# A-Z of Supporting Conversations Around Misogyny

A particular individual or influencer may have a current high profile and offer a gateway to wider discussions, but take a wider lens of the issues
Incel Ideology - Wakelet

Be mindful of your own emotional reaction to the topic and how it may impact your ability to facilitate conversations. Reacting with shock or anger can shut down a conversation. Look after your own mental health and debrief with colleagues or senior staff if you can Staff Health & Wellbeing - Wakelet

Create a safe supportive space for discussion, set group boundaries and group agreements at the outset, even for an impromptu conversation
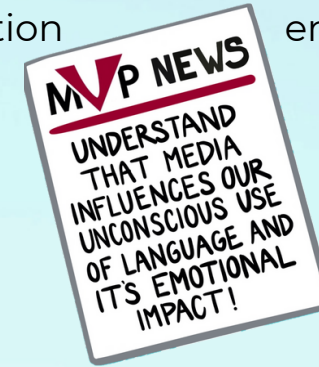
Digital and information literacy skills will support young people to challenge and evaluate what they see and hear online. Make links with this area of the curriculum and engage colleagues in these areas to support learning and teaching.
Information Literacy – critical thinking online – DigiLearn (glowscotland.org.uk)

Engaging boys is essential. Boys are also impacted negatively by gender norms. Evidence suggests this is linked to poorer outcomes on a number of measures including mental health, risk taking behaviour, work place accidents etc… Engaging with valid concerns about issues like mental health or financial security will help boys feel listened to and supported.
Jesuit Social Services (jss.org.au)
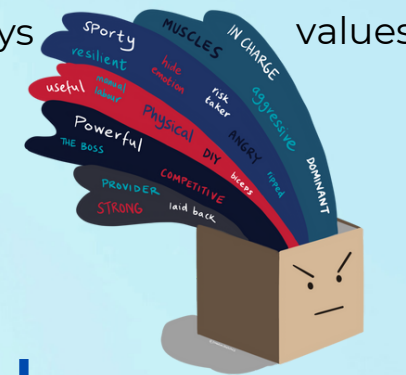
Frame challenging conversations around values. What do you stand for? What values do our community have? What does our behaviour say about our values?

Gender norms are established at a young age, challenge at every opportunity. Gender norms and gender inequality are both a cause and consequence of gender based violence.
Improving gender balance and equalities 3-18 | Learning resources | National Improvement Hub (education.gov.scot)

Healthy relationships are at the heart of prevention work. Resources are available to support this work
A summary of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) resources | Learning resources | National Improvement Hub (education.gov.scot)

Inclusive school communities will support young people to feel safe, respected and able to contribute. Evidence suggest young people drawn to extreme ideologies often feel especially excluded from their communities

Jokes and banter are often used to excuse harmful speech or behaviour. Words are powerful and along with attitudes and values form the base of the violence pyramid.
Challenging the base of the pyramid is vital for gender based violence prevention
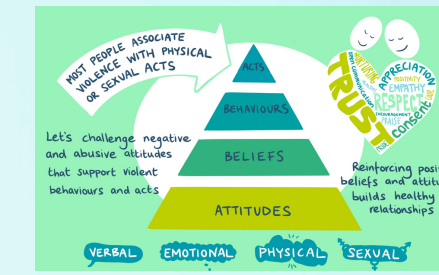
Key phrases that can support challenging conversations; 'What does everyone else think about that?' 'Does anyone agree/disagree?' 'What might someone say if they don't agree with you?' 'How might that make someone feel?' 'How do you feel about that?' 'What could the impact of that be?' 'Does that fit with your/our school values?'

Listen to young people. Shutting down comments or views can reinforce harmful ideas – be curious, ask, encourage, challenge, offer support and avoid judgements. Inspire agency by offering information and letting them think about it critically

Men are overwhelmingly the victims of other men's violence and abuse. While sexual crimes and gender based violence are disproportionately experienced by women, victims of assault are most likely to be men

'**N**ot all men' is often a challenge to conversations about gender based violence. Not all men clearly, but evidence suggests mostly men. Taking an evidence based approach and sharing data can be helpful. There are some great campaigns aimed at supporting boys involvement in prevention work
That Guy (that-guy.co.uk)

Open and honest conversations that happen in a safe and supportive space will allow young people to feel respected and listened to and more likely to be open to alternative views or opinions

Positive male role models and healthy narratives around masculinity are important areas to discuss. Explore these with young people and why they offer healthy alternatives to more toxic and harmful messages

Question your own biases and whether these might obstruct young people from having open and honest conversations

Recognise that many young people may have experience of misogyny or gender based violence and abuse. Conversations should conclude or follow up with signposting for support or if planned in advance give warning to young people so they can seek support or opt out if need be

Safeguarding processes should be followed where necessary, if you have concerns about a young person's wellbeing or safety, or that of others

Teachable moments can happen anywhere, take the chance for a conversation

Utilise the MVP programme as building blocks for your prevention work
Mentors in Violence Prevention in Scottish Schools (glowscotland.org.uk)

Violence against women/girls takes many forms and impacts in many ways. Discussions should always offer support options to those who may have been impacted, including boys, LGBTQ+ young people and those with additional support needs.
Shakti Women's Aid (shaktiedinburgh.co.uk)

LGBT Youth Scotland | LGBT Youth Scotland

Whole school approaches are most effective for long term prevention/change
Equally Safe at School | A whole school approach to preventing gender based violence

X-rated material such as pornography has been shown to impact negatively on young people perceptions of relationships. Most pornography accessed by young people today displays harmful content depicting violence toward women as the norm, and few examples of explicit consent. Supporting young people to explore these harms is an important aspect of gender based violence prevention

Young people may be the most effective in challenging their peers harmful attitudes and values. A safe supportive space allows peers to appropriately question and challenge one another establishing healthy social norms

Zero tolerance of discrimination and abusive behaviour gives a clear message of the values you expect to be upheld and the healthy relationships being nurtured