



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
THE PERSPECTIVE OF STUDENTS IN WALES
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NUS WALES WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

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Introduction

Amnesty International and NUS Wales Women's Campaign undertook a survey of 733 students in Wales. Students at 12 campuses across Wales were asked to complete a questionnaire.

Of the 733 respondents:

- 424 were female; 308 were male; and 1 respondent identified as transgender.
- 58 were aged under 18; 554 were aged 18-24; and 121 were aged 25 or over.

Surveys were collected at the following campuses:

- Bangor
- Cardiff University
- Coleg Gwent
- North East Wales Institute
- Pembrokeshire College
- Swansea Metropolitan University
- Swansea University
- Trinity College, Carmarthen
- University of Glamorgan
- University of Wales Newport

The survey questions were similar to two comparable studies undertaken by ICM for Amnesty International and the End Violence Against Women campaign. This report also includes a description, where relevant, of the variance between the results obtained amongst students in Wales with the other surveyed cohorts.



Question 1: Hitting a girlfriend

Q1: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

It is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she:

- Pushes them too far?
- Nags?
- Doesn't stop arguing with them?
- Doesn't treat them with respect?
- Flirts with other people in front of them?
- Refuses to have sex with them?

Answer options: Strongly agree; Agree; Disagree; Strongly disagree; and Don't know.

Pushing him too far

- 94% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she pushes them too far.
- 2% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she pushes them too far.
- 3% of respondents did not know whether it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she pushes them too far.

Nagging

- 96% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she nags.
- 2% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she nags.
- 2% of respondents did not know whether it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she nags

Doesn't stop arguing with him

- 97% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she doesn't stop arguing with him.
- 2% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she doesn't stop arguing with him.
- 2% of respondents did not know whether it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she doesn't stop arguing with him.



Doesn't treat him with respect

- 96% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she doesn't treat him with respect.
- 2% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she doesn't treat him with respect.
- 2% of respondents did not know whether it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she doesn't treat him with respect.

Flirts with other men in front of him

- 94% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she flirts with other men in front of him;
 - A higher proportion of females (96%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable compared to males (93%)
- 3% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she flirts with other men in front of him;
 - A higher proportion of males (5%) either agreed or strongly agreed that it is acceptable compared to females (2%)
- 2% of respondents did not know whether it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she flirts with other men in front of him.

Refuses to have sex with him

Is it acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she refuses to have sex with him?

- 96% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she refuses to have sex with him;
 - A higher proportion of females (98%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable compared to males (94%)
- 2% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that it is acceptable for a boyfriend/partner to hit a girlfriend if she refuses to have sex with him;
 - A higher proportion of males (3%) either agreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable compared to females (1%)



Question 2: Hit or coerced into sex

Q2: Do you know any women or girls who:

- Have been hit by a boyfriend/partner?
- Are students who have been hit by a boyfriend/partner?
- Have been coerced or pressurised to have sex by a boyfriend/partner?
- Have been coerced or pressurised to have sex by another person?

Answer options: No women; At least one; A few women; and A lot of women.

Women or girls who have been hit

- 38% respondents did not know any women or girls who had been hit by a boyfriend/partner;
 - A higher proportion of males (49%) did not know any women who had been hit compared to females (29%)
- 39% respondents knew at least one woman or girl who had been hit by a boyfriend or partner;
 - A higher proportion of females (42%) knew at least one woman or girl who had been hit compared to males (35%)
- 23% respondents knew either a few or a lot of women or girls who had been hit by a boyfriend or partner;
 - A higher proportion of females (28%) knew either a few or a lot of women or girls who had been hit by a boyfriend or partner compared to males (15%)

Women or girls who are students who have been hit

- 64% respondents did not know any women or girls who are students who had been hit by a boyfriend/partner
 - A higher proportion of males (71%) did not know any women or girls who are students who had been hit compared to females (59%)
- 27% respondents knew at least one woman or girl who is a student who had been hit by a boyfriend/partner;
 - A higher proportion of females (32%) knew at least one woman or girl who is a student who had been hit compared to males (21%)
- 8% respondents knew a few or a lot of women or girls who were students who had been hit by a boyfriend/partner



