

Peer-on-Peer Abuse

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What do we mean by Peer-on-Peer Abuse?

Peer-on-peer abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children, and within children's relationships (both intimate and non-intimate) friendships, and wider peer associations.

Peer-on-peer abuse can take various forms, including

- (but not limited to): serious bullying (including cyberbullying),
- relationship abuse, domestic violence and abuse
- Child sexual exploitation
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Prejudice-based violence including, but not limited to, gender-based violence.



Peer-on-Peer Sexual Abuse



A place for survivors to share their stories.

Everyone's Invited's mission is to expose and eradicate rape culture with empathy, compassion, and understanding.

51,060

Testimonies

101,267

In our community



Peer-on-Peer Sexual Abuse

The term 'peer-on-peer' sexual abuse includes:

- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- **upskirting**, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or to cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
- sexting (also known as 'youth-produced sexual imagery')



Online Peer-on-Peer sexual abuse



There were a wide variety of behaviours that children and young people said happen online. These include:

- receiving unsolicited explicit photographs or videos, known as ‘dick pics’ – cyber flashing
- sending, or being pressured to send, nude and semi-nude photographs or videos (‘nudes’)
- being sent or shown solicited or unsolicited online explicit material, such as pornographic videos



How often is it happening?



- A survey of children and young people in 2017 found that over a third of female students at mixed-sex secondary schools have personally experienced some form of sexual harassment at school

“Sexual harassment occurs so frequently that it has become ‘commonplace’.”

Ofsted report statistics:

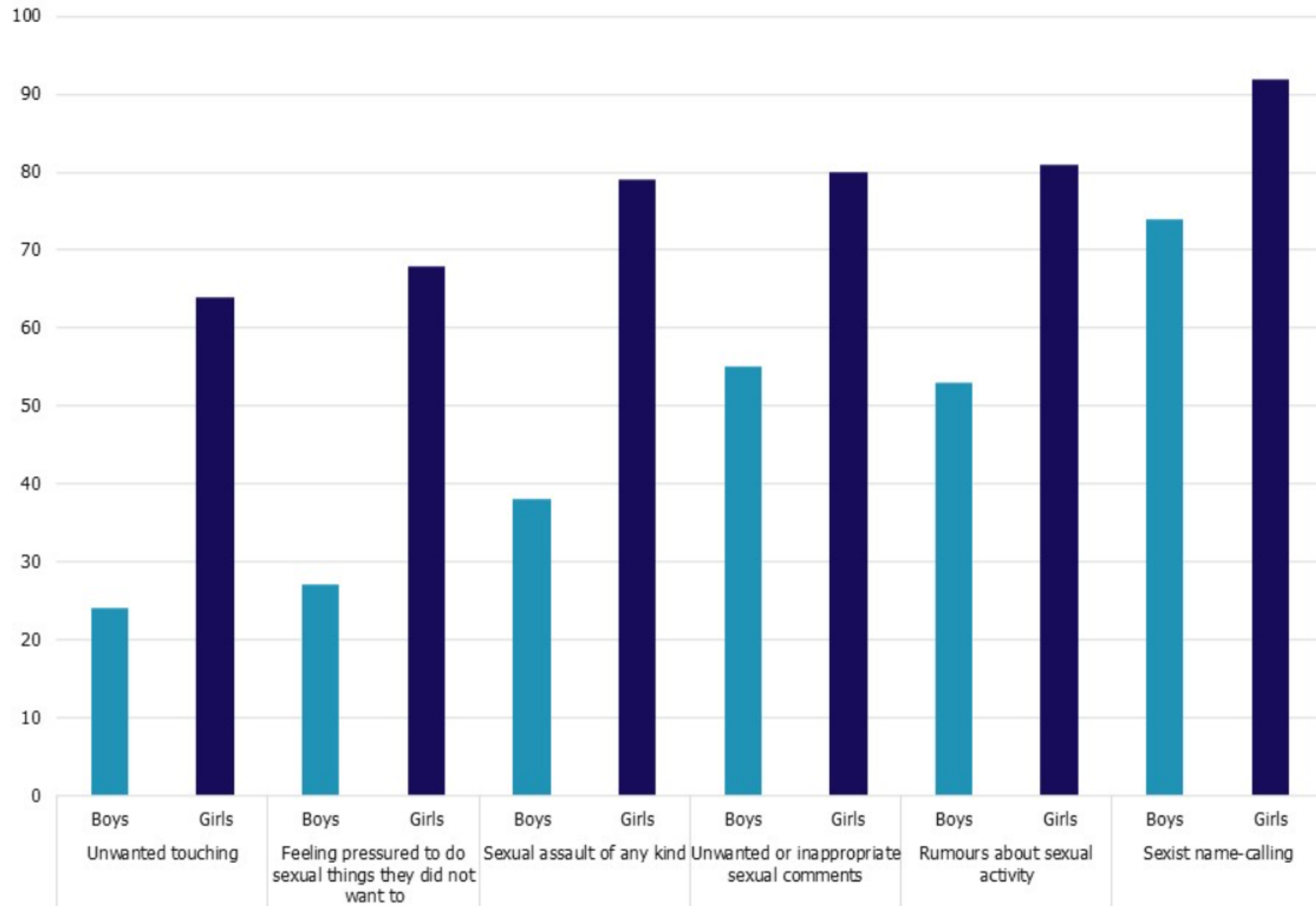
- 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peer
- Of the girls asked, 79% they experienced sexual assault of any kind, 68% felt pressured to do sexual things that they did not want to and 64% experienced unwanted touching

