can actually spend time
part of the dreaded	combat-boot variety."She	As long as you're not	with her."Focus on the
penisocracy, pretend to	can be a girly-girl and still	overbearing, she won't	things you have in
share her beliefs. But	be a feminist," explains	object to your opening	common," suggests
hide your lack of actual	Jennifer Baumgardner,	the occasional door or	Michele Weiner-Davis,
knowledge of feminist	coauthor of Manifesta:	picking up a check. Next,	author of The Sex-
issues and show her	Young Women, Feminism,	unlock her repressed	Starved Marriage. She
how much you value	and the Future. "There's	Malibu Barbie fantasies	likes pro softball? Take
her opinion by asking	no need to eschew	and buy her a tight	her to a major-league
intelligent questions:	things like shopping,	tank top with FEMINIST	game. She's a staunch
"What must women do	makeup, or boyfriends."	printed on the chest from	environmentalist? Go
to earn equal pay for	Don't think she's ready	outspokenclothing.com.	camping. She supports
equal work?" or "Has	for a Maxim subscription	Tell her she looks	a woman's right to
Gloria Steinem's mar-	just yet? Sign her up for	great—but	reject the outdated
riage hurt the feminist	Bust, a feminist-lite mag	try to avoid	mores of our male-
agenda?" or "Did you	that says women can be	phrases like	dominated society?
see Cagney & Lacey on	independent, strong, and	"bodacious	Tell her to get closer
Lifetime last night?"	relatively hairless.	ta-tas."	to your mike.

### Everyday Sexism

#### Fact:

Sexism is prejudice or discrimination based on gender. Women are the predominate victims of sexism. Extreme sexism includes sexual harassment, rape, FGM and other forms of sexual violence

#### Think about:

Have you ever been the subject of sexism?

#### **Discuss:**

- 1. Have you ever had sexist remarks made about you? If so how did it make you feel?
- 2. Why are women the predominate victims of sexism?
- 3. Why do you think people make sexist remarks?
- 4. How do you stop sexism?

#### **Take Action:**

View the YouTube video <u>"Rapper Doc Brown</u> takes down Sexism in 13 minutes".



# everyday sexism...

"comments about my boobs" "obscene gestures" "grab my breast" "unsafe in my body" "uncomfortable" "asking for trouble" "touched me from behind" "like I was an animal" "everyone around pretended nothing was happening" "made me feel dirty" "confused and betrayed" "because I was female" "whistle and make remarks about how sexy I was" "I keep my head down" "try not to make eye contact with groups of males" "humiliating to me" "accepted behaviour by everyone" "I was scared" "I'm still scared" "being honked at and whistled at" "I was told that there was nothing they could do" "it was so common" "he began masturbating" "a lot of people say that it is flattering" "I am mortified and paralysed" "they could get away with it" "disturbing" "all of the male employees were paid 10% more than female employees" "in front of everyone" "repeatedly" "how wrong this is" "dishing out unwanted sexual attention is not okay" "I still regret that I didn't report this" "assume that I cannot provide a solution" "it's frustrating" "accidentally exciting men" "I hide myself under layers of clothes" "I felt so stupid and naive" "deserved to get raped if she was wearing those clothes" "I was too much of a distraction" "very, very slowly dragged his gaze up the entire length of my legs" "still makes me feel bad" "now my daughter is starting to get the same comments" "laughed and took a picture of me walking off" "my mistake was being female" "you have no sense of humour" "it was a horrific experience" "I thought it was my fault" "I don't want to be leered at" "men rubbing themselves against me" "doesn't see why I'm offended" "that kind of thing is just part of life as a woman" "too scared to tell anyone" "I was so ashamed of myself" "I feel the need to think twice about the outfits I wear" "I thought it was normal" "I never told anyone" "I felt it was unfair" "felt

### Teaching Sexism

**Fact:** Sexism is a learned behaviour.

Think about: Does society teach us to be sexist?

#### **Discuss:**

- Why has the ad in top left corner been made? Who is it aimed at? Do we teach boys to not engage in sexism as much as we teach girls to protect themselves from sexism?
- 2. Do you engage is sexism, have you been taught to respect people's gender?
- 3. How does society end sexism?