Women or girls coerced or pressurised into sex by boyfriends / partners

- 59% respondents did not know any women or girls who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by a boyfriend/partner;
 - A higher proportion of males (70%) did not know any women who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by a boyfriend/partner compared to females (50%)
- 28% respondents knew at least one woman or girl who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by a boyfriend/partner;
 - A higher proportion of females (33%) knew at least one woman or girl who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by a boyfriend/partner compared to males (20%)
- 13% respondents knew a few or a lot of women or girls who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by a boyfriend/partner;
 - A higher proportion of females (15%) knew a lot of women or girls who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by a boyfriend/partner compared to males (10%)

Women or girls coerced or pressurised into sex by another person

- 66% respondents did not know any women or girls who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by another person;
 - A higher proportion of males (75%) did not know any women who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by another person compared to females (60%)
- 25% respondents knew at least one woman or girl who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by another person;
 - A higher proportion of females (29%) knew at least one woman or girl who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by another person compared to males (18%)
- 9% respondents knew a few or a lot of women or girls who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by another person;
 - A higher proportion of females (10%) knew a lot of women or girls who had been coerced or pressurised to have sex by another person compared to males (7%)



Question 3: Advice for women who have been hit

Question 3:

- Did you feel confident about what advice to give her?
- Did you encourage her to tell someone like a counsellor or tutor?
- Did you encourage her to report it to the police?
- Did you challenge him?
- Do you think that students and young people have enough information and support to take the actions outlined in the previous questions?
- Do you think that services should be available on campus to help students who have suffered from violence?

Answer options: Yes; No; Not sure.

Confident about giving advice

- 34% respondents felt confident about what advice to give, while 19% answered no and 30% answered that they were not sure.

Encouraging her to tell a counsellor or tutor

- 47% respondents answered yes to this question, that they encouraged her to tell someone like a counsellor or tutor, while 17% answered no and 19% were not sure.

Encouraging her to report it to the police

- 39% respondents encouraged her to report it to the police, while 22% answered no and 22% were not sure.

Challenging him

- 20% respondents answered yes to this question, while 50% answered no and 13% were not sure.

Information and support for students

- 15% respondents answered yes to this question, that students and young people have enough information and support to take the actions outlined in the previous questions, while 46% answered no and 26% were not sure.

Services on campus

- 70% respondents answered yes to this question, that services should be available on campus to help students who have suffered from violence, while 5% answered no and 14% were not sure.



Question 4: Expecting to have sex

Q4: Is it acceptable or unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman:

- if he has spent a lot of time and money on her?
- If he thinks she has had sex with numerous people already?
- If she 'comes on to him'?
- If they've had sex on numerous occasions, but doesn't feel like it on this occasion?
- If she wants to stop half way through the sexual activity even though he is really turned on?

Answer options: Acceptable; Unacceptable; Unsure; Refuse to state.

If he has spent a lot of time and money on her

- 5% respondents answered that it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if he has spent a lot of time and money on her;
 - A higher proportion of males (9%) thought it was acceptable compared to females (2%)
- 73% respondents answered that it was unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if he has spent a lot of time and money on her;
 - A higher proportion of females (83%) thought it was unacceptable compared to males (73%)
- 9% respondents were unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if he has spent a lot of time and money on her;
 - A higher proportion of males (18%) was unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable compared to females (9%)

If he thinks she has had sex with numerous people already

- 5% respondents answered that it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if he thinks she has had sex with numerous people already;
 - A higher proportion of males (9%) thought it was acceptable compared to females (2%)
- 86% respondents answered that it was unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if he thinks she has had sex with numerous people already;
 - A higher proportion of females (92%) thought it was unacceptable compared to females (77%)
- 9% respondents answered that they were unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if he thinks she has had sex with numerous people already;
 - A higher proportion of males (13%) was unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable compared to females (5%)



If she 'comes onto him'

