

EVERYDAY SEXISM

The Everyday Sexism Project exists to catalogue instances of sexism experienced on a day to day basis. They might be serious or minor, outrageously offensive or so niggling and normalised that you don't even feel able to protest. Say as much or as little as you like, use your real name or a pseudonym – it's up to you. By sharing your story you're showing the world that sexism does exist, it is faced by women everyday and it is a valid problem to discuss.

Laura Bates
<https://everydaysexism.com>

13. September 2022

When I was 15 me and my cousins decided to go camping in our garden (all about 14 to 17 y.o.). In the night I woke up because while I was asleep one of my male cousins was touching my breasts. I woke up scared and I did not know what to do. He did not realise. I made a scene of waking myself up and he stopped it. I went out of the tent and shocked I didn't go back to sleep that night. I have been afraid and ashamed to tell the story to anyone, since it involved one of my family members. I am now 25 and I managed to tell this to one of my friend and one of my female cousin. He doesn't know that I knew and know and we are not in contact anymore. I am still shocked about the experience and the emotions related to it are still for me to process. I am working on processing my emotions, and I hope I will find the strenght to face this one too.

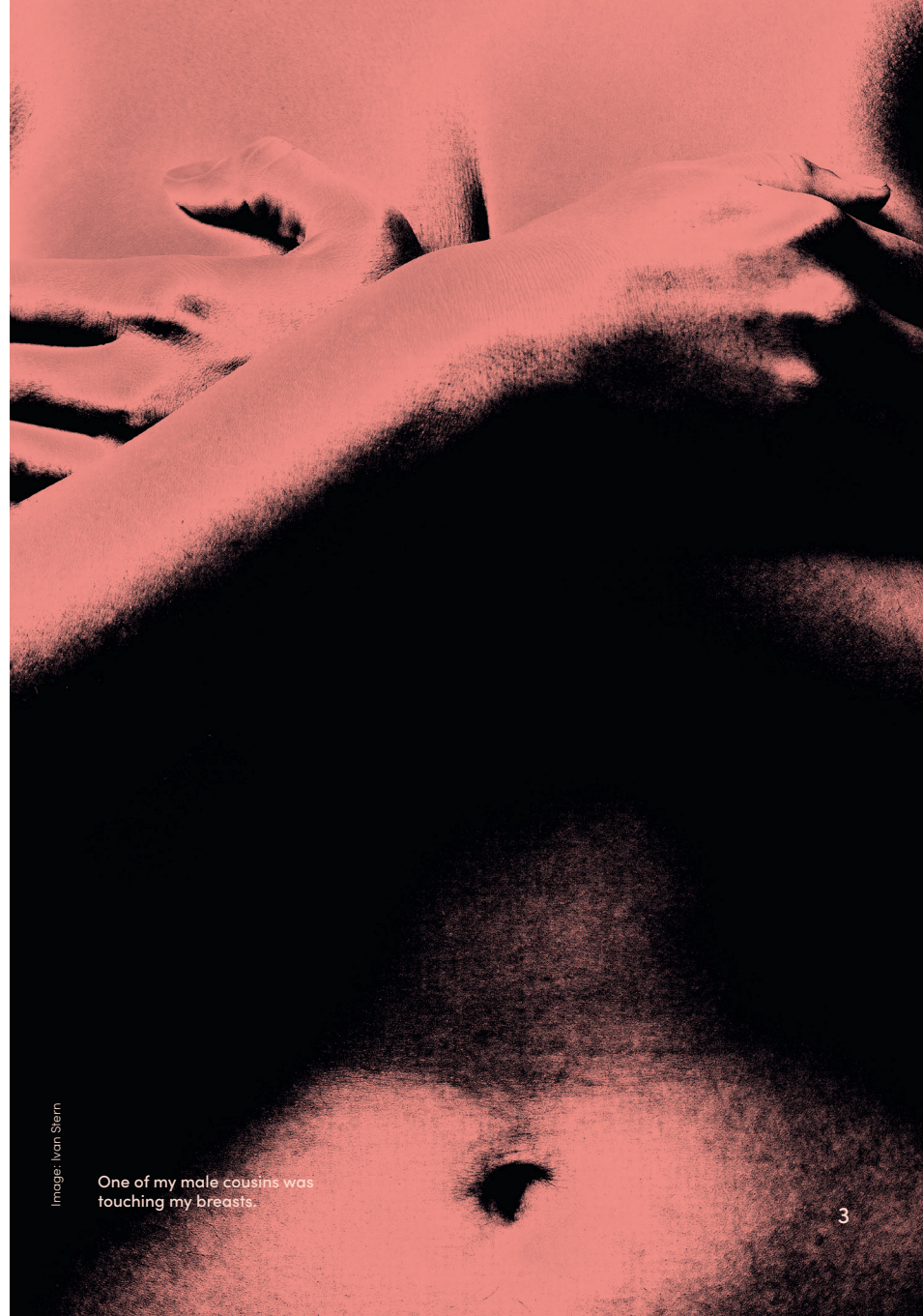


Image: Ivan Stern

One of my male cousins was touching my breasts.



Today and many other days, I have been rushing to work following dropping my child at holiday clubs only to find men waiting for me and telling me I parked in correctly. When I dare to argue back, or stand up for myself I am personally attacked, I need the exercise, I'm fat, I'm the reason they have gyms, I must not be getting it. This is something that to many is normal, to many it would mean nothing, but to someone who faced a eating disorder, and still struggles with disordered eating these words are the difference between health and death.

When I dare to argue back,
or stand up for myself I am
personally attacked.

Image: Alexander Krivitskiy

OBOROJA



Creepy Male stares and comments.

