

GENA2INE



**Do We Need
Election Change?**

**Fight The
Power!**

**Anti-Semitism
Activism**

**Stop Violence
Against Women**

#BlackLivesMatter

**Mental Illness:
"Disorder not Decision"**

**Learn More
About
Queer History**

The Social Science Magazine by the students, for the students

About the Cover Image, Captured by Ayaah

The thought-provoking photograph was taken by Year 12 Social Science student, Ayaah Bachri. The image was recently shortlisted for the Cambridge University Sociology Photography competition, with the focus on 'Future Sociologies'. Here Ayaah explains the thoughts behind the image:

Currently we are seeing evidence of concentration camps being established for the Muslim community in China, yet we see no evidence of any action to stop Muslims from being eradicated. My photograph interprets the theme of 'Future Sociologies' as I believe that despite the negative connotations news co-operations present about Islam; we, as a community of multiple generations will rise together and protest about the camps in Myanmar to show that Muslim Lives Matter. I wanted to include newspaper headlines to show how newspapers use hate headlines in order to sell their papers and create a divide between communities because of racist assumptions, one of which is all Muslims are terrorists. As well as this, Muslim women are being penalised for wanting to dress modestly by wearing a burka. My photograph demonstrates that wearing a burka is no different to wearing a mask, but because of their faith they are targets of hate crime. This illustrates 'Future Sociologies' because the new bills being implemented in countries such as France that are against the Muslim community, restrict their basic human right of a freedom of belief. Thus, direct action such as protests or boycotting should be taken to uphold one of the key British values, multiculturalism. Also, the use of the mask is to show how Muslims are being silenced in asking for help and are being forced to suppress their faith of fear of being targeted because of the Islamophobia that is being encouraged.



A note from the editor...

"Let me begin by introducing myself, my name is Dami, and I am delighted to be editor of the social science magazine, Genazine. I've always found myself drawn to speaking out on issues that are affecting our generation. Seeing the magazine develop from a flurry of ideas to the final product has been amazing and I am so proud of what we have created. I'm incredibly lucky to have with me such a dedicated team who worked well together and shared their vision. Our fabulous writers have covered articles on anti-Semitism, to LGBTQ+ history and so much more. Everyone's talents have been utilized to create something I am truly happy to have been a part of, and every week I find myself excited to attend another meeting because seeing my peers discuss topics and put forth ideas with such passion is heart-warming and inspiring."



Covid: the civil liberties poacher? - An accompaniment to Imogen's artwork by Mercy

Coronavirus is a term we know all too well and will never forget. What we once joked about and diminished to a mere virus that would not affect the UK has over the past 16 months metamorphosed and revolutionised life as we once knew it – if we can still even call it a life that is, which is now void of former liberty.

Since the declaration of the pandemic state in March 2020, the eponymous Covid virus has taken over 129,000 lives in our nation, and over 4 million globally. It's almost impossible to fathom the might of something so invisible. But what is visible, however, is the confused ethics surrounding young children and students returning to school unvaccinated, unsafe, and unremembered. Though it is proposed that children receiving the vaccine may have 'suboptimal' effects according to statistics, the virulent nature of the virus is hardly inconspicuous. It has already left its potentially permanent mark on schools across the country, with our own school a prime example: in the space of one academic year, students have been self-isolating for highs of 8 weeks, and in this time, many can attest that their quality of work has seen decline. This feeling is arguably unanimous amongst young students nationally, so begs the question: why we are being made to go to school, a seeming breeding ground for infection? But what is the alternative?

We are the generation whose lives were put on pause. Some have

gone into the pandemic as teenagers and come out adults, most looked to TikTok for some needed reprieve, and all were stuck in the confines of their homes. This was a freedom most never thought would be impinged upon, and long to regain. Civil liberties are laws established by the state for the good of the people and as protection from malpractice. Could this COVID-19 pandemic be the civil rights rustler of today? Restricting movement, shutting schools, vetoing vaccines for students?

The work of the Government cannot be disregarded, as they are working day in and day out to navigate the UK out of this devastating stint of history, but unfortunately the impact on the mental health of young people, the impact on those who have contracted long covid and the potential impact on our futures is unmeasurable at the moment. Only time will reveal the true answers to these questions...

