

# A Call To Men UK: Public Survey 1 (over 2 weeks, June 2016)

## 1. Do you think that having critical, reflective dialogues led by trained staff in UK schools with boys and young men about what it means to be a man is a good idea?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		90.48%	38
2	No		4.76%	2
3	Not sure		4.76%	2

### Comments:

1	With use of contemporary culture to look at popular archetypes of 'man'...ie warrior, hero, lover etc. And how these are represented. What do these archetypes mean to actual males and do they feel under pressure to emulate them? How to images of caring males compare...how are they represented in mainstream culture?
2	Being a man should never be equated with socially constructed & stereotyped ideas of so-called "masculine" personality traits, interests, and emotions. Rather talking about "what it means to be a man" should be about the facts of having a male body, and the social, political, and personal issues men face in society. Also the fact that men are privileged over women in the world should be discussed.
3	Any dialogue needs to focus on the concept of masculinity ultimately as a destructive force that mainly harms women and girls. They must be led to understand that gender is a system, a hierarchy that harms, and that benefits them. Making boys and men aware first and foremost of their accountability, responsibility and their privilege, and how these manifest, rather than framing the conversation in terms of what's in it for them, or how they are 'victims', is absolutely paramount. No narrative is effective in tackling the issues if framed by how they can be heroes, knights in shining armour, or similar, by standing up to misogyny. The ultimate message must be simply that accountability is expected of them.
4	Absolutely essential; with reports of sexual abuse by boys of girls rocketing in schools we need to teach boys about consent, respect and kindness.
5	Instead of what it means to be a man teach what it means to be a decent human being.

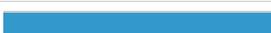
## 2. Do you think that never discussing or reflecting on what it means to be a man can allow inflexible and potentially harmful versions of masculinity to develop or persist?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		83.33%	35
2	No		7.14%	3
3	Not sure		9.52%	4

### Comments:

1	Media/pop culture can reinforce this, so space needed for reflective discussion as self-discovery / development as a man an ongoing process.
2	Although need to consider Gender as part of this.
3	The concept of masculinity needs to be problematised, not preserved in any form. The wrong conversations are being had and I worry that engagement may descend into the same current male-centric or male serving narratives. As before, male accountability and power must be central.
4	The dominant forms of masculinity in this culture are predicated on hate and hurt. Both for boys to grow into happy and healthy adults, and for a cohesive society, we must teach boys to reflect on their gender and equip them with the tools to understand their own feelings & control their anger.
5	Again, "be a man" is harmful. Teach them to grow into decent human beings.

**3. I would like to see boys and young men engaged, with trained staff, in critical and reflective dialogues about:**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Objectification of women in the media		57.14%	24
2	Victim-blaming in media reports of sexual assault		52.38%	22
3	The concept of male entitlement		52.38%	22
4	Coercive Control		57.14%	24
5	Sexual consent		54.76%	23
6	All of the above		85.71%	36
7	None of the above		2.38%	1

**Comments:**

1	Too much talk on these subjects is aimed at girls and women, how to recognise/avoid it. We must turn to boys and men to recognise it in themselves and change.
2	Also the pressures of masculinity, sexuality, mental health
3	I would like to add to this the way in which violence and aggression are glamourised and seen as integral to being a 'real man'. What about gentle men?
4	Biology
5	Should also include #LGBTQIP
6	I think it important here to make sure men can also recognise when they are victims of coercive control.
7	As long as it is done correctly, and informed by listening to women, it could be instrumental work in changing attitudes and behaviours.
8	And separate discussions of the same with girls
9	Pornography and the rape industry as a whole.
10	But not assuming they are already guilty of these

**4. Do you believe that sexual and domestic violence against women and girls can be ended without the extensive participation of men in that process?**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		11.90%	5
2	No		78.57%	33
3	Not sure		9.52%	4