Image: Alexander Krivitskiy

13. September 2022

AT AGE 11 I STOPPED GOING SWIMMING AT PUBLIC POOLS WITH MY FAMILY TO AVOID CREEPY MALE STARES AND COMMENTS.

13. September 2022



In my first job at a pub – aged 15? 16? – the manager showed me pictures of himself in his underwear and asked if I thought he looked sexy. I was so uncomfortable. My mum’s boyfriend tried to console me when I was crying by giving me a hug. His hands rubbed my bum instead of my back and it felt grotesque.

I was so uncomfortable.

Image: Monika Kozub

I’ve experienced catcalling before, however never when I’m with my boyfriend. I was out wearing shorts and my boyfriend went inside to order and immediately two separate cars honk and shout lewd things out of their windows. Yet when my boyfriend came back out to join me it stopped again—it’s almost as though people respect the fact I have a boyfriend more than they respect me as an actual human being, as though I’m his ‘property’.

KATHERYN

I was in a meeting with my team and our director, when it was my turn to update the director on my work he frequently interrupted me and was very condescending treating me like I was stupid. Then proceeded to make a big deal about now I was leaving and a new member of the team (a male) was taking over it will all be great now. This new team member is much less experienced and more junior and I was in the process of training him. We were both un-

comfortable in how my work was disregarded and the behaviour towards me. My manager didn't even notice. As I was leaving for a new role at the same company it felt difficult to raise it given my boss not even noticing.

Image: Tony Sebastian

He frequently interrupted me and was very condescending treating me like I was stupid.



ANONYMOUS.

He thought it was appropriate to touch mine and my co-workers bums.

Image: Janosch Lino

I was at work where i happen to work with drunk people due to serving drinks from the bar, and a man had gotten drunk that he thought it was appropriate to touch mine and my co-workers bums, at first we gave him a warning but then he proceeded to disrespect us asking 'how much are you' when we're all under age.