CONTENTS

Pg 3-4 - Meet the team

Pg 5-8 - Fight the Power

Pg 9-12 - Learn more about Queer History

Pg 13-16 - Include Anti-Semitism in you Activism

Pg 15-18 - #BlackLivesMatter

Pg 19-20 - Time for election change?

Pg 21-24 - Mental illness: It's a disorder not a decision

Pg 25-28 - Violence against women

MEET THE TEAM...



DAMI (EDITOR AND WRITER) Sociology, Drama & English Literature
I loved helping bring this magazine to life I am constantly engaging in conversations about societal issues with my friends and love that, we have all now worked hard to create a platform where we are able to help educate young minds and have our voices amplified.



EMILY (WRITER) Sociology, Psychology & English Language
I am extremely passionate on the topic of social inequality and never stop talking about how I think our society could be improved for the benefit of everyone. I thought it would be an amazing idea to divert my conversation to articles for you to all read and hopefully even relate to.



ROSE-SHARON (WRITER) Sociology, Religious Studies, Government and Politics & Religious Studies
I think there are so many important conversations our generation needs to be having and I joined Genazine in the hope that I can help start these conversations and as I way to get my opinion out there.



ZARA (WRITER) Sociology, Government and Politics & Religious Studies
I want to help educate others and spread knowledge to peers. As well as this I'm really excited about this opportunity to have my opinion heard



HOLLY (WRITER) Classics, Government and Politics & History
As a Politics student, I'm interested in social issues and love exploring ideas with other people on my team



BEN (WRITER) Maths, Government and Politics, Further Maths & Physics
I love to hear people's views on the world and giving my own input as well. I hope by having discussions we can try and improve the world and work towards something truly great



BETHAN (WRITER) Sociology, English Literature, Classics & Critical and contextual art
I'm really excited to write more articles focused on women's position in society and I have very strong opinions on LGBTQ+ and environmental issues and love that I now have a platform to call attention to them



ALYISHA (WRITER) Sociology, English Language & Biology
I'm really interested in social issues and know that with this magazine, we can have much wider discussions!



KOFI (WRITER) Sociology, Psychology and Religious Studies
For as long as I can remember I've had a passion for writing and speaking up on issues in society. I think it's extremely important that these issues are brought to light, which is why I joined this magazine. By discussing these societal flaws and giving a voice to those affected by them, a conversation on how to fix them is started and we begin to improve as a society



KALI (CO EDITOR AND WRITER) Geography, Government and Politics & Sociology
I am delighted to be presented with an opportunity that allows me to amplify my voice and the voice of others by presenting and educating them on various important issues. I've always been interested in writing and politics and this magazine has given me the opportunity to combine my love of both.



IMY (ILLUSTRATOR) Government and Politics, Art & Classics
As an art and politics students I get to combine my interests to draw political satire and create cool art



CHIANA (DESIGN AND COMPOSITION EXECUTIVE) Religious Studies, Government and Politics & Media
I love politics and media so being able to apply both in creating the finished product through designing and compiling everybody's works has been lots of fun.



MERCY (CONTRIBUTING CREATIVE DESIGNER & WRITER) Government and Politics, Classics & History
As much as having some control over the creative elements is a great responsibility, I'm excited to express the mood of the magazine to bring the articles to life! It's a position I'm proud to hold



NATHAN (ILLUSTRATOR) Biology, Chemistry, Sociology and Psychology
I joined GENAZINE as I really wanted to help out and knew that with my artistic skills, I could help bring this edition of GENAZINE to life.

FIGHT THE POWER!

With Zara-Morgan

“Fight the power!” is a phrase you have probably heard at some point, but have you taken the time to understand the meaning? It rings the alarm bells of calling people to fight the injustices that are riddled throughout an oppressive system. Recently, there has been a surge of activism. Many marched through roads in protest of racial iniquity, swarmed social media and signed online petitions to bring recognition to the inequalities in our society or put on their coats and flocked to a candlelight vigil. This desire to improve society is not new...the people’s struggle for change stretches back generations with the first recorded protest in UK history being in the 14th century.