**Comments:**

1	Men can advocate, but absolutely must not be allowed to orchestrate. The main issue with male participation is men are being allowed to dominate every movement or conversation against male violence, whether that be by taking up space on panels, or interjecting from a perspective of male privilege. But they can be informed by consulting women, and it is vital that they defer to the lived experiences of women instead of orchestrating themselves. Calling out the problematic behaviours of men when they see instances occur is however important. We must be careful not to continue the precedent of men repeating women's words and work, being listened to and sending out the message that we can get men to do the speaking, because women won't be listened to. This is the pattern that's occurring. Women's voices must take priority.
2	Part of why I am a feminist is because I expect more from men, I know that there is nothing innate about male violence and understand that with education and support we can create a world where men stop hurting women.

## 5. If you think men can or should play a part in preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse, how do you think this could be best achieved?

1	Open-Ended Question	Responses: 27
1	By encouraging men to listen to the stories of women who have been harassed and exploited by men	
2	Identity work challenging limiting assumption about stereotypical perceptions	
3	It must be a multifaceted approach - it is a complex problem that is a symptom of thousands of years of men's subjugation of women. The first step would probably be consciousness raising for men to even acknowledge that patriarchy exists, how they benefit from it, the ways in which they consciously or unconsciously reinforce it, and the harms perpetrated against women that they are therefore complicit in. From here it will be a lifelong pursuit both individually and collectively for men (as it is for women) to organize and demand the destruction of patriarchy while simultaneously engaging in cooperative community building with women that is egalitarian, environmentally sustainable, and economically and politically participatory, democratic, and liberatory.	
4	Tackling gender stereotypes from an early age - EYFS upwards. Joining the dots between excusing violence and discouraging emotion in boys and toxic masculinity. Seeing gender stereotypes as part of the big picture of inequality, as harmful, as a big deal. Teaching feminism in schools, and equality, consent, respect being the main focus of PHSE.	
5	Genuine partnership and equality with women and the whole community! And feminist critical friends to keep it accountable!	
6	Education. Challenging dominant representation of masculinity. Encouraging ownership of negative male behaviour. Challenging the idea that 'feminine' qualities of gentleness, tenderness etc are not for men	
7	Holding each other to account; teaching boys from a young age; open role models; better parenting; honesty about VWAG	
8	Reflecting on the learnt social role of what it is to be a man. Masculinity and the fetishisation of male athletics and male bodies (bet you didn't expect that one about male bodies), setting up of 'male' as default human and women as subordinates to that. Looking at gender roles, expectations of women to be helpmeets and unpaid domestic workers. Looking at rates of sexual violence male/female. Looking at how women and women's bodies are portrayed in the media. Looking at how women tied to role of bearing and looking after children and men. How gentle and kind men are vilified in society.	
9	Awareness raising	
11	By emphasizing the importance of respect in physical relationships. The one thing that is essential whether a committed relationship or a one night stand is that you must respect your partner as an equal and after what you both want through communication.	
12	First define what is and isn't acceptable so men who think the odd slap is OK, men and women need to know this. Create an environment where this behaviour is not seen as cool or macho but violent and uncivilised. Will need a change between generations, always difficult.	
13	<p>1). Male led Orgs (such as your good selves) training in schools - PSHE &amp; SRE: primary, secondary &amp; further Ed.</p> <p>2). Training/talks in youth centres.</p> <p>3). Talks at local football &amp; sports club.</p> <p>4). Engaging UK male role model (s) to highlight campaign. Whilst I dislike the celeb culture, teens have grown up with &amp; accept it as norm. Therefore, I feel boys are more likely to engage with a sporting ambassador or boy band.</p>	
14	Education in schools and through media. Important this is done positively, so that boys and men see a positive role to play in life and do not feel blame themselves for the awful things which they themselves do not do or believe.	
15	<p>1. Fighting inequality wherever we see it, enforcing positive discrimination</p> <p>2. Reorganise justice system - rape convictions notoriously low, adversarial system doesn't work, re-traumatizes victims, need experts on sexual assault to testify on victims' behalf to face down aggressive defence counsel.</p> <p>3. Men need to stand up and own that they are privileged, this has led to entitlement and sense that they are owed special status. They're not. Dismantle patriarchy!</p>	
16	Through open and safe communication. Men need to be able to express themselves without worrying about their opinions. If these opinions need to be challenged that is fine but this is better than someone keeping it in. This needs to be done from a young age. Also maybe a website showing that opinions and feelings are held by others. For example if a boy didn't like violent porn but doesn't feel he can say it to his friends for whatever reason there needs to be somewhere he can go anonymously to discuss these feelings. Peer pressure is so damaging and I feel often people just say what they think they want to group to hear but actually the majority are uncomfortable. Finally I think it needs to be OK for men to be able to say "I don't agree with that". For example with issues surrounding raping an unconscious woman men need to be able to stand up and say this is not OK. That it is actually really insulting assuming men are so unevolved they can't control themselves. That the majority of men	

