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Consensual

Speaking up about Consent.

relationships



GRAND CHALLENGES

Tackling 21st Century challenges together

Our Aim

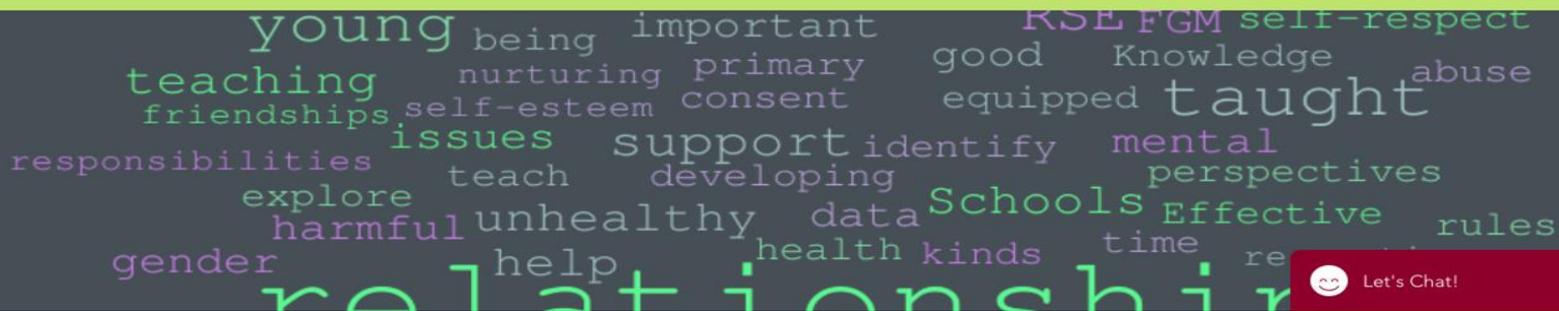
conSEXual

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conSEXual at a Glance

Our Aim

conSEXual's aim is to educate people on the importance of consent. We aim to raise awareness on how consent can be given and taken, and how to speak out when consent is violated.



The Problem - 1. Poor Quality Sex Education

- ❖ Usually addresses sex with the aim of conception - talking about sex from a biological standpoint
- ❖ Extremely heteronormative - why are we still debating whether or not awareness should be drawn towards LGBTQ+ relationships?
- ❖ Little information on social aspects of sex, such as consent, birth control, a

The Problem- 2. New Government Guidelines

Our Proposed Solution-The ConSEXual Website

<https://consexualatexeter.wixsite.com/website>

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- ❖ **Clear and informative information**
- ❖ **Easy to use**
- ❖ **Information for students, parents and guardians, and teachers**
- ❖ **Modern and aesthetical**

Covering the Basics of Consent

- To tackle it, **we needed to outline consent.**
- But to tackle the **stereotypes** that affect consent we needed to **identify** them, noting the stereotypes that are levelled at:
 - **Men - less verbal and expressive.**
 - **Women - more emotionally open.**
- OED “**Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something**”.
Yet, yes may not be a whole yes, as **body language may reveal uncertainty.**
- **Bares and MacDonald** - suggested that to solve the non-verbal cues of both parties, each should **repeatedly ask questions to vocally and explicitly redefine and confirm consent.**

Understanding Peer Pressure



Following this, we looked to define a large, and negative, aspect of consent: peer-pressure. Again, the OED defined it: “Influence from members of one’s peer groups”.

We found it can take many forms - such as blackmail, manipulation, and bullying - and those who can carry it out - such as family, friends, partners, and colleagues.

Additionally, its many forms needed to be identified. We noticed that they tended to be forceful phrases, with interrogative language shown by repeated use of the command “do”. This appears repeatedly in peer-pressure, in manipulative phrases like “if you don’t do this you’re...” and “if you loved me you’d do this”.

Explaining Ways to Overcome Peer Pressure

To overcome it, we believed, you must recognise it. We recommended that people search for interrogative phrases like the ones aforementioned, but noted that it can be difficult to tell peer-pressure from encouragement - though it's certain that the former is negative and the latter is positive. It was important for us to state that a negative peer-pressure with regard to sexual activity is important to identify and avoid - it can lead to rape or sexual assault.

We suggested that if peer-pressure was making young people feel uncomfortable, and pushing them against their moral values, then people should address it with a friend or family member. For issues at school, address it with a teacher or counsellor. But it doesn't stop at school, we thought it important to say, and can continue into university and the workplace.

If you can't fit in because you're not succumbing to the peer-pressure - seek new people to revolve around. Find friends with more similar values, we recommended.



Part 4: Having Content Catered Towards in the LGBTQ community

- Discussion regarding consent
- Creating a Safer Space for LGBTQ+ students in schools
- Correcting behaviour in order to facilitate a positive environment
- Responding to negative LGBTQ+ language and behaviour

Teachers, Parents and Guardians

- ❖ Building a bridge between us and the teachers
- ❖ We aim for our website to be used as a tool in lessons such as PSHE and in assemblies
- ❖ We want students to be made aware of our site and to have it approved by teachers

Social Media



conSEXual
@ConXual

conSEXual aims to open up the dialogue about consent. No means no, but so do many other phrases. It's important that as a society we understand consent better.

📍 Exeter, England

consexualatexeter.wixsite.com/website?fbclid...

📅 Joined June 2019

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Since Monday we have been hard at work for our Grand Challenges project at the University of Exeter. Working as part of a larger group for Gender Inequality, we looked at creating a Language of Equality which would work for all genders. We believe that the way sex education is taught in school needs to be modernised: as well as learning about the biological aspects of sex, secondary school children need to learn about the social side to it too.

This is why we focused on the language of consent. Considering that 1 in 3 women will get sexually assaulted at least once in their lifetimes, and 1 in 5 women will get raped, we decided that consent needs to be understood better. We have created a website aimed at secondary school children which addresses issues such as peer - pressure, the digital world, LGBTQ + relationships, and statutory rape.

We hope that our project opens up the dialogue about consent and increases understanding of the violation of boundaries.



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Challenges and Future Plans

1. Cancelled School Visit
2. Website problems
3. Narrowing our focus

Future Plans: Encouraging schools to use and recommend this site for their sex education lessons. We have already gotten several schools to use and recommend our site.

