“I grew up wondering why there were so few female leaders and thought we didn’t have the talent. Every time I asked, people would tell me that sexism is an issue of the past and that today women have the same opportunities as men.”

"There are many people who deny the existence of sexism in the UK. They think that it only happens in emerging countries. I am constantly asked my bra size. I refuse to normalise this kind of behaviour"

"I explained to my boyfriend how sexism was still an issue in today's world. He asked me if I was on my period and said sexism could happen to men too."
What is downplaying gender discrimination?

What could you do to respond to gender discrimination in a constructive way?

How could downplaying gender discrimination contribute to gender inequality?

Why would people downplay gender discrimination?
“I studied in a class where females were a minority. During a practical experiment, the male professor asked me and another female student to be the ‘glamorous assistants’. **Should I say 'Thank you'?**

"A man grabbed my breast and after 7 years I still feel terrible about it. I realised that I was **scared of people telling me that I am uptight** when I would share this story".

"When I flag sexism, people say that I exaggerate or that I am being dramatic. I am tired of having to tell people that is not OK to assume that my boss is a man. These **“little” everyday incidents** shape the bigger picture of gender discrimination".
What are the potential obstacles to reporting gender discrimination?

Why could downplaying gender discrimination make these obstacles bigger?

How could downplaying gender discrimination contribute to gender inequality?

What could you do to challenge downplaying gender discrimination?
"In an article, they described the presenter as 'the most luminous presenters combining beauty and a keen intelligence'. It is supposed to be nice but it is very difficult to imagine how a male presenter would be referred to the way he looks".

"I held the door for a couple of men who were behind me. One of them said his pride was hurt to let a woman hold the door for him."

"Some men sometimes apologize to me and my female friends when they swear, and not to the men present. I wonder why."
What is benevolent sexism?

What could you do to **challenge** benevolent sexism?

Why could benevolent sexism affect males and females **differently**?

How could benevolent sexism **contribute** to gender inequality?
"I could easily be OK without a big man protecting me. I am a 20 years-old woman and I am stronger and older than my brother but he is the one who is constantly asked to protect me."

"I am a 35 years-old man and when I go to the restaurant with my girlfriend the bill is usually given to me. I am happy to pay but women work too, right?"

"One of my customers called me ‘pretty little lady’. When I told my father about this story, he told me he was probably trying to be nice. I wish they could understand how disrespectful this is."
BENEVOLENT SEXISM

What are the potential obstacles to reporting benevolent sexism?

What could you do to challenge benevolent sexism?

How does sexism influence some people’s benevolent actions?

Why might it be difficult to identify benevolent sexism?
"My sister refuses to talk about 'feminist exaggerations' whenever I mention sexism. I tried to explain why I think feminism is important for social change. I told her I was being rational and she said I was oversensitive."

"When I was in 8th grade I had to learn what the meaning of feminism was. I had to ask why it was supposed to be negative. The word has such a bad connotation."

"I was in a meeting and someone told me I don’t look like a feminist. I am not sure I knew what a feminist was supposed to look like".
What are the connotations of feminism?

Why might people understand feminism in different ways?

How might people's understanding of feminism affect their behaviour?

What could you do to show what feminism is in a constructive way?
"I was told twice in a week that I was a lesbian. I have no problem with that but people thought that because I fight for women’s rights to be considered equal".

"I joined a discussion about racism that two men were having. I introduced the topic of sexism. They could not understand how black women would also be subject to sexism".

"I heard a friend saying that he was a ‘male feminist’ and he was mocked for trying to get into girls pants."
What are your perceptions of a feminist?

What could you do to tackle this issue?

How could you best explain why some people do not relate to feminism?

Why could feminism be important for everyone?
"I was raped by two men in a nightclub. When I told my friends they asked me if I was drunk. When I said that I had a few drinks, they told me that I could not complain and that it was my fault."

"I reported a sexual assault when I was 13. I remember people and a police agent asking me how short my skirt was."

"My boyfriend forced me to have sex with him. When I started asking for help the assumptions were that I owed him sex because we were together and because I am a woman."