**5. If you think men can or should play a part in preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse, how do you think this could be best achieved?**

somehow would enjoy sex with an unconscious woman over a consensual encounter. Sorry, little bit of a rant there!

17 Education. Schools clarifying and dealing with acceptable/non-acceptable behaviour and language in the same way that racism is dealt with. Notifying parents what is being done and suggesting ways they can help.

This must start very young, since children may be observing and modelling behaviour/language they experience at home/in the media.

Separate and mixed sex groups. Separate initially since girls are often intimidated by boys. Assertiveness work with girls. Lots of experiential work.

This is so necessary. Keep up the good work.

18 Listen to women when they tell you that porn and prostitution harm us. Call out those men and boys that are sexist, johns, harassers and otherwise harmful. If you are joining in with these behaviours, you are helping to normalize the predicators of sexual violence (or if a john, are already guilty of it) and are much less likely to see abuse for what it is.

Listen to women when they tell you what are offensive epithets, what is harassment, what are offensive stereotypes and presumptions. If one woman takes exception to something you've done, don't rationalize your behaviour by finding a straw women who 'likes' it.

Stop expecting praise or admiration for meeting the moral baseline of not being a misogynist.

Never presume to school us on the best way to respond to a man's abuse, or worse, admonish with 'preventative' measures to avoid male violence - it is not within women's power nor their responsibility to prevent a man deciding to abuse or attack. Areas where pre-emptive victim blaming 'advice' is used have higher instances of male violence against women as they focus on irrelevant incidentals and enable male violence to occur. Avoidant behaviours do not reduce male violence, only change men's targets.

Be active in lobbying for changes in the law to protect women's human rights. Do this based on actions informed by women and women's groups, not men.

Recognise that misogynistic acts are a hate crime. They are that serious.

19 By the sort of work you're engaged in. Keep it up!

20 Education, victim support, general involvement in all prevention, support and education for perpetrators/ victims & witnesses (usually children)

21 Peer mentors are essential. Both boys and girls must be educated about consent, respect and boundaries in schools at an early age. Men must be role models if we are to achieve equality.

22 An idea I've had in mind for some time - football clubs.

This is where boys who appear to be strongly influenced by hyper masculine, stereotypical ideas about being a man congregate. It is a missed opportunity if we don't engage with them in a proactive way.

Good male mentors and volunteers should join the clubs and be part of these communities.

Mentors can connect with boys (and families perhaps?) and take opportunities to facilitate programs, activities and so on. These men can also support those currently running football clubs to do their job better and be held to a higher standard of conduct. We need to grow better boys and men.

Love your work, thanks for the opportunity to contribute.

23 Policing each other. Stepping in to challenge sexist comments and misogynistic "jokes". Letting women and girls speak. Letting women have their share of public space.

24 Hold boys and other men accountable. Shame them if they do or say sexist things.

25 Education in schools.

26 By attitudinal change

27 Similar to the bullying discussion, discuss the impact. Also discuss respect and consent. Teach them not to be silent when they see injustices. Most don't stand up to others.