‘It’s a part of life...The problem is that it’s so widespread it’s like playing whack-a-mole.’



Who?

Figure shows answers to- “is it happening a lot or sometimes between people my age?”



Why- Where to begin?

The Adolescent Brain



Technology access –
Whatsapp, Snapchat,
Instagram...

Little experience of
relationships –
'romantic' expectation

Gender identity and
self worth



Technology means
harassment &
'monitoring' easier

Unsure what is 'normal'
behaviour

Youth Culture: what is happening in this generation?

Be under pressure
from their peers to act
'cool'

Attitudes to sex –
Sexual pressuring and
bullying

Understanding of
Consent

Access to pornography



Children and young people rarely speak to adults about peer on peer abuse:



➤ Not reporting reasons included:

- Not knowing what would happen next
- Concerns about 'reputational damage' e.g. ostracised from a social group, damage to sexual reputation
- Concerns over reactions from adults, including feeling judged or blamed
- Confidentiality concerns- what will happen with the information
- Believing things were so common place there was 'no point' in reporting information
- Feeling embarrassed or shame in talking to someone of a different generation about sex



Toxic Masculinity?

There is a wider cultural context of sexism and harassment in our schools which needs to change. Boys are explaining their actions as “banter” while girls are told that police will be involved if they complain (Ofsted Report)



'Toxic Masculinity'

“A set of attitudes and ways of behaving stereotypically associated with or expected of men, regarded as having a negative impact on men and on society as a whole”

- *Oxford Languages*

“Real” Man vs Good Man

“Real”
Physically strong
Protector
Bread winner
In control
'Alpha'
Never cries
Gets the girl/ what they want