21. September 2022

I grew up fearless (initially), until I started experiencing cat-calling, and even an attempted kidnapping where two men, at 11pm pulled over as I was walking home from the movies. I was supposed to have my "friend" with me but she had been too busy flirting with some guy downtown. That's another story. But, the guys pulled over, opened the passenger door, and I turned around and started walking the opposite way (the long way home – I didn't care, so long as I'd get away). They ended up driving off, and turning right ahead so I continued back in that direction. Then as I got a little further, I seen the van now driving in my direction toward me, parked

across the street a little past me, and then opened the driver side door (this is when I knew it was two men and not one). I took off running, and they closed the door, and drove away and I never seen them again. I ran all the way home. I experienced another, more creepy and perverted situation where a white elderly man in a truck with an empty horse trailer attached followed me all the way home from school. As he drove by, he just stared without cat-calling, waving, or speaking. He stared each time he passed me, driving slowly past each time, staring face to face. I stared back, which was my way of letting him know I was watching him too. He turned corners repeatedly, ending up on the same street as me again and again, and he did this for about thirty minutes. Again, I had no

phone to call anyone. Once I got to the park across from my house, and he disappeared around another corner, I ran so fast across the park field to my house without him seeing me, and I told my mom and stepdad. As we watched out the window, he circled and circled the park, looking for me, and fortunately, he didn't see where I lived, but it was then, that the elementary down the street let the kids out of school. He ended up disappearing shortly after. To this day, I wonder if he did the same with one of the elementary kids as he did to me, or worse; took one into his empty horse trailer. #protectourwomen #protectourgirls #protectourselves

KAREN

21. September 2022

SOMEONE HAS
TOUCHED MY FEET
ON THE BUS.



He grabbed my ass, and when I asked him to stop and told him “no”, he said “but you have a nice ass anyways”.

Image: Alexander Krivitskiy

21. September 2022

I was walking outside during winter, wearing a dress and bare legs; I had no tights left at home and I went to buy some because it was cold – the store was only a minute walk from my home. While I was walking, an older man (with his wife!) made a nasty remark: “mmm, nice legs” and went on with his day. I was walking to a party with a friend of mine, when a man approached us; he grabbed my ass, and when I asked him to stop and told him ‘no’, he said “but you have a nice ass anyways”. I was at another party, and a person I vaguely knew and did not even talk to, kept on touching me – I said ‘no’ plenty of times. he stopped touching me the minute I said that I had a boyfriend (which was a lie) – he respected my “boyfriend” more than he respected me. I once went to the dermatologist for my acne, and one consultation he kept saying “well, you have skin that’s sensitive to hormones, but that’s good! you’ll have no problem getting pregnant when you’re older”. he repeated this a couple of times. a lot of things like this happened in my life, and I didn’t really thing much of it – I felt uncomfortable

and violated, but I also felt guilty for walking outside with bare legs, for maybe “asking for it”... I normalized all of it, thinking that there are worse things that could happen, while we should NEVER normalize things like this. never.

ALEXA



I was raped. At my school, in my school uniform, I was 14.

Image: Janosch Lino

21. September 2022

**I WAS RAPED.
AT MY SCHOOL, IN
MY SCHOOL
UNIFORM, I WAS 14.
HE WAS MY BOY-
FRIEND AT THE
TIME. I CANNOT GO
BACK INTO THAT
ROOM AND HE
STILL ATTENDS THE
SCHOOL**

AYLA

I have been told to not wear certain clothing around male family members (including my father) or in public. By 13 my whole world changed, all the sudden I was an object to protect from men, I was put on birth control to help with

hormones. I was not allowed to go to friend houses and I had to be with at least tree people at all times. I was told it was my fault for proving men stares and unwanted attention. I was told they could not control their hormones but when I was on my period I was given Pamprin to help control my hormones. My mother once said to me "What do you want? To dominate men?" I am 15. I am a kid. I demand gender equality. Hear my voice!

I was told it was my fault for proving men stares and unwanted attention.