A (very) brief history of protesting: The Peasants’ Revolt

The Peasant’s Revolt took place in 1381 and was a march from Kent to Essex to London led by Wat Tyler, a rebel with a cause. There was a poll tax which many peasants could not afford, when they reached London, the authorities bombarded the rebels with how class is a myth and all are equal with the monarch at the time, King Richard II putting his foot down and reasserting his sovereignty and the Crown’s control. Promises were made but at the expense of Wat Tyler’s life and the life of English peasants in the Middle Ages improved. But Richard reasserting his authority at the detriment of the peasants is not the last time that marginalised groups have been shut down by a person in a higher position.

Protesting for the right to protest? On “Kill the Bill.”

Lately, “Kill the Bill” protests have filled streets and news feeds across the UK. They have come about because of the new Police, Crime and Sentencing Bill (PCSC) which will grant the police new powers (including on protests which have been the main cause of outrage). This bill was introduced shortly after the vigil on Clapham Common in remembrance of Sarah Everard and other victims of crime against women, which was calm until after dark when the police began to make advancements on the vigil-goers. Priti Patel, the Home Secretary was forced to condemn the actions of the policemen. A couple days later, the PCSC Bill was having its second reading sponsored by Patel’s Home Office.

It sparked widespread outrage, protests spread like wildfire as the Bill threatened the freedom of speech and right to well...protest. The formation of this bill was partly influenced by the state of the pandemic. The pandemic has forced the Government to limit the civil liberties of its citizens. However, this act equips the state and the police with extraordinary amounts of power which is emphasised by the very vague language in the bill, such as “equipping officers with the powers and tools they need to keep themselves and all of us safe” and “increase maximum penalty from 12 months to two years in prison for anyone who assaults or commits an offense of battery against an emergency worker”. These regulations are what allowed for the 2020 BLM protests to be deemed “unlawful”.

More civil unrest erupted in relation to Black Lives Matter and the Anti-Asian Racism movements, protests took place globally, a sea of people flooded the streets as marches were taking place and the Government were sent numerous petitions in retaliation to the injustices ethnic minorities were facing in the world of politics and in society. The response to these is still hazy and how justice may have been achieved is still up for debate which brings up the question of **do protests and petitions actually make a difference?**

Article continued on next page

“I can’t breathe”



Image: news.sky.com

“This desire to improve society is not new”

Is there any point to protesting?

Performative Activism is a term which refers to activism done online to increase one personal appeal and social capital rather than for one's devotion to a cause.

This new wave activism is promoting "slacktivism" where now it is the norm to be an activist, people cannot just stand by, but they take part in surface level activism to avoid being "cancelled".

Recently in the US, Ex-Officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty on both 2nd and 3rd degree murder of George Floyd, after he knelt on his neck for 9 minutes on suspicion of a counterfeit \$20 bill last year. In response to Floyd's murder, public outcry raised a series of riots, protests and donations and the resurgence of the 2014 BLM movement. The protests brought great attention to the matter of Floyd's death, even promoting a "blackout" on social media (which didn't really go to plan) with people using the wrong hashtag filling a once helpful tag for Black Lives Matter resources with rows upon rows of black squares (some even "aesthetic-sised" to fit feeds) but it also created an insurgence of performative activism, this is also being seen with the Stop Asian Hate movement too, after the Atlanta Shooting, there was a questionable administration of the law which resulted in a mass, but short lived wave of Anti-Asian and Pacific Islander Racism activism.

This can also be clearly seen during Pride Month, where big companies will use their platform to create limited edition "rainbowfied" produce, for example the "LGBT sandwich" which sparked massive debate because though they were donating to a LGBTQ+ charity many argued that it was a performative stunt in order to increase their capital by expanding their consumer base to members of the LGBTQ+ community. Performative activism damages the validity of causes because of their actions being unhelpful and unmeaningful, especially the action where they shame others for not taking part which is no different to how these actors of activism were behaving themselves not that long ago.

Therefore, it is now more important than ever to get educated and make a change for a better future.