"He was not physically violent."
GENDER-BASED ABUSE

What are the potential obstacles to reporting gender-based abuse?

Why might people perceive consent and blame in gender-based abuse in different ways?

How could these perceptions contribute to gender inequality?

What could you do to tackle this issue?
"I was **physically and emotionally** abused during 6 years by my husband. My friends recently asked me if I would mind sleeping in a room with him. They don't understand how traumatised I am."

"I told a friend about a man who grabbed strongly my breast on the street and he said ‘that’s **not really** sexual assault.’"

"My friend went out to the movies with a man who insisted to pay for her ticket. After the movie, he told her that **he deserves a blowjob** because he paid for her."
What is gender-based abuse?

What could you do to share what gender-based abuse is in a constructive way?

Why might it be important to question what gender-based abuse is?

How could a limited understanding of what gender-based abuse is contribute to gender inequality?
"I am a young man and one day I was dancing with a woman in a club and I started putting my hands on her waist, which made her walk away. I felt really bad but the reaction of my friends made me feel even worse. They said we should celebrate and when I said no they called me a faggot. The peer pressure of the 'lad' culture is so strong."

"I am often called “pushy” and “bossy” while men are never called like that. They are adjectives reserved for children, girls and women."

"I had a friend telling me to ‘man up’ because it is not ok for a man to like ‘feminine’ things. He told me I should do more sport."
Sexist Language

What is sexist language?

What could you do to tackle sexist language?

How could sexist language contribute to gender inequality?

Why might people speak differently to males and females?
"My mother had fallen and had given herself a black eye. She keeps joking about how she got it because she did not make my father’s tea ready on time. People keep telling her that they respect my father. I personally don’t find domestic violence jokes funny."

“The music I listen to makes me uncomfortable sometimes, it can be really sexual and sexist, especially rap music.”

"Anytime I mention my boss the other person asking what ‘He’ is like."
SEXIST LANGUAGE

What could you do to **challenge** sexist language?

What are **examples** of sexist language?

How could sexist language influence **other aspects** of gender inequality?

Why might sexist language affect males and females **differently**?
"When I met my boyfriend’s family the first question I was asked was: “Do you know how to iron?” I wanted to talk about so many things but they only cared about my ‘housewife skills’.

"I read a story where a princess had to save the prince in order to marry him. The male characters were portrayed as the servants and were subject to constant harassment. I understood my own bias, and how degrading women in stories has been normalised. When it was happening to men I felt really sorry for them and it seemed cruel but when it happens to women it seemed normal."

“People assume I am a nurse. When I say I am a doctor they usually call me the woman doctor."
GENDER STEREOTYPES

What are gender stereotypes?

Why might gender stereotypes affect males and females differently?

How could gender stereotypes contribute to gender inequality?

What could you do to challenge gender stereotypes?
“I am a woman engineer working in Finance. When I was hired, I was placed in the front desk, like a secretary. People constantly ask me who is responsible for doing X task (me) and they struggle to believe when I say it is me. I have so many secretary tasks to do that I barely have time to do what I was hired for”.

“A woman athlete got a gold medal and all the commentators could talk about was that her hair was not nice after the competition.”

“My math professors told me I was the best student he ever had and that I would make a good mathematician if I wasn’t a girl.”
GENDER STEREOTYPES

What are examples of female and male stereotypes?

Why might people be influenced by gender stereotypes?

How could gender stereotypes contribute to gender inequality?

What could you do to challenge gender stereotypes?
"I am a woman and I was playing video games with my friends against a group of guys who immediately started to tell us how we shouldn’t play video games and should get back to the kitchen. My friend started to cry and did not play in days."

"I was playing a game online and a player called me a ‘cum dumpster’. I was playing and refused to heal him when he told me that he would find me and threatened me to penetrate me with a knife because 'women like that'."

"I don't think some social media platforms are safe places anymore. I saw a picture where people would rate the 'rape-ability' of a woman."
What are examples of online gender discrimination in games?

What elements of games could you change to be more inclusive for any gamer?

Why are female characters in games often sexualised?

How does gender influence people’s choice of which games to play?