WHEN I WAS 10 ONE OF MY SO CALLED FRIENDS GROPED ME IN CLASS, NO ONE SAW AND WHEN I TOLD MY MOM SHE SAID IT WAS PROBABLY AN ACCIDENT AND NEVER BROUGHT IT UP AGAIN.

TRAUMATIZED AND TRAPPED

21. September 2022

I was 10 years old when holidays lost their magic. My relative's (I'm sorry I don't want to be too specific) boyfriend would give me looks, make inappropriate comments, and touch me. I miss my her old husband. He was the only man that I didn't get anxious around. I'm now 18 years old and he still does this. I dread every single holiday and family gathering. I feel guilty. I know I'm not in the wrong here, but he seems to make her so happy and I don't want to ruin that. I think he knows that. It has made me hate my relative a little.

Image: Ramez e Nassif

I was told it was my fault for proving men stares and unwanted attention.





Instead of being a shoulder to cry on he locked the door behind him and pushed me up to a wall and began aggressively kissing and touching me.

Image: Jairo Alzate

When I was 14 a boy who was one of my best friends found me crying at a get together and instead of being a shoulder to cry on he locked the door behind him and pushed me up to a wall and began aggressively kissing and touching me. After I shouted and pushed him off I managed to get away but kept this private as we were both drinking and I thought it was nothing serious. A few weeks later he did the same thing to one of my friends at a party to which everyone at the party kicked him out. I then came forward and explained what had happened to me. I tried to avoid and ignore him as lots of people did but eventually he gained back his popularity and tried to apologise. Although I didn't forgive him I decided to keep things civil as people were saying I overreacted and the other girl had decided to forgive him too. 6 years on and I still have to pretend to be his friend whilst the boys all make jokes about his strange past.



CROSSING THE
ROAD ON A WEEK-
DAY LUNCHTIME
IN THE MIDDLE OF
MY TOWN. MALE
CYCLIST AGGRESSI-
VELY SHOUTS
“SMILE FOR FUCK’S
SAKE” AT ME.

“Smile for fuck’s sake”.

Image: Nelu Chibalina

XENIA

03. October 2022

system, but the fact that a serial rapist gets to give interviews and instruct women via media how to make rape easier for themselves, and this complete insensitivity towards his victims just for the sake of clicks disgusts me. This system is exactly why I left my country with no intentions of return.

It is not my personal story, but one that awakened big rage in me about the current happenings in my home country, Serbia. Recently, a serial rapist with obvious psychological problems was yet again released from prison (despite the fact that he repeatedly committed the same crime), without any proper rehabilitation, plan or supervision. In the light of this, Serbian police initially had nothing more to say other than advise women to "take care". Meanwhile, a tabloid "Informer" published a video interview with the perpetrator via all channels, in which the man openly talks about his crimes, shows no remorse and basically gives advice to women on how to behave while he rapes them, explaining that "if he decides to do so, he will do it anyway". I am not sure if I expected better from the justice system and police in this rotten

MADDERNE

I should't show any stomach
at school.

Image: Mlad Fekurion

03. October 2022

WAS TOLD THAT I
SHOULD'T SHOW
ANY STOMACH AT
SCHOOL BECAUSE
'WHAT ABOUT THE
BOYS AND THE
MALE TEACHERS?'

MY FIRST

03. October 2022

– When someone online threatened to rape me (12) – When i was groped at a festival (13) – When i was wolf whistled by men as i walked home at night (13) – When i got sent my first unsolicited dick pic (13) – When a man honked and cat called me from his car, when i was with my family, and my mum was proud of me (14) – When my older cousin made jokes about me being ‘on my knees’ because i wore ripped jeans (14) – When i woke up to see my older cousin watching me as i was sleeping (14) – When an old man asked me (15) and my younger sister (13) to touch his penis, as we were trying to have a picnic in the park – When a boy in gym class grabbed my backside and then laughed with his friends at me (15) – When i was cat called by a car of boys at night (16) – When a group of boys surrounded me on the bus and rated my looks and body out loud (16) – When

