

A FAIRER AND JUST SCOTLAND



Policy 1:

To protect girls and young women from gender-based violence, misogyny* should be a hate crime in Scotland.

**Misogyny is hatred or prejudice against women. It can refer to attitudes and behaviour, like speech or violence.*

Endorsed by:



ENGENDER

**THE YOUNG
WOMEN'S
MOVEMENT**



What's this all about?

Young people told us about their experiences of misogyny in their communities and wider society. While some young people feel progress is happening within Scotland to tackle gender inequality, many young people are still experiencing misogyny every day. More unique protections must be put in place to keep young people safe, and everyone should be supported to call out misogyny when they see it. Boys and young men told us they are also impacted by gender inequality. Therefore, legislation and education must be aimed at informing and protecting all young people, regardless of their gender identity, with specific focus on those young people most at risk of gender-based violence and misogyny.

"Every woman has a story."

– Young woman aged 14-17, Scottish Borders

"Every woman I know has been affected by sexual harassment in some form. This culture of misogyny is what leads to women being raped and killed, and should be stopped before it reaches that level."

– Young woman aged 18-21, Stirling

What are young people in Scotland calling for?

- Young people call for girls' and young women's specific experiences to be represented and protected through legislation.

"Women, for the longest time, have faced misogyny and violence, and even now, these acts persist, so if more places start treating it as a hate crime, more will follow suit, and hopefully, in an ideal world, misogyny will be a thing only taught in history lessons."

– Young man aged 12-13, East Lothian

- Young people call for gender mainstreaming* to be implemented across all levels of policy making and decision making, and for the public sector to embed gender sensitivity training in all departments.

**Gender mainstreaming is about ensuring all decisions consider the specific impacts on different genders. For example, whether a decision would have more negative benefits for women and girls than it would for men and boys.*

"Gender based violence is more common in women but women aren't the only people who experience it. Men face it as well, gender based violence shouldn't exist full stop."

– Young woman aged 14-17, West Lothian

- The Scottish Government and local authorities must invest in and promote effective programmes to prevent gender-based violence and misogyny. Existing and new programmes should be co-designed with young people, kept up to date to address new and emerging issues, and be available in all communities across Scotland.

"Yes, I feel like us boys aren't taught a lot about this or we don't know how much mean comments can hurt young women so I feel like we should be taught more making sure that we know not to say mean comments towards them."

– Young man aged 14-17, Edinburgh

Evidence and Support

- [Young Women's Movement research](#) showed young women are very anxious about a regression in women's human rights, with specific concerns raised about increasing misogyny.
- [Scottish Government research](#) revealed a rise in sexist, misogynistic and explicitly sexualised language among male pupils, particularly related to the popularity of influencers.

What has SYP done?

The [SYP Policy Log](#) includes policies on the elimination of gender-based violence; supports for victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and abuse; prevention of sexual harassment; education on sexting and revenge porn.