- 15% respondents answered that it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she 'comes onto him';
 - A higher proportion of males (20%) thought it was acceptable compared to females (12%)
- 60% respondents answered that it was unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she 'comes onto him';
 - A higher proportion of females (68%) thought it was unacceptable compared to males (49%)
- 23% respondents answered that they were unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she 'comes onto him';
 - A higher proportion of males (31%) was unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable compared to females (19%)

If they've had sex on numerous occasions

- 5% respondents answered that it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if they have had sex on numerous occasions, but she doesn't feel like it on this occasion;
 - A higher proportion of males (8%) thought it was acceptable compared to females (3%)
- 85% respondents answered that it was unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if they have had sex on numerous occasions, but she doesn't feel like it on this occasion;
 - A higher proportion of females (89%) thought it was unacceptable compared to males (80%)
- 10% respondents answered that they were unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if they have had sex on numerous occasions, but she doesn't feel like it on this occasion;
 - A higher proportion of males (12%) was unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable compared to females (7%)

Stopping during the sexual activity

- 8% respondents answered that it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she wants to stop half way through the sexual activity even though he is really turned on;
 - A higher proportion of males (13%) thought it was acceptable compared to females (5%)
- 76% respondents answered that it was unacceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she wants to stop half way through the sexual activity even though he is really turned on;
 - A higher proportion of females (80%) thought it was unacceptable compared to males (70%)
- 15% respondents answered that they were unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she wants to stop half way through the sexual activity even though he is really turned on;
 - A higher proportion of males (17%) was unsure or refused to state whether it was acceptable or unacceptable compared to females (14%)



Question 5: Sexual assault and rape

Q5. Is a woman totally responsible, partially responsible or not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted:

- if she is drunk?
- If she has behaved in a flirtatious manner?
- If she has failed to say 'no' clearly to the man?
- If she is wearing sexy or revealing clothes?
- If it is known that she has had many sexual partners?
- If she is walking alone in a dangerous or deserted area?

Answer options: Totally responsible; Partly Responsible; Not at all responsible.

If a woman is drunk

Is a woman totally responsible, partially responsible or not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is drunk?

- 34% respondents answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is drunk;
 - A higher proportion of males (39%) answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible compared to females (30%)
- 66% respondents answered that a woman is not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is drunk;
 - A higher proportion of females (70%) answered that a woman is not at all responsible compared to males (61%)

If a woman has behaved in a flirtatious manner

- 36% respondents answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she has acted in a flirtatious manner;
 - A higher proportion of males (41%) answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible compared to females (34%)
- 64% respondents answered that a woman is not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she has acted in a flirtatious manner;
 - A higher proportion of females (68%) answered that a woman is not at all responsible compared to males (59%)



If a woman has failed to say 'no' clearly

- 42% respondents answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she has failed to say no clearly to the man;
 - A higher proportion of males (43%) answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible compared to females (41%)
- 58% respondents answered that a woman is not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she has failed to say no clearly to the man;
 - A higher proportion of females (59%) answered that a woman is not at all responsible compared to males (56%)

If a woman is wearing sexy or revealing clothes

- 23% respondents answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is wearing sexy or revealing clothes;
 - A higher proportion of males (30%) answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible compared to females (17%)
- 77% respondents answered that a woman is not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is wearing sexy or revealing clothes;
 - A higher proportion of females (83%) answered that a woman is not at all responsible compared to males (70%)

If a woman has had many sexual partners

- 17% respondents answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if it is known that she has had many sexual partners;
 - A higher proportion of males (22%) answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible compared to females (13%)
- 83% respondents answered that a woman is not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if it is known that she has had many sexual partners;
 - A higher proportion of females (87%) answered that a woman is not at all responsible compared to males (78%)

If a woman is alone and walking in a dangerous or deserted area

- 28% respondents answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is alone and walking in a dangerous or deserted area;
 - A higher proportion of males (30%) answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible compared to females (26%)
- 72% respondents answered that a woman is not at all responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is alone and walking in a dangerous or deserted area;
 - A higher proportion of females (73%) answered that a woman is not at all responsible compared to males (70%)



Comparable Studies

Our survey questionnaire was based on previous studies undertaken by ICM in an attempt to compare the results amongst students in Wales with previous cohorts.