an older man came up to me at the library, and started complimenting my looks and body “you look European” (16) – When i was waiting tables and people would stare down my shirt (16-17) – When i was groped at work while waiting tables, and when my dad picked me up from work he said “All women find themselves being groped at some point in their lives, just like men find themselves in a strip club at some point in their lives” (17) – When my co-worker followed me to my bus stop, to

see which bus route i took (17) – When my manager asked me if i was a virgin (17) – When my older manager would give female employees shoulder rubs/ back massages when they ‘looked tired’ (17) – When an older man stared at me for the entire bus ride home. An elderly lady behind me pointed his staring out to me (as if i should be flattered) and he agreed with her, that he thought i was attractive (17) – When, just after i had sex for the first time, the boy asked me if i wanted to give him a blowjob. I repeatedly said no, but he kept asking. Eventually he took his penis out, and held it up to my lips until i did (18) – When i was groped the first time i went clubbing (18) – When a man knocked on my door when i was home alone to ask for a massage (18) – When my close male friend from high school texted me, after months of not talking, to ask for nude pictures (19)

Y

03. October 2022

**I WAS IN A BIG
TEAM VIDEO CALL
WHEN ONE OF
MY CO-WORKERS
DROPPED ME A
PRIVATE CHAT
MESSAGE TELLING
ME TO SMILE.**

Dropped me a message
telling me to smile.

Image: Lucija Ros

03. October 2022

SAM

At 16 at Leeds festival a man got his cock out and pissed down my leg into my wellies, I cried and ran all they way back to my tent because I was on my own. For years after I told it as a funny festival story and it always got a good laugh. Only recently I saw it for was. Other girls my age told the same story.

A man got his cock out an pissed down my leg into my wellies.

Image: Alexander Krivitskiy

When I was 11 in my first week of secondary school, I was walking to school when a group of boys who were 4 or 5 years older than me approached me and my friend and started walking next to us. We told them to go away and all but 1 did. He started making moaning noises while his friends called after him "Don't worry he's jut a pedophile". When reported to school a male teacher dealt with the complaint and said that it was "probably just a joke" and that horrible old phrase "boys will be boys". It made me so angry and I still see them walking around my town years after.



**A GUY WAS GRUN-
TING AND TOUCHING
HIMSELF BEHIND ME
AS SOON AS I GOT
ON THE BUS, HE WAS
TOUCHING MY
HAIR AND THEN GOT
UP AND LEFT WHILE
PULLING HIS CUMMY
HANDS OUT OF HIS
TROUSERS.**

03. October 2022

ANON

My list of male abuses is very Long As a child I was sexually assaulted many times. By a school teacher, a neighbour, a lawyer, my uncle, my brother and a sales man. I saw flashers, had my backside groped, horrid sexual jokes and language, sexist jokes and so on. I thought for years it must be something about me. BUT I absolutely now know it was the pervasive systemic culture of our country that allows boys and

men to think this is all ok. I continue to be shocked by how common this still is. Woman continue to be blamed and often I hear people say it is so different today. It is not. We continue to say of rape victim "she was in the wrong place at the wrong time' . NO SHE WAS NOT! Stop blaming the women. She had a right to be where she was and only when we start holding men and the system accountable will this change We need to think

deeply about our unconscious bias, what we say and how we challenge. How we support each other to challenge and be brave

TOLD BY A FRIEND
TO GAIN WEIGHT
SO MY BREASTS
AND BUTT WOULD
BE BIGGER.

Told by a friend to gain
weight.

Image: Manika Kozub

H

I told was my best friend, male, who was shocked. But since I told him hasn't spoken a word of support for me. When I got up the courage to tell a small group of female friends they were overwhelmingly supportive and have continuously checked in on me. They were not shocked at all. This has been the second time I have been raped. The first being a week after my 17th birthday. It was my virginity. I bled a lot. I told my mum over drunken drinks 4 years later. She has never acknowledged it beyond that night.

