

Preventing & combating sexism

Join the campaign, share the campaign materials, the video, & the quiz on FB, Twitter and/or Instagram, use the hashtags #StopSexism #MeToo #Sexism=Inequality and tag De Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad, the Council of Europe and EWL.



Sexism and discriminatory stereotypes remain widespread, and affect women's education and participation in the economy and in public life. The Nederlandse Vrouwenraad NVR with the Council of Europe and the European Women's Lobby campaign for effective policies to prevent and combat sexism. A.o. the recommendation for a National Coordination for which NVR launched [a petition](#).

On 27 March 2019, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism. It comprises a comprehensive catalogue of measures both to prevent and to condemn sexism, and it calls for specific action in such areas as: *language and communications; internet and social media; media, advertising and other communication methods; workplace; public sector; justice sector; education institutions; culture and sport; private sphere*. Countries are encouraged to pass legislation that condemns sexism and criminalises sexist hate speech. It also requires that countries monitor the implementation of anti-sexist policies at national level and report back periodically to the Council of Europe.

Sexism is any expression (act, word, image, gesture) based on the idea that some persons, most often women, are inferior because of their sex.

Sexism is harmful. It produces feelings of worthlessness, self-censorship, changes in behaviour, and a deterioration in health. It affects women and girls disproportionately.

SOME FACTS:

Sexism lies at the root of gender inequality. It affects women and girls disproportionately

Sexism is present in all areas of life.

63% of women journalists have been confronted with verbal abuse

Women spend almost twice as much time as men on unpaid housework (OECD countries)

80% of women stated that they have been confronted with the phenomenon of "mansplaining" and "maninterrupting" at work

Men represent 75% of news sources and subjects in Europe

In the UK, 66% of 16-18-year-old girls surveyed experienced or witnessed the use of sexist language at school

59% of women in Amsterdam reported some form of street harassment

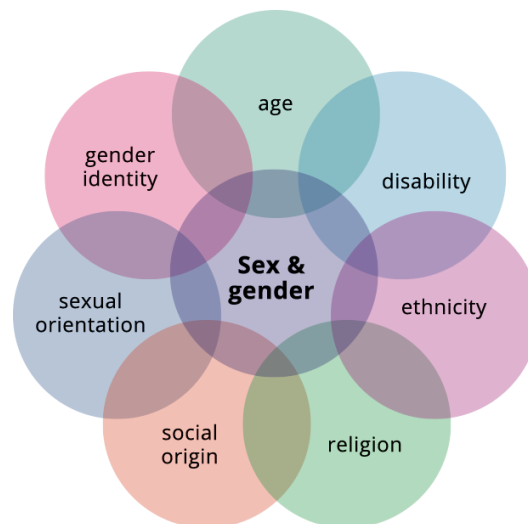
In France, 50% of young women surveyed recently experienced injustice or humiliation because they are women

In Serbia, research indicates that 76% of women in business are not taken as seriously as men
Violence sometimes starts with a joke

Individual acts of sexism may seem benign, but they create a climate of intimidation, fear and insecurity.
This leads to the acceptance of violence, mostly against women and girls.

This is why the Council of Europe has decided to act by adopting a Recommendation to prevent and combat sexism.

Sexism affects mostly women. It can also affect men and boys when they don't conform to stereotyped gender roles. The harmful impact of sexism can be worse for some women and men due to their ethnicity, age, disability, social origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or other factors.



Some groups of women, for example young women, politicians, journalists or public figures, are particular targets of sexism.

58% of women elected to Parliament have been the target of sexist attacks on social networks

More information: Campaign materials: <https://www.coe.int/nl/web/human-rights-channel/stop-sexism> Video: <https://www.coe.int/nl/web/human-rights-channel/stop-sexism> (Dutch & Engels) Brochure: Engels: <https://rm.coe.int/brochure-sexism/16809fba84> ; Decision of Council of Ministers CoE (CM (REC) 2019): <https://rm.coe.int/cm-rec-2019-1-nl-recommandation-du-comite-des-ministres-du-conseil-de-l/16809f4b7a0>; Summary: <http://vrouwenraad.be/file?file=51679&ssn=>

