

Template Letter to Schools – To be sent by students, alumni or parents to secondary schools

A crucial first step in ending Public Sexual Harassment (PSH for short) is to educate the next generation of children about this everyday violence. Please use this template in order to encourage YOUR school to do more in tackling public sexual harassment. You should take out the red parts and fill them in with your own details. If possible, please let us know that you have reached out to your school and their response by emailing us at OSNschoools@outlook.com

Dear *(insert name of the committed teacher, headteacher, head of house)*,

Introduce yourself: listing name and relation to the school (eg. student/alumni/parent). I am contacting you I believe the school should take action to tackle public sexual harassment (PSH for short). **A third of girls experience PSH while wearing their school uniform¹**, which can have a huge impact on mental health and behaviour. There is still a lot of stigma and self-blame around PSH, which teachers have the potential to change.

If comfortable and able, give examples of how public sexual harassment is an issue for students in this particular school and the impacts it can have (e.g. I know that my daughter and her friends have repeatedly complained to me about the harassment they face on the way to school). Please make sure you have the explicit consent of the people whose experiences you are sharing.

As of September 2020 the UK government has made sex education compulsory. This curriculum states that schools must make clear that “**sexual violence and sexual harassment are not acceptable, will never be tolerated and are not an inevitable part of growing up**”². As PSH is the most common form of gender-based violence, RSE classes need to discuss and explore this topic.

The **Our Schools Now** project has created lesson plans and a resource pack around PSH which are designed to support teachers in tackling this topic, which can be found here: <https://www.ourstreetsnow.org/our-schools>. **Bold Voices** are another organisation who have created [lesson plans, toolkits, resources](#), [CPD training](#) and [talks and workshops](#) on gender inequality and gender based violence, which are available for schools to use.

If comfortable, include a personal message here, perhaps about how this education might have helped you navigate the experience or not blame yourself.

¹ <https://plan-uk.org/street-harassment/its-not-ok>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education__Relationships_and_Sex_Education__RSE__and_Health_Education.pdf

Educating children about PSH could make a massive difference to the lives of women and girls across the UK. **I would love for this school to lead the way in raising a generation of children who understand the prevalence and impact of public sexual harassment.**

Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Best wishes,

Insert name

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