

LESSON – FOCUS ON THE UK – TEACHERS' NOTES

Learning Objective: To identify some of the types of gender-based violence young people – particularly girls - can face in school today in the UK, and how we can respond to this

Extended Learning Objective: To pledge to help create safe environments so we can all #LearnWithoutFear

Lesson supports the Focus on the UK Assembly, and can either precede or follow the assembly.

Time – 1 hour

Main concepts

- **Gender based violence and abuse is an issue in the UK**
- **Gender based violence and abuse may take different forms to what was seen in the previous lesson, and can have life-changing consequences**
- **We can pledge to stand up to gender based violence and abuse, and not allow environments to develop where it is accepted**

This lesson continues where Lesson 1 concluded, exploring the issues of gender based violence and abuse in the UK. The lesson begins with a mystery. Cards can either be cut out or left in the table. Allow this activity to generate discussion. For further information on sexting, see; <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/>

The video contains scenes that, although age appropriate, may be distressing. Introduce the video as dealing with sensitive issues, and give students the option to close their eyes, or leave the room if they feel uncomfortable. For younger students, teachers may wish to use the video stills on slide 8 as an alternative to watching the video. **Do view the video prior to the lesson and use judgement relating to the cohort.**

Encourage students to explore issues through discussion and in their writing. Students should leave with a raised awareness of the issue, and understand they can play a part by pledging to stand up to gender based violence and abuse, and not allowing environments to develop where this behaviour goes unchallenged. Where possible, instigating a school-wide pledge is to be encouraged.

It is important students arrive at a conclusion, so they don't leave feeling overwhelmed by the issue. The plenary completes the learner journey, and whilst it doesn't solve the problem, it shows hope for raised awareness and striving altogether for all girls and boys to Learn Without Fear. If appropriate, encourage students to tweet their ideas and pledges using #LearnWithoutFear and @PlanUK

KS3 / KS4 (National 2-5) – The lessons have been designed for delivery to 11-16 year old students with minor amendments to make the material age-appropriate. Differentiation is largely by outcome, lead by the teacher.

Context - Plan International UK is a global children's charity. This lesson plan has been developed as part of their 'Because I am a Girl' global campaign which wants to put a

spotlight on the global injustice surrounding gender based violence. #LearnWithoutFear is the campaign's most recent focus – honing in on violence in and around schools. These lessons have been designed around the National Curriculum to raise awareness of this issue. More information is available at www.plan-uk.org

Notes on terminology - Gender-based violence (GBV) is the general term used to capture violence that occurs as a result of the normative role expectations associated with each gender, along with the unequal power relationships between the two genders, within the context of a specific society. (Bloom 2008, p14).

While men and boys can also be victims of gender-based violence, the primary targets of GBV are women and adolescent girls and this is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women. Not only are women and girls at high risk of GBV, they also suffer exacerbated consequences as compared with what men endure. As a result of gender discrimination and their lower socio-economic status, women have fewer options and less resources at their disposal to avoid or escape abusive situations and to seek justice. They also suffer (...) consequences [on their sexual and reproductive health], including for example forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and resulting deaths (...).(UNFPA Strategy and Framework for Action to Addressing GBV, 2008-2011, p. 7).

The UN's official definition of GBV is: "a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men. [...] It is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty." (UN CEDAW, general recommendation 19).