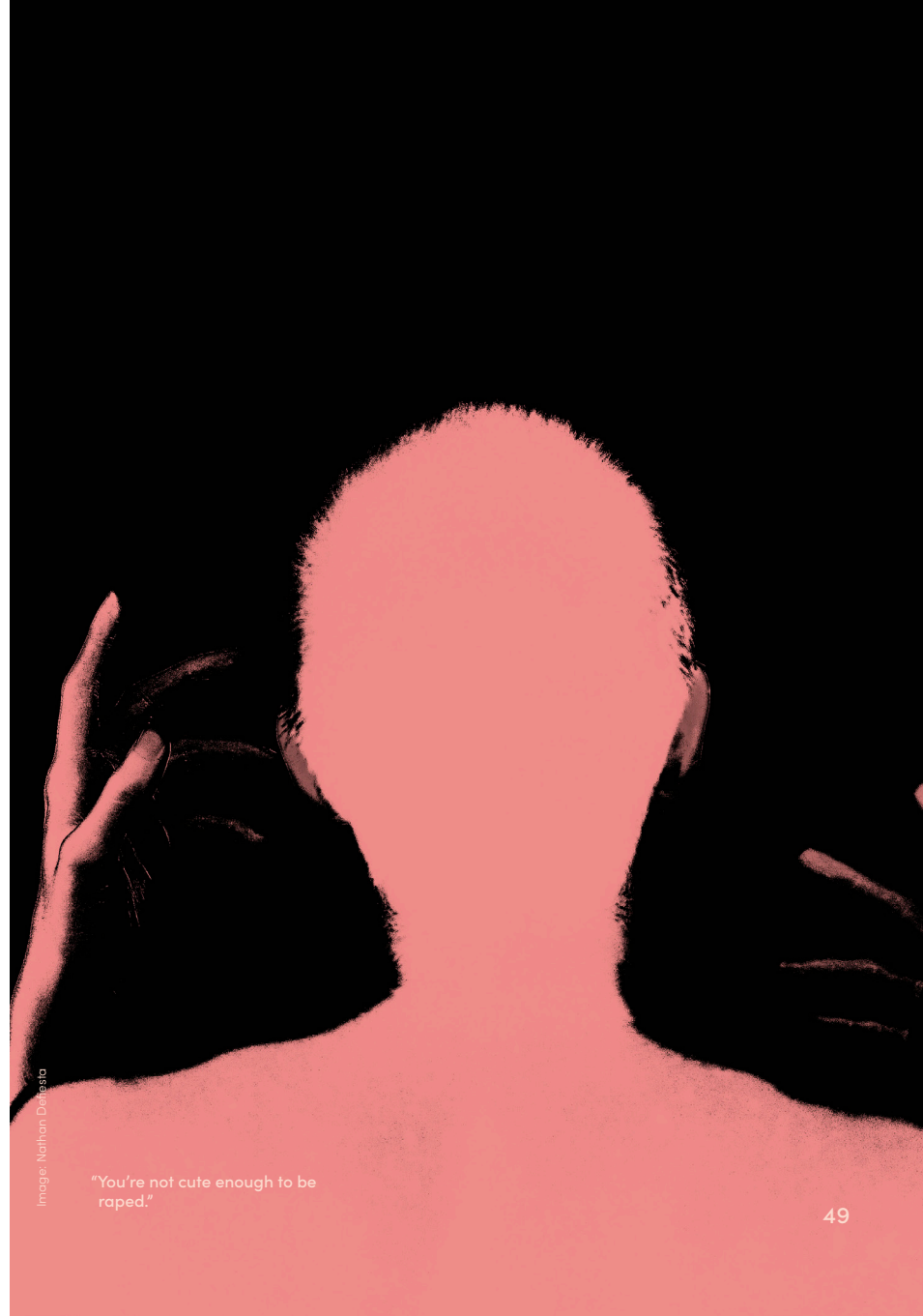


Image: Nathan D'Amico

"You're not cute enough to be raped."

