

Mover: Socialist Educational Association

Seconder: Thirsk and Malton CLP

Composite Motion: Early Years and Education

This Conference notes

1. The website Everyone's Invited revealed shocking levels of misogyny, rape jokes, sexual harassment, image based abuse, and sexual coercion perpetrated on girls and young women, often in schools during school time by other school pupils. Sexism and sexual harassment in schools was revealed in research by the National Education Union and Feminista-UK.

Everyone knows from their own experience or that of friends and relatives during their school years that this problem exists but few would have been aware of its wide prevalence. Many may have thought that while it was a problem in the past it surely can't still be.

Abusive behaviour by young people in schools does not develop spontaneously. It is acquired from and sustained by the misogyny which is endemic in adult society. Action to prevent unacceptable behaviour in schools must therefore be backed up by action to challenge misogynistic behaviour in society at large.

2. Tory policies are promoting a narrow vision of education centred on the marketisation and fragmentation of the education system in England.

This agenda denies opportunities to many from early years to adult education and has failed to recognise let alone address the sexism and sexual harassment of girls and young women in schools.

Conference calls for urgent action by the current Tory government and the next Labour Government to tackle the problem of peer to peer misogyny and sexual harassment of girls at school, including:-

- A code of conduct for school pupils which makes clear what behaviours are unacceptable.
- An anonymised reporting and support system easily available to all who are subjected to unacceptable behaviour.
- Guidance for school managers on how to prevent abuse by pupils in their school and deal appropriately with perpetrators.
- Co-ordinated funding and action by DfE, Ofsted, teacher training providers and schools.

Conference believes that Labour must offer an inspiring alternative vision of education based on a National Education Service which would enable people to live healthy, satisfying and sustainable lives, address long-standing issues of disadvantage and discrimination that impact on opportunities and life chances of women and end the marketisation and privatisation of education and associated services. This means committing to bring schools in England into an integrated, cooperative, transparent and non-selective education system which:-

- (a) gives parents, education staff and students a real role in how schools and colleges are run.
- (b) restores school autonomy by taking control of schools away from multi academy trusts
- (c) ends the free school and academy programmes
- (d) re-establishes local leadership of education by bringing all schools back to Local Education Authorities, properly funded to provide services and democratic oversight.
- (e) works towards integrating private schools into the public education service.

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