

Women and Law

Aims: to improve young women's understanding their rights within UK law and the changes that have taken place to get to there.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the session the participants will:

- Have an increased awareness and understanding the laws affecting women
- Have learnt about the history of women's rights within law
- Be aware of the timescale for change

Group size: 8-10

Time: 1 hour

Venue: Youth club

Materials:

- Flip chart & pens
- Family tree
- Timeline cards
- Quiz
- Case studies
- Useful Contacts sheet

Time	What	With
5 mins	<p>Introduce the session</p> <p>Go through ground rules such as respect for each other, listen to who is speaking, only one person to speak at a time etc</p>	Flip chart & pens
15 mins	<p>Historically, have women been treated fairly by the law?</p> <p>Display the 'family tree' showing a young woman (Chloe) and the previous four generations of women.</p> <p>Pick timeline cards at random and read out the event – ask the young people to discuss and decide which generation they think saw this take place.</p> <p>Talk about whether the young people are surprised by when some laws came into force?</p>	'family tree' Timeline cards
15 mins	<p>Are both genders equally affected by the law?</p> <p>Go through the quiz to see if the young people know (or can guess) what the statistics are for women and the law. Use this as a lead in to allow discussion, either as you go through the quiz or at the end.</p> <p>Think about whether the stats show that the law/society is biased against one gender or whether one gender is most likely to report or be convicted of certain crimes – this is a complex issue!</p>	Quiz

Time	What	With
15 mins	<p>Is this against the law?</p> <p>Split into smaller groups and hand each group one or two case studies. Give them a couple of minutes to talk through whether they think an offence has occurred and if yes, what offence it might be.</p>	Case studies
5 mins	Let the young people know that there are places they can get advice about how the law affects them. Give out copies of the contacts list or display it in the club.	Useful Contacts sheet
5 mins	Evaluate the session with the young people	

Timeline 'family tree'

Mary Brown

- Great Great Gran
- Born 1901

Joan Taylor

- Great Gran
- Born 1928

Margaret Williams

- Gran
- Born 1949

Sarah Jones

- Mum
- Born 1974

Chloe Smith

- Born 2002

Timeline

Event	Year	Generation
Women over the age of 30, with certain property qualifications, are granted the right to vote	1918	Mary Great Great Gran
The Law of Property Act allows both husband and wife to inherit property equally	1922	Mary Great Great Gran
Recognised grounds for divorce are made the same for men and women	1923	Mary Great Great Gran
Women gain equal voting rights with men	1928	Joan Great Gran
Women are allowed to sit in the House of Lords for the first time	1958	Margaret Gran
The Married Women's Property Act entitles a woman to keep half of any savings she has made from the allowance she is given by her husband	1964	Margaret Gran
Women can legally access abortions under some circumstances	1967	Margaret Gran
The Sex Discrimination Act makes it illegal to discriminate against women in work, education and training.	1975	Sarah Mum
The Court of Appeal decides that bars and pubs are no longer able to refuse service to women at the bar as this constitutes sexual discrimination	1982	Sarah Mum
Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985 makes female genital mutilation a crime.	1985	Sarah Mum
Independent taxation for women is introduced. For the first time women are taxed separately from their husbands	1990	Sarah Mum
Rape within marriage is made a crime	1991	Sarah Mum
Organisations with 250 or more employees are required to publish gender pay gap figures	2017	Chloe

Question	Answer
<p>1. Domestic violence Who are more likely to be killed by a current or former partner – men or women?</p>	<p>Women are four times more likely to be killed by a current or former partner</p>
<p>2. Domestic violence What percentage of defendants in domestic court cases were male?</p>	<p>93%</p>
<p>3. Domestic violence What percentage of victims in domestic violence case were female?</p>	<p>84%</p>
<p>4. Stalking A 2005 study showed that what percentage of stalking victims were female?</p>	<p>86%</p>
<p>5. Equality in the workplace On average do women or men earn more?</p>	<p>Men earn more - women earn an average of 9.4% less than men</p>
<p>6. Equality in the workplace How many of the 100 biggest companies in the UK have a female Chief Executive?</p>	<p>Seven</p>
<p>7. Victims of crime Are men or women most likely to be a victim of violent crime?</p>	<p>Men – 1.3% of women and 2.4% of men will be victims of violent crime.</p>
<p>8. Prison What percentage of the prison population is female?</p>	<p>Less than 5%</p>
<p>9. Prison What were the average prison sentences for men and women, according to 2013 figures?</p>	<p>Men – 18.8 months Women – 9.9 months</p>
<p>10. Sexual offences A woman cannot be charged with rape – true or false?</p>	<p>True – rape specifies ‘penetration with a penis’, however there are other offences a woman could be charged with. (It is worth noting that a trans woman who has a penis could be charged with rape)</p>

Case Study 1

Lauren is travelling home from college on the train. It's really busy and there are no seats so she has to stand the whole way, luckily the journey only takes 20 minutes. 10 minutes into the journey, more people get on at the next stop.