Image: Evening Standard

I was inspired to write this article in light of the Black Lives Matter and Stop Asian Hate movements which have dominated politics and society recently in terms of race relations. For more information, please visit [StopAsianHate.carrd.co](https://stopasianhate.carrd.co), the [stopasianhate](#) instagram page, the [blacklivesmatter](#) website, [instagram](#) page and the [carrd](#). As well as regularly consuming the news from a non-biased source.

**F
I
G
H
T

T
H
E

P
O
W
E
R**

Why We Need More Education on Queer History

Why do we only know Stonewall?

Disclaimer- throughout this piece I use the term 'queer' to refer to the LGBTQ+ community. Despite contention over this term in the past, I feel that 'queer' encapsulates any expression of sexuality and gender identity that isn't heterosexual or cisgender in a concise fashion. June was Pride month and as a result I have been trying to educate myself further on the history of queer politics. During my research I noticed that up until this point, I've always assumed that LGBTQ+ history only consisted of The Stonewall Riots and subsequent events and that before then, queer people didn't really have an established culture of which to protest for. Evidently, I was rather blind sighted, yet this discovery made me wonder if other people have a similar issue and if they do, why do we only know Stonewall?

How familiar are members of the LGBTQ+ community with queer politics?

I conducted a survey on some of the members of the LGBTQ+ club in this school to see how aware the queer community were of some of these other movements in comparison to Stonewall. I asked 18 students across all year groups which LGBT protests or organisations they were familiar with. 14 people were aware of Stonewall and 10 were aware of the Gay Liberation Front. I then asked how much they knew about the options they had chosen, 13 students saying that they knew very little and 7 of these students admitted they only knew the name of it.

When looking at individual responses, I noticed that the 4 students who knew a lot about these demonstrations had learnt through their own research and had also selected some of the less common protests in the first question. One of the most notable aspects that I found in this survey was the last question, in which I asked where students learnt about these things. 16 students said that they either did their own research or heard about it from social media and 0 students learnt about these historical events in lessons. This, to me, provided the clearest explanation as to why we only know Stonewall; because there are not many accessible resources for the more 'obscure' riots, protests and societies. Hopefully the remainder of this article will enlighten you on some of these parts of LGBTQ+ history and why it is that there are limited resources addressing them.

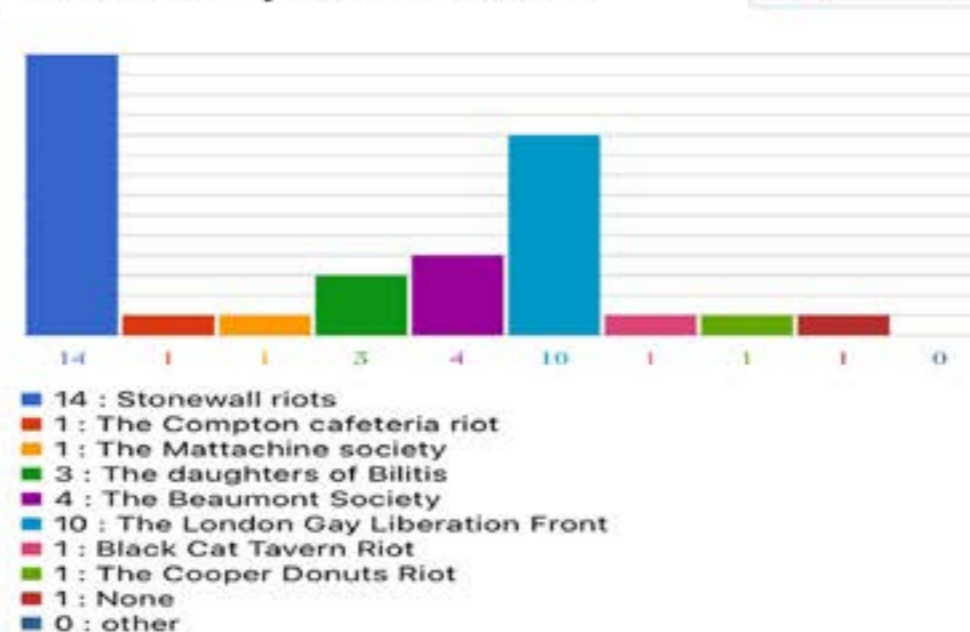
Who were The Mattachine Society?