The first study is a 2005 telephone survey of 1000 adults in the UK general population, which focused on sexual assault and includes comparable responses for Question 5.

The second study is a 2006 online poll of 524 16-18 year olds in the UK and provides comparison with Questions 1-4.

Question 1: Hitting a Girlfriend

- 5% of 16-18 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that it was acceptable for a boyfriend to hit a girlfriend if she pushed him too far, compared with only 2% of the student respondents.
- 2% of 16-18 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that it was acceptable for a boyfriend to hit a girlfriend if she nags him, the same percentage as the student respondents.
- 2% of 16-18 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that it was acceptable for a boyfriend to hit a girlfriend if doesn't stop arguing with him, the same percentage as the student respondents.
- 3% of 16-18 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that it was acceptable for a boyfriend to hit a girlfriend if she doesn't treat him with respect, compared with only 2% of the student respondents.
- 3% of 16-18 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that it was acceptable for a boyfriend to hit a girlfriend if she flirts with other men in front of him, the same percentage as the student respondents.
- 2% of 16-18 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that it was acceptable for a boyfriend to hit a girlfriend if she refuses to have sex with him, the same percentage as the student respondents.

Question 2: Hit or coerced into sex

- 26% of 16-18 year olds knew one girl that had been hit by her boyfriend, compared with 39% of student respondents who knew at least one woman or girl who had been hit by a boyfriend or partner.
- 16% of 16-18 year olds knew a few or a lot of girls that had been hit by their boyfriend, compared with 23% of student respondents who knew a few or a lot of women or girls who had been hit by a boyfriend or partner.
- 40% of 16-18 year olds knew at least one girl that had been pressurised to have sex with her boyfriend, compared with 41% of student respondents.
- 18% of 16-18 year olds knew at least one girl who been pressurised to have sex by another person, compared with 34% of student respondents.



Question 3: Advice for women who have been hit

- Of those 16-18 years olds who knew someone that had been hit by her boyfriend, 60% felt confident about what advice to give her, compared with 34% amongst student respondents.
- 37% of 16-18 year olds encouraged her to tell the police, compared with 39% of student respondents.
- 24% of 16-18 year olds challenged the person concerned, compared with 20% of student respondents.
- 23% of 16-18 year olds felt that they had sufficient information and support to take the actions outlined in the previous questions, compared to 15% amongst student respondents.

Question 4: Expecting to Have Sex

- 8% of 16-18 year olds thought it was acceptable for a man to expect have sex with a woman if he has spent a lot of time and money on her, compared with 5% of the student population.
- 8% of 16-18 year olds thought it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if he has had sex with numerous people already, compared with 5% of the student population.
- 27% of 16-18 year olds thought it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she 'comes on to him', compared with 15% of the student population.
- 9% of 16-18 year olds thought it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if they've had sex on numerous occasions, compared with 5% of the student population.
- 11% of 16-18 year olds thought it was acceptable for a man to expect to have sex with a woman if she wants to stop half-way through the sexual activity, compared with 8% of the student population.

Question 5: Sexual Assault and rape

- 30% of the adult sample answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is drunk, compared with 34% of student respondents.
- 34% of the adult sample answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she behaved in a flirtatious manner, compared with 36% of student respondents.
- 37% of the adult sample answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she failed to say 'no' clearly to the man, compared with 42% of student respondents.
- 26% of the adult sample answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is wearing sexy or revealing clothes, compared with 23% of student respondents.
- 22% of the adult sample answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if it is known the women has had many sexual partners, compared with 17% of student respondents.
- 22% of the adult sample answered that a woman is totally responsible or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if the woman is alone and walking in a dangerous or deserted area, compared with 28% of student respondents.