

Need for Statutory PHSE

What we want:

- Statutory age appropriate sex and relationship education with no opt out
- Consent and healthy relationships to be central to PHSE lessons

In February, the Commons Education Committee recommended statutory status for PSHE to guarantee that all pupils get this learning¹, a recommendation backed by leading child safety bodies, 90% of parents, 92% of pupils and 88% of teachers.

Why we want it:

There is a desperate need for comprehensive PHSE to counter the impact of pornography and to protect children from sexual exploitation.

- A woman has a 1 in 4 chance of experiencing domestic violence²
- 85,000 women in the UK are raped every year
- Over half of women between the ages of 18-24 have experienced Intimate Partner Violence

The impact of porn

- A growing number of women are murdered following the viewing of extreme violent porn³
- The humiliation of women and girls, and the expectation that pain is a normal part of sex is becoming widespread⁴
- Internet filters are ineffectual. A recent survey⁵ showed 39% of boys in England aged 14-17 regularly watched pornography
- Entitlement is being displayed by many boys who believe they are owed sex
- 12 per cent of children admitted to making or being part of a sexually explicit video

NSPCC⁶ report released in February this year found:

- 40% of girls between the ages of 14-16 had been pressured into sex
- 22% said they had suffered physical violence or intimidation from boyfriends, including slapping, punching, strangling and being beaten with an object
- Many said the pressure to have sex was so great it almost became 'normal'

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- Jay report⁷ into CSE in Rotherham stated that survivors were 'scathing' about the lessons they received in school on staying safe
- David Cameron has met survivors and called CSE 'a national threat'⁸
- Jay report stated Rotherham was not an outlier but that CSE is widespread problem

¹ A curriculum for life: The case for statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education (2015)

² www.refuge.org.uk/get-help-now/what-is-domestic-violence/domestic-violence-the-facts (2015)

³ Nathan Matthews, Mark Bridger, Stuart Hazell, Vincent Tabak, Jamie Reynolds to name a few, (See [The Guardian](http://www.theguardian.com), *Nathan Matthews Case Reignites Debate Over Violent Pornography* 11/11/2015)

⁴ Imogen Parker (2014) Young people, sex and relationships: the new norms

⁵ Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR) (2015) Briefing paper 4

⁶ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/40-percent-teenage-girls-pressured-into-sex/>

⁷ www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent_inquiry_cse_in_rotherham (2015)

⁸ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31720979>