Good
Kind
Thoughtful
Emotional
Fair
Dependable
Honest
Loyal

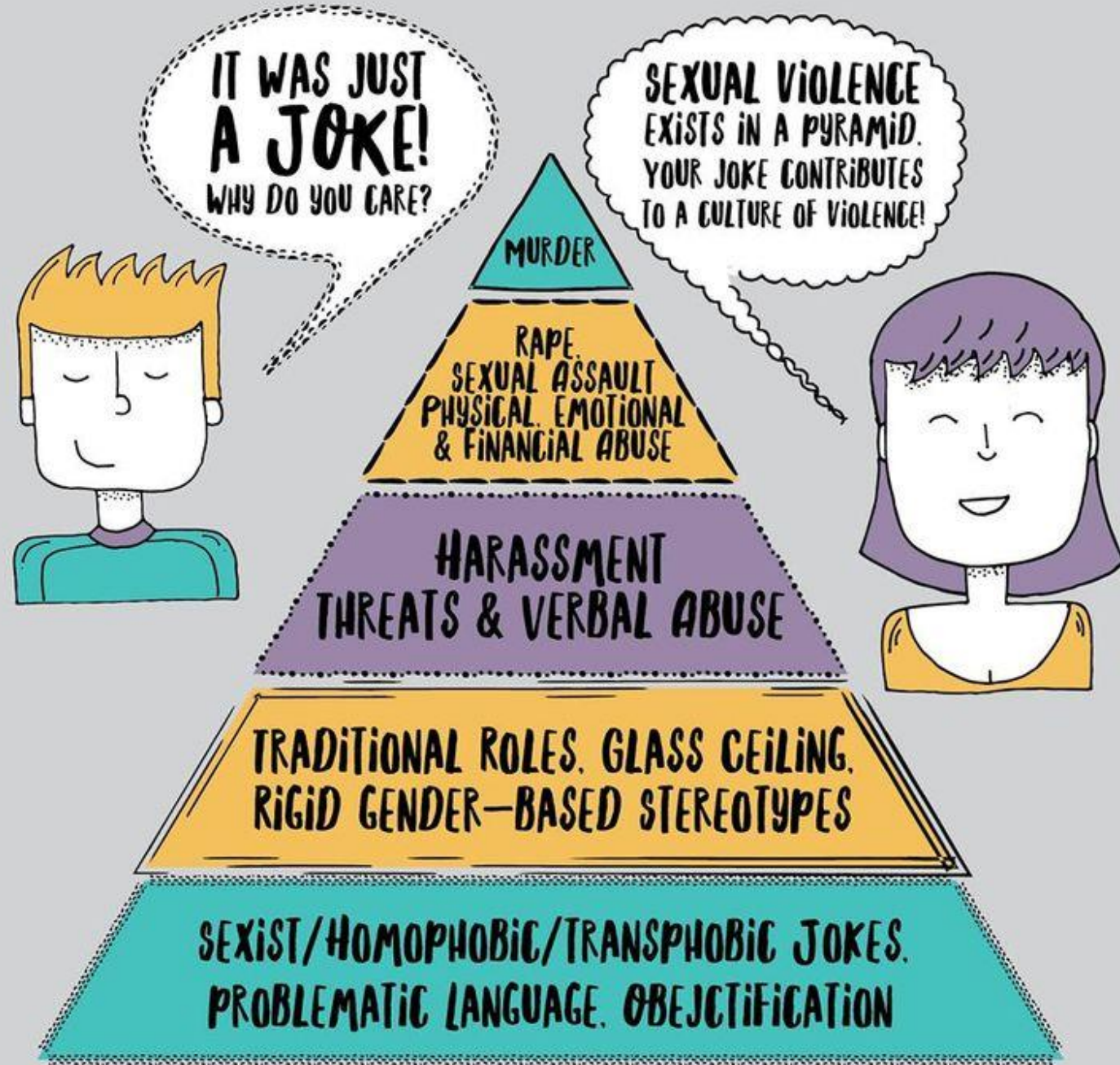


Toxic masculinity isn't just about behaving like a man. Instead, it involves the extreme pressure boys often feel to act in a way that is actually harmful

'They just won't take no for an answer' – some explained that if you block them on social media 'they just create multiple accounts to harass you'.