HAPPY



He sexually assaulted me in the back of a taxi.

Image: Jairo Alzate

I am happily married and I have three boys. I am in my early 40's and I am also the CEO of a multi million business that I started with £50. I had a mentor who I respected and trusted. Until he sexually assaulted me in the back of a taxi. The next day when I asked him what had he done he responded by gaslighting me and said he was offended. I didn't say anything because I led him on and I got in that cab. 2 years on I am still waking up in the middle of the night sad and upset that I allowed this to happen.

JOSKE

I was out with a group of friends having a few drinks after work. One of my male friends had driven there, and lived nearby me. I asked if I could have a lift home, as I didn't want to walk home alone in the dark. He said, "You're not cute enough to be raped." and insisted I take the bus home.

Image: Inge Poelman

"You're not cute enough to be raped."

GHLOE BEANNE ADDUO GERO

04. October 2022

I was raped at 11 I was at boarding school in Exeter. The year was 2002 the boy was 14. He was very tall and chunky he scared me. I was short and very slim. I tried to keep out of his way as best I could i've been visiting one of my friends after the school day had ended as i past this boys room on the way back to where I was sleeping he called out to me i said hello and carried on walking next thing I knew A large hot hand gripped hold of my shoulder and pulled me backwards. I saw the bedroom door frame past me and it first I couldn't understand how that worked then I heard the door shut I felt the floor beneath my back. I tried to get up but I got kicked and he said stay where you are I want to talk to you. The room stunk I remember it was also really warm in there so the smell was even stronger stale sweat and something else I could not think of describing. He started telling me

how much he really likes younger girls they're always much better than the old ones. I wasn't sure what you was on about better than the old ones at what? I found out very quickly. Younger girls are better than the older girls at shaking in fear or perhaps it was not saying a Word whilst he pinned me Down rammed his penis his penis between my lips. 20 minutes later I found myself running down a path going away from the boarding house the boys occupied my lips are sore my leggings or not on properly one leg seem to be higher than the other the back with rold over on itself

my knickers were wet and at the time I couldn't understand how they were wet Time I understood because it is dick in my mouth and then fold my leggings and knickers down just enough so he could shove it between my legs and come seconds after penetrating hadn't registered the pain until I got back to my room and I was looking for a clean pair of knickers there was blood as well. I never told the staff what happened I told a friend months later that was the last I spoke of it for 17 years then I started telling people my story whenever I felt I was able until this moment I have never told the full story I've only ever told the part where I've had to choke on his penis. I did hear whilst I was at college years later the guy was arrested and sent to prison for assaulting his niece and nephew who would've been about the same age as I was when it happened to me.

PART OF WHO

47

When i was sexually assaulted, he was one of the first people i called. I cried to him that i didn't know what to do. I can still hear his cold voice saying that it wasn't his problem, that he couldn't do anything about it. He's never said anything about it. That was two years ago

Image: Miled Fakurion

I can still hear his cold voice saying that it wasn't his problem.

RUTH

I was walking to a friends house with 2 other friends. I was walking closest to the road and 2 younger boys, maybe 15, were walking towards us and they stepped into the road to avoid us, the one closest to me put his arm out so as he passed me his arm ran along the front of my chest. I was so shocked I didn't realise what had happened and by the time I thought I should report it I couldn't remember what they looked like and decided it wasn't work reporting.

The one closest to me put his arm out so as he passed me his arm ran along the front of my chest.



ISABEL

60

"Boys are better than girls at sporty things".

Image: Emiliano Vittoriosi

05. October 2022

YEAR 1 CLASS PUPIL
COULDN'T BELIEVE
HE'D LOST A RACE
AGAINST A GIRL
BECAUSE "BOYS ARE
FASTER AND BET-
TER THAN GIRLS AT
SPORTY THINGS".

61

IMPRINT

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