Lauren notices a man is standing very close behind her, she shifts away but he follows her. He presses himself against her back and after a couple of minutes puts his hand on her bum and squeezes it. Lauren is scared to make a fuss so she tries to move away again, but there's no room. The man keeps pressing himself against Lauren and rubbing against her.

Lauren runs off the train as soon as she gets to her stop.



Case Study 2

Sophie loves her job as a cashier at her local convenience store. Six months after she starts work there, another cashier vacancy becomes available and they take on her friend Josh. Sophie is really glad to be working with her friend, but is annoyed when she finds out that he is being paid £1 an hour more than her.



She asks her boss why Josh is being paid more. The boss laughs and says it's because Josh is a guy so he'll be expected to pay for everything when he goes out on dates, so he needs to earn a little more.

Case Study 3

Maddy went to a party with a few of her school friends. Someone started giving her shots and she got really drunk. Her friends were laughing at her when she started stumbling and falling over, but Tom stepped in and said he would walk her home.

As they got to a quiet footpath, Tom pushed her against a wall and started kissing her. Maddy had a crush on Tom so she enjoyed kissing him back, but then he pushed her skirt up so she told him to stop. He told her to go along with it, he knows she wants to. Maddy is really dizzy and can't focus so when Tom has sex with her she just concentrates on not collapsing or throwing up.



Tom walks her home afterwards and leaves her at her door.

Case Study 4

Emma is 13 years old, she's is worried that her boyfriend is getting a bit bored with her. He has started asking her to send him naked photos and she knows she needs to do something make sure he doesn't dump her. She takes a couple of 'naughty' selfies and messages them to him.

The next day at school she finds out that he has sent the pictures on to some of his friends and they have sent them on to more people. Emma is horrified and embarrassed.



Case Study Answers

Case Study 1 – is this an offence?

Yes, this is sexual assault.

Section 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which defines "sexual assault" as when a person (A):

- intentionally touches another person (B),
- the touching is sexual,
- B does not consent to the touching, and
- A does not reasonably believe that B consents

Case Study 2 – is this illegal?

Yes, The Equality Act 2010 gives women (and men) a right to equal pay for equal work.

Case Study 3 – is this an offence?

Yes, this is rape.

Sexual Offences Act 2003 – "Rape" A person (A) commits an offence if:

- he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis,
- B does not consent to the penetration, and
- A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Case Study 4 – is this an offence?

Yes, creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person is breaking the law if they:

- take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age
- possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created.

However, as of January 2016 in England and Wales, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed but that taking formal action isn't in the public interest. Crimes recorded this way are unlikely to appear on future records or checks, unless the young person has been involved in other similar activities which may indicate that they're a risk.

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Useful Contacts



Citizens Advice

Tel: 03444 111 444 or check contact details for your local Citizens Advice

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Coram Children's Legal Centre

Coram Children's Legal Centre provides free legal advice and sometimes representation to children and parents on family, child and education law. The centre has lots of useful fact sheets on its website. The centre also has a specialist helpline for migrant children, their families and advisers.

Child and family law advice line: 0300 330 5480 (Mon to Fri, 8 am – 6 pm)

Education law advice line: 0300 330 5485 (Mon to Fri, 8 am – 6 pm)

Migrant Children's Project advice line: 020 7636 8505 (Tues to Thurs, 10 am – 4 pm)

Head office: 01206 714650

Email: info@coramclc.org.uk (for general enquiries only, no legal questions can be answered by email)

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Website for young people: www.lawstuff.org.uk

Law Centres Network

The Law Centres Network can provide addresses of local law centres.

Tel: 020 3637 1330 (admin only)

Email: contact form available on the website

Website: www.lawcentres.org.uk

Childline

Free confidential service to help young people under 19 with any issue they are going through.

Helpline: 0800 1111



Youth Justice Legal Centre

Information and support for children and young people who may find themselves involved in the criminal justice system.

www.yjlc.uk

Email: info@yjlc.uk

Just4Kids Law

Provides advocacy, legal support and assistance to young people in difficulty; particularly those in trouble with the law, looked after children and those at risk of exclusion from school.

www.justforkidslaw.org

Tel: 0203 174 2279

Email: info@justforkidslaw.org

Rights of Women

Information and support on a wide range of legal issues including violence against women, family and criminal law and asylum and immigration.

www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Family law – Tel: 020 7251 6577

Criminal law – Tel: 020 7251 8887

Immigration and asylum law – Tel: 020 7490 7689

Equality Advisory Support Service

Information and support on issues relating to equality and human rights, across England, Scotland and Wales.

Advice Line: 0808 800 0082

National Youth Advocacy Service

Provides information, advice, advocacy and legal representation to children and young people.

Helpline: 0808 808 1001