Most queer people regard the Stonewall riots as the most pivotal moment in LGBT history. It marked a change in which LGBT culture was beginning to become more mainstream and the fight for sexual equality seemed even more achievable. But what about the Mattachine Society? Formed in 1950 by Harry Hay, the Mattachine Society is often considered the first gay right organisation in western culture. One of their biggest demonstrations was in 1965 in which they collaborated with other 'homophile' organisations such as the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, and the Daughters of Bilitis to hold an illegal fundraising ball. This event was stormed by police

but with the help of a team of 20+ lawyers, the queer societies won in court, marking one of the first queer successes and being referred to as "San Francisco's Stonewall" according to queer historian Neil Miller. The Mattachine Society amongst many other LGBTQ+ protests pre-1969 demonstrate that queer politics did in fact exist before Stonewall and that to some degree they contributed more so to LGBT acceptance than Stonewall. The biggest difference I can distinguish is the lasting impact of both events on contemporary society. Where the Mattachine Society is clearly a society of its time in the sense that its concept of homosexuality was under developed compared to contemporary understanding, Stonewall aided in the initiation of a charity that has stood the test of time and evolved as queer culture has. Even in 1988, when Margaret Thatcher introduced Section 28 under the Conservative Government, there was enough of a community to respond with the Stonewall charity. In the same year as Section 28 was passed, the LGBT charity Stonewall was created in the UK and continued on to be one of the most active charities supporting the community.

To this day, the Stonewall charity has helped to pass new laws surrounding LGBT equality, from the WHO declassifying same-sex attraction as a mental illness in 1992 to the Civil Partnership act of 2004 which gave Same sex couples the same legal rights as heterosexual partners in a marriage. Even small scale initiatives like the red posters that you may see around the school about LGBT acceptance were implemented by Stonewall in attempts to destigmatize the queer community in the school environment. Their active role in society today constantly reminds people of the many ways in which the Stonewall riots have led us to this point, a reaffirmation that isn't present for other equally important aspects of queer history.

Which of these LGBT protests, riots or societies are you familiar with?



*as discussed
by Bethan*

“As a result of the emergence of mainstream Queer culture, there has been a focus on marketing towards the British Gay Market”

Article continued on next page.

Queer Capitalism

As a result of the emergence of mainstream Queer culture, there has been a focus on marketing towards the British Gay Market. This is known as the 'Pink pound', in which companies will focus on appealing to an LGBT demographic, with services such as gay weddings, gay press and even by increasing the number of 'LGBT icons' in mainstream media and pop culture. The 'pink pound' in Britain had been estimated to bring in around £6 Billion a year. Marxists criticise this marketisation of queer culture as an exploitation of the LGBTQ+ community, particularly the 'rainbow capitalism' or 'pink washing' that occurs around pride month, in which the production of vaguely LGBT-related products is increased.

Whilst some may argue that any publicity is good publicity and that 'The Pink Pound' despite its sometimes-exploitative nature has helped to spread awareness of LGBT presence, others may argue that commercialisation has been more of a hinderance to the queer community. It has in some ways shifted the focus of the LGBTQ+ community from political rebellion to consumerism. Many riots protesting queer oppression have 'gone under the radar' despite society seemingly being more LGBTQ+ supporting. It seems that Stonewall gets the most coverage in modern day media as the 'start of LGBT rebellion', when in reality it was preceded by many other exceedingly important protests and societies which paved the way for the success of the Stonewall riots and their aftermath.