#### **Take Action:**

Join the Men Care Campaign and make a poster at **men-care.org** 



The argument that 'boys will be boys' actually carries the profoundly anti-male implication that we should expect bad behavior from boys & men. The assumption is that they are somehow not capable of acting appropriately, or treating girls & women with respect."



### Gender Pay Gap

#### Fact:

"With the gender pay gap women work 59 days for free every year." (Huffington Post).

#### Think about:

Why are women paid less than men?

#### **Discuss:**

- Should your gender affect your pay? Why does it?
- 2. Why do you think women continue to get less pay?
- 3. What is needed to change this?

#### **Take Action:**

Learn more Watch <u>A short story about the</u> <u>gender pay gap</u> from EUJustice. or <u>There's</u> <u>more to the story of the shrinking Pay Gap</u>. Read the <u>Confidence Gap</u> Find out what Ireland is doing about the gender pay gap at <u>www.genderequality.ie</u>





THAT'S

CRAZY TALK!

HAVING A FAMILY, FOR EXAMPLE, MANY

WOMEN TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK TO TAKE

CARE OF CHILDREN OR ELDERLY RELATIVES ...

SO WOMEN WORK LESS. OR WORK PART-TIME. OR NEEP MORE FLEXIBLE JOBS. AND AS A RESULT, THEY GET PAID LESS. BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH **SEXISM**?

THE WAGE GAP HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH





COULDN'T MEN

DO HALF OF THAT

UNPAID WORK?



#### The wage gap is not a myth.

In 1963, women earned 59 cents for every dollar that men earned. Today, women have made up less than half of that pay gap. A substantial gap persists even when education, industry, and hours are taken into account. Prepare your daughter for working life.

Give her less pocket money than your son.



**WOMEN** Like men, only cheaper.





### Games & Sexism

#### Fact:

Video games play a big part in our everyday entertainment and as such have a role in shaping society. Sexism is prevalent in many of the most popular games. 48% of gamers are women.

#### Think about:

How do video games affect players?

#### **Discuss:**

- How do video games promote gender stereotypes? Do young children learn behaviours from video games?
- 2. Games like GTA promotes sexism and violence against women, Does this have an impact society? How? Do video game makers have a responsibility not to promote sexism?
- 3. Halo bans users who are sexist online, do you think this will change behaviour?

#### **Take Action:**

Watch <u>"Sexism in gaming: Paul</u> <u>Verhoeven"</u> at TEDxSouthBankWomen or <u>Tropes vs Women.</u> by Anita Sarkeesian







### Skirting Sexism

#### Fact:

Around the world women are told what to wear so that they don't attract male attention?

#### Think about:

What is your standard of dress, and what are the primary reasons for the choosing the clothes you wear?

#### **Discuss:**

- 1. Should girls be blamed for wearing clothes that are "provocative" or "tease boys" ?
- 2. Do boys get "accused" of dressing too sexy? Are they asked to tone it down? Who should decide what another person should wear and what is "appropriate dress"? Some say the full burqua is what women should wear some say they should cover their heads or arms. What do you think?

**Take Action:** Campaign and support gender equality, hold a **"lift the skirt on sexism**" as these French schoolboys did in Nantes.





is she

asking

for it?

boys help you choose

our clothes

DON'T HUMILIATE HER BECAUSE SHE IS WEARING SHORTS. IT'S HOT OUTSIDE. INSTEAD OF SHAMING GIRLS FOR THEIR BODIES, TEACH BOYS THAT GIRLS ARE NOT SEXUAL OBJECTS.





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### Male Feminists

#### Fact:

Men have been involved in the Feminist Movement since the 19th century. Feminist men have argued for the need for their own liberation from the constraints of sexism as a necessary part of the movement.

#### Think about:

Is "The War on Women" a men's issue, a women's issue or both?

#### **Discuss:**

- 1. Which gender predominately raises violence against women issues? Why?
- 2. What is the war on women and will you join the fight?
- 3. Are you a feminist why/why not?

#### **Take Action:**

Learn more, read "War on Women: A Deeper Look" at girlsonpolitics.com and watch the BBC news report linked in the article. Watch "We should all be feminists: Chimamanda Ngozi Acidly" at TEDxE. #banbossy. Take the pledge with Beyoncé at banbossy.com



# COME ON, BROTHERS!