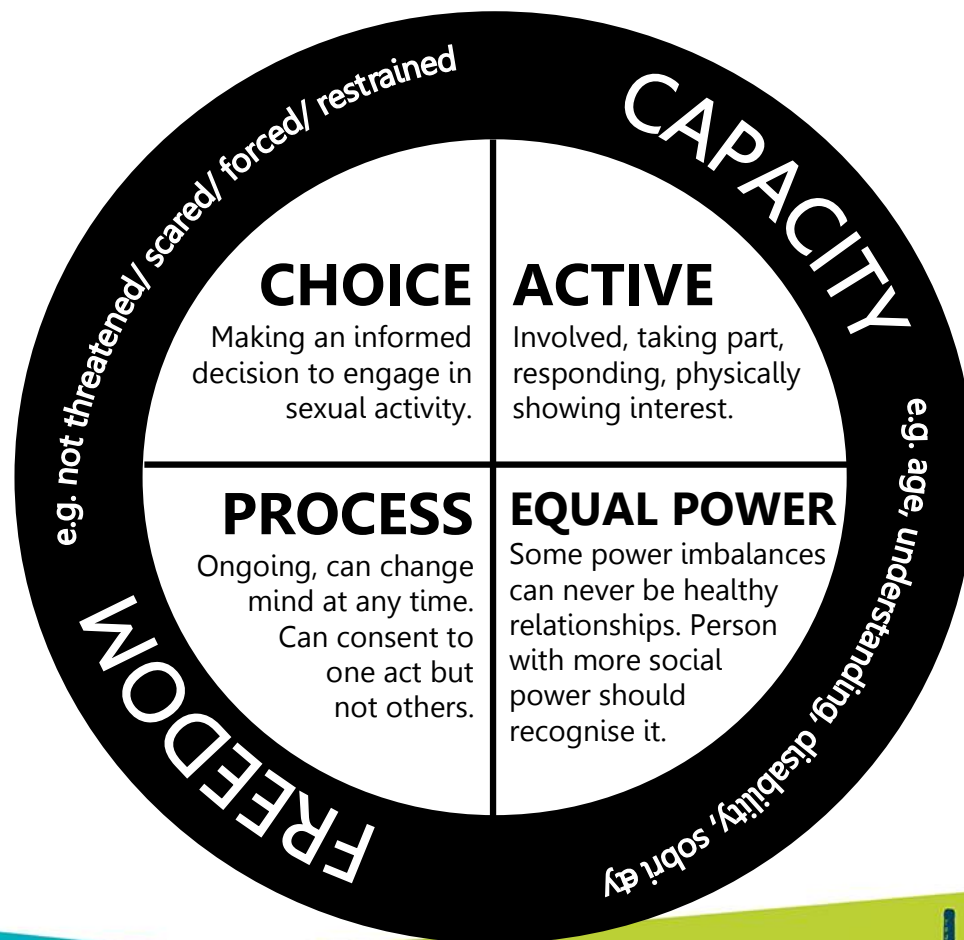


'Rape Culture'



Young People and Consent

*“If he or she agrees by choice, and has the **freedom** and **capacity** to make that choice” (Section 74, Sexual Offences Act 2003)*



CONSENT

IT'S SIMPLE AS TEA

Parents: How to respond?

1. Don't ignore the issue
2. Have the difficult conversation
3. Establish some boundaries
4. Challenge 'toxic masculinity'
5. Make an action plan



Action Planning

- Tell the school: to the Welfare and Wellbeing Team
- Encourage and support your child to participate in Relationship and Sex Education sessions
- **NCA-CEOP:** If your child has been exploited sexually online, or if you suspect that they have been a victim of grooming, you can make a report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection command of the National Crime Agency (NCA-CEOP).
- **IWF: The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)** If you or your child stumble across anything related to child sexual exploitation and abuse online, you can make a confidential and anonymous report to the IWF via its website.
- **NSPCC** A new dedicated helpline provides appropriate support and advice to both children and adults who are victims of sexual abuse in schools. This includes how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish. The helpline will also provide support to parents and professionals too. Call 0800 136 663. Anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse can also find help at the government's Stop Abuse Together site.
- **YoungMinds** the UK's leading mental health charity for children and young people.
- **Ditch the Label** offers support to young people between the ages of 12 to 25 who have experienced bullying.
- Download the **Ziplt App** – to send safe responses to online sexual requests



Parent Resources



- Parent's Helpline: 020 7823 5430 (Mon-Tues 10-5pm)
www.kidscape.org.uk
- **Bullying UK (Part of Family Lives)** Helpline: 0808 800 2222
- www.parentzone.org.uk & <https://parentinfo.org/> for great resources and advice
- **YoungMinds:** If you're concerned about your child's mental wellbeing, they also have a parent hotline you can call on 0808 802 5544, where you'll get advice on how to tackle the issue.



**Thank you -
Any questions?**