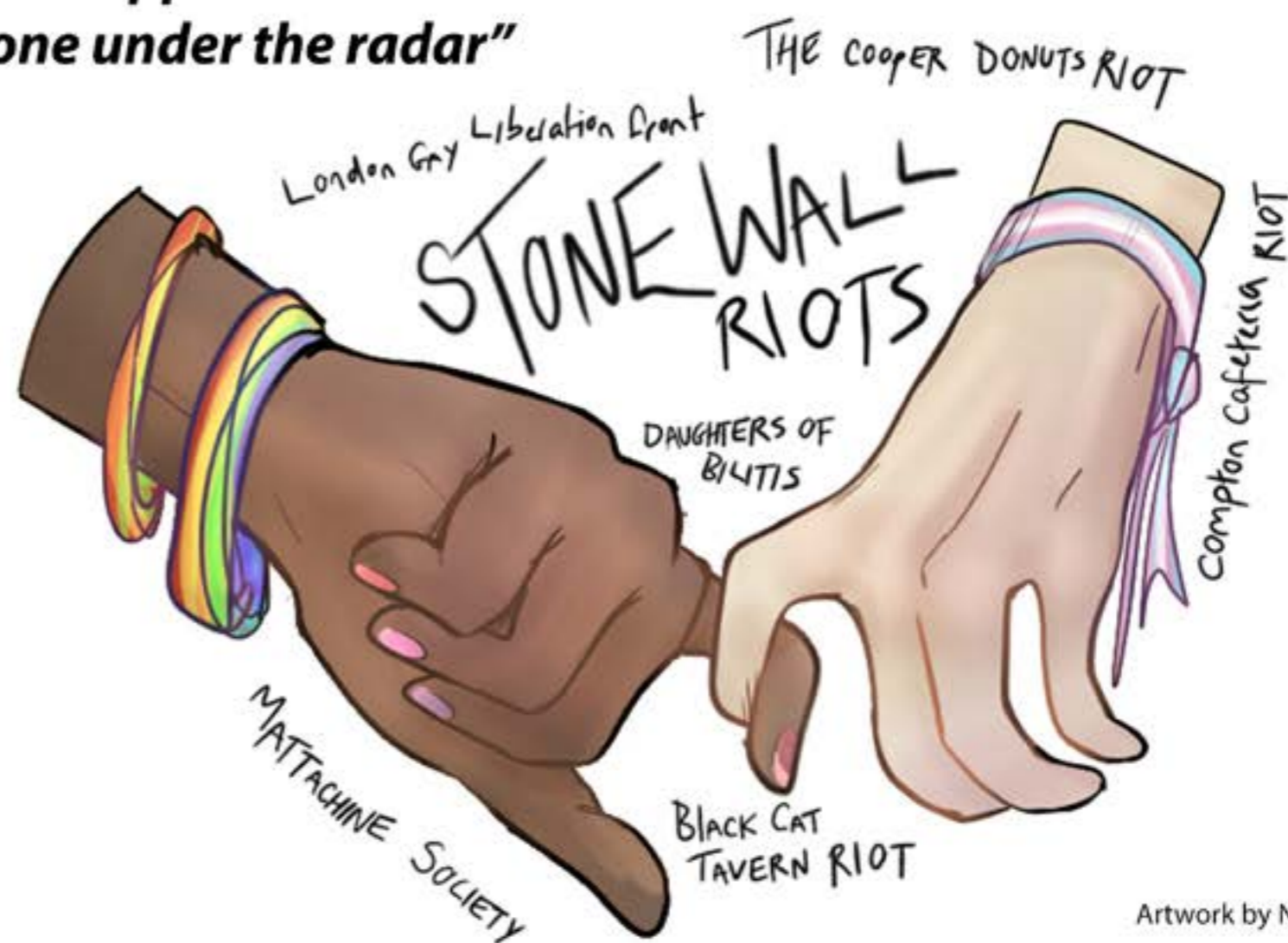
Conclusion

In conclusion, although it is entirely true that the Stonewall riots were a pivotal moment in queer history, they were not the only riots that contributed to a more accepting society. It seems that due to the commercialisation of queer culture as a result of the responses to Stonewall, particularly pride parades, other demonstrations have gone 'under the radar' are are much harder to find resources for. Furthermore, due to this sudden influx in LGBT support in society, a lot of corporations seem to have hopped on the bandwagon and participate in 'performative activism' of LGBT issues. As a result, it has become harder for members of the queer community, particularly those who are younger, to find resources to educate themselves on queer history and politics. I hope that this article has highlighted the necessity for resources to educate young LGBT members on queer history that spans more than just the influence of Stonewall and that teaches them that there is more to queer culture than just consumerism.

