

Help us fight misogyny, teachers beg

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Sexist regression: Educational researchers report an increase in the rate of disrespectful behaviour towards female teachers by male students, as well as towards their female classmates.

Are women's rights going backwards? A new study of educators has found widespread and almost unanimous concern about boys and young men consuming misogynistic content online. Some say it is time to act.

What's happening?

When a group of researchers decided to find out what drew young men into the social media "**manosphere**", they discovered something shocking.

They set up fake TikTok accounts posing as **vulnerable** boys looking for advice on loneliness and masculinity and were bombarded with **misogynistic**, or women-hating content.

Find out more

Researchers at the University of York recently found that 76% of secondary school teachers were strongly concerned about the influence of online misogyny on their pupils' views.

They also found that 90% of secondary school teachers would welcome guidance on teaching boys about the dangers of the websites, such as those of British-American kickboxer and misogynist influencer Andrew Tate.

Tate, who has described himself as "absolutely a misogynist", is accused of rape, human trafficking, and organised crime. He says women are men's property.

Some say that we live in a world which encourages anti-women and anti-feminist views, and that a clear pattern is building across the world of increased **repression** for women.

Are women's rights going backwards?

Some say

Yes! Across the world, we can see the increasing normalisation of anti-feminist views, and no country in the world has become more equal over the past few years.

Others think

No! Perhaps some people have extreme views, but they should not be used to judge what is normal.

Some people say

"Feminism is hated because women are hated. Antifeminism is a direct expression of misogyny; it is the political defense of women hating."

Andrea Dworkin (1946 – 2005), American radical feminist writer and activist

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Do you think life is getting harder for women? Did this article make you feel concerned for the future?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: What do young men find appealing about Andrew Tate? Is sexual violence becoming more or less common?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Imagine that you are designing a resource for schools to use to teach young boys about the dangers of the manosphere. What would your resource say and look like?

5. Express

What do others believe? - In small groups, debate the following statement: "Across the world, it is becoming harder to be a woman."

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Write a short story, script or poem about the womanosphere, a movement founded in 2026 to combat the manosphere and its misogynistic beliefs.

Glossary

Manosphere - A slang word for the varied collection of websites, blogs, and online forums promoting masculinity, misogyny, and opposition to feminism.

vulnerable - at risk of being harmed

Misogynistic - Strong and deeply ingrained prejudice against women.

Repression - The act of subsidizing something by force. Repressive is usually used negatively, often to describe the activities of authoritarian states.