

Men Can Be Victims Too #MeToo

By

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As we grow up, society makes men and women highly aware of their differences. Biologically, psychologically, and societally, there is an emphasis placed on the distinguishable attributes between men and women. It could simplistically be the designation of “boy” and “girl” colors as children, the separation of restrooms, or the difference in the genetic chromosomes of men and women that constantly reinforce these disparities.

Men and women are constantly stereotyped, due to the creation of cultural social norms, which can be harmful or helpful depending on the situation. Men who exude strength, bravery, and resilience in the toughest situations are applauded for their heroic efforts, especially if emotions of fear and weakness are nonexistent. Women are praised for being duemir and adhering to their man, while maintaining their charm and good looks. These archaic social norms are slowly evolving, allowing women to be seen just as strong, smart, and brave as their male counterparts.

While women are redefining their narrative, men are still binded by the social norms bestowed upon them before birth. The #Metoo and #Timesup movement spawned a series of protests, marches, and accusations from women that were victims of sexual



misconduct, and sexual harassment. Women that had the courage to voice their truth were supported by other women who had similar experiences, or other empathetic women and men alike. Men of both movements stood in solidarity with women, chastising other men for their indifferences, while men who experienced the same sexual misconduct as women lacked support from their fellow brethren.



Disproportionately women are victims of sexual misconduct, however that doesn't mean male victims should be negated. Terry Crews, James Van Der Beek, and Anthony Rapp, are the only few celebrity men that had the courage to speak

From left to right are actors Terry Crews, James Van Der Beek, Anthony Rapp

about their personal experiences with sexual misconduct. However, three isn't the magic number, nor is it the only number to sum up all of the men who have been sexually harassed.

According to the Science Daily website, more than 1 in 10 complaints of sexual harassment at work are reported by men, and more than 16 percent of men file sexual harassment charges, which has increased by 7 percent since the 1990s, according to the EEOC.

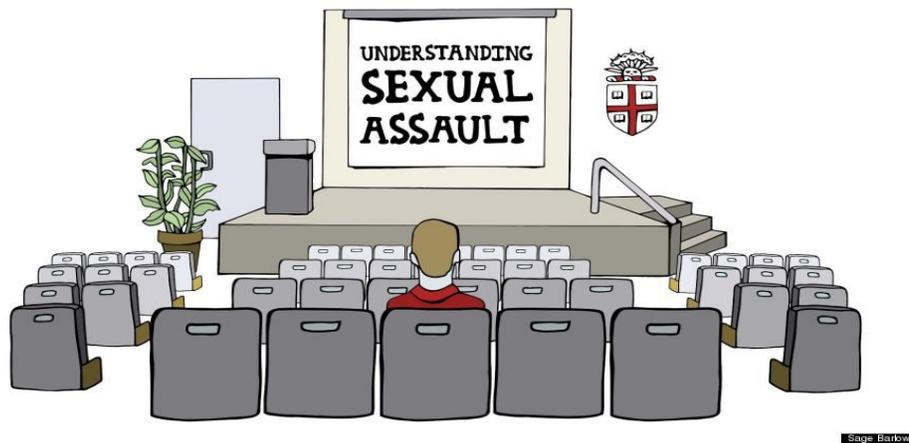
This trend of sexual misconduct isn't only prevalent in Hollywood.

According to the Washington Post, "The EEOC sued another fast-food chain, Chipotle Mexican Grill, alleging that it allowed a female restaurant manager in San Jose to sexually harass a 22-year-old male shift manager by groping and propositioning him and posting a daily "sex scoreboard" with details about staff members' sex lives."

Statistically, men are more perpetrators of sexual misconduct, however this doesn't mean women are exempt from being sexual harassers. According to a 2017 CNBC survey poll, 10 percent of men experience workplace sexual harassment, whereas 27 percent of women experience sexual harassment in the workplace.

Some men feel embarrassed about filing a complaint against women who were sexually inappropriate with them.

"I think as men it's harder for us to say something," said Frankie Martinez. "You don't know how to handle, [because] it's not something that happens often, although it's not new. It's not something we are [men] prepared for."



A political cartoon on the education of sexual harassment.