Bibliography and Extra Resources

<https://www.magellantv.com/articles/the-mattachine-society-lgbtq-history>
<https://www.voicemag.uk/blog/7274/the-uprisings-that-preceded-stonewall>
<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/blog/pink-pound-hidden-history/>
<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

"Many riots protesting queer oppression have 'gone under the radar'"



Artwork by Nathan

What was Stonewall and the Gay Liberation front?

For those who are unaware, the Stonewall riots were a series of protests and demonstrations by members of the LGBTQ+ community following a police raid on the 28th June at the Stonewall Inn. Police raiding gay bars in the 60s was fairly common, due to the illegal nature of LGBT bars at the time. Stonewall was significantly different from other raids because, for the first time, the queer community fought back. This one act of rebellion sparked a wave of demonstrations in the area from the 28th to the 3rd of July, proving to society that the queer community would no longer stay quiet and passive; it was time for something to change.

The following year, the first Pride marches took place. Commemorating the anniversary of The Stonewall riot, areas in New York, LA and San Francisco held parades where queer people could be unapologetically themselves. It was then that the New York Gay Liberation Front was formed, the first LGBTQ+ society to society to use the term 'gay' in their official title. This also led to the London Gay Liberation Front in 1970 and the first pride celebration in London in 1972.

What was Section 28?

Section 28 was a law which stopped councils and schools from promoting the teaching of LGBT acceptance as a 'pretended family relationship'. Margaret Thatcher was heavily influenced by the New Right thinkers who believe that the traditional, heterosexual, nuclear family is the best family type and the only family structure that fully functions. This law reflected these views in the sense that it censored LGBT expression and created a barrier between the queer community and equality.

The Importance of Including Anti-Semitism in your Activism

as discussed by Kali

Anti-Semitism has been an increasing issue over the last few years, an issue that is largely over-looked when fighting for equal rights. Antisemitism is rising sharply across Europe, in 2019 France reported a 74% increase in the number of offences against Jews and Germany said the number of violent antisemitic attacks had surged by more than 60%. In the US, Jews are the most commonly targeted in anti-religion hate crimes and making up 57.8% of all anti-religion hate crimes. This is a problem that many are silent about, especially in their fights for equality and in their activism. This is something that contributes to the erasure of Jewish struggles.

Both sides of the political spectrum demonstrating anti-Semitism

The Right have demonised Jews in many ways, some of the main ways they do this is through their many anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, the most well-known one being QAnon. The idea behind this conspiracy stems from the belief that Jews control the media, and that they are greedy and evil. These unsubstantiated conspiracy theories are extremely harmful to Jewish community and evoke more hate crimes towards them, with many extreme-right wingers being deeply anti-Semitic to the point of ganging together and creating hate groups. Other ways the Right contributes to anti-Semitism is by ignoring the many literal Nazis who support many of their ideologies, but rather, focus directly on left-wing anti-Semitism (this can be seen with the recent Corbyn issue and talks of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party). Finally, one other way the Right contributes to anti-Semitism and minimises Jewish problems is by throwing around Holocaust comparisons a lot (this is something the Left does also but in a different manner). This can be seen in many instances when it comes to pro-Lifers outside Planned Parenthood (The UK equivalent is Family Planning Association) and the comparing the abortions to the Holocaust. Not only is this extremely insensitive to say but the comparison itself minimises horrific tragedies such as the Holocaust where many Jewish people tragically lost their lives due to a malevolent dictator. Minimising genocides such as the Holocaust to fit an agenda minimises Jewish struggles.

The ways that the Left demonises Jews may be viewed as less 'overt' compared to the Right, but nonetheless it still happens and in fact, the Left does a lot of similar things as the Right (such as minimising the Holocaust by referring to other genocides as a Holocaust). One of the ways the Left contributes to anti-Semitism is by blaming Jews for the injustices Palestinians face. The injustices that Palestinians face are horrific, but it is not Jews who are responsible for these crimes but rather the State of Israel, something that Jews do not personally control, and it is Israeli Forces are the ones who commit these unlawful killings. Blaming Jewish people just vilifies them even further than the media already does, which causes further issues for them. Another way in which the Left promote anti-Semitism is talking over/silencing Jews on what is and is not anti-Semitic. I doubt I need to elaborate on why this is ludicrous but to summarise, no one will know better about prejudice and hostility towards Jews better than Jews themselves (the same way other ethnic groups would). Jews would offer up a better understanding of anti-Semitism, including instances where it is more covert. Blatantly ignoring Jews when they try and educate you on issues, they are facing is ignorant and demonstrates that oneself does not really care for Jews and their struggles. One other way that the Left contributes to anti-Semitism is through excluding Jews from their activism unless they explicitly state they are against Israel. Being selective in your activism and only supporting the Jews that you agree with is a form of anti-Semitism, all Jews deserve to be advocated for – whether they agree with you on political matters or not. It exhibits that Jews must be a certain way in order for us to endorse them, which is not what activism is about at all.

The Media's role

One of the more covert conditionings of anti-Semitism in the media today is through the movies and shows we see. Heroines in movies are usually seen with more Aryan features and promotes the desirability of these features (Barbie is a good example of this) whilst demonising more typically Jewish features such as the hooked nose or dark curly hair (this is infamous in Disney movies particularly). From 101 Dalmatians,

to Tangled to Barbie of Swan Lake, there are many examples of this. An example would be in Tangled, in which a beautiful young girl (who fits in with the Aryan standard of beauty) is kidnapped and locked in a Tower. The woman who kidnapped this young girl (the antagonist) has exaggerated Jewish features, such as dark curly hair, a hooked nose, large eyes. Although these are subtle details, they can contribute greatly to damaging stereotypes of Jewish people such as Jewish people being 'evil' and 'greedy' which are dehumanising. These originate from 'Blood Libel' which falsely accuses Jews of murdering Christian children (or other gentiles).

“Blaming Jewish people just vilifies them even further than the media already does”

Conclusion

Playing a role in anti-Semitism can be by minimising Jewish struggles by comparing them to other marginalised groups and deeming their struggles are not as big of an issue. The media rarely portrays the struggles Jews face, so it becomes very easy to brush off the growing issue of anti-Semitism rather than acknowledge and do something about it. It is important to not only be not anti-Semitic but actively against anti-Semitism through what we do in order to combat this issue. We should listen to Jewish people when they call out something as anti-Semitic rather than dismiss the issue and tell them that they are over-exaggerating. Anti-Semitism is deep-rooted in society, from the depictions of evil Disney characters having stereotypical Jewish features to beliefs that Jews are greedy, money-loving people (QAnon, an extreme right-wing conspiracy theory that is very dangerous to Jews). It is crucial to include Jewish people in your activism and be conscious of how we attribute to stereotypes that may harm them.

Links to learn more:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57339266>

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/non-discrimination/opinion/europe-must-take-action-to-combat-rising-anti-semitism/>



BLACK LIVES MATTER

Koyinsola delves into the History and Protests

Black Lives Matter. ACAB. Protesting. In the last year these have become the latest buzzwords internationally. But these aren't new concepts. In order to truly understand their importance, we need to first understand their history.

The hashtag "#BlackLivesMatter" was first coined in July 2013 in response to the acquittal of neighbourhood watch coordinator George Zimmerman for the murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Martin was walking home in the evening of February 26 2012 when Zimmerman followed him, against the wishes of the police, suspecting Martin of being "up to no good" and "on drugs". A confrontation occurred and Martin was fatally shot. Alicia Garza, a domestic worker rights organiser, began writing a series of Facebook posts titled, "A Love Letter to Black People", ending her final post with the phrase "Our lives matter." Her close friend and anti-police violence organiser, Patrisse Cullors responded to the post with the hashtag "#BlackLivesMatter" which gained traction online. Soon, with the help of immigrants' rights worker Opal Tometi, a world changing movement began.

The acronym ACAB (All Cops Are B*stards) has existed for decades before any of us were born, and its exact origin is unknown. All we know is that it came from England during the 1920s, then first abbreviated by workers on strike during the 1940s to refer to all authority figures. However, it wasn't until 1970 that its current meaning was popularised. On May 20 1970, The Daily Mirror ran a story about a teenager who was arrested and fined for having the phrase embroidered on his jacket, thinking it meant All Canadians Are Bums. By the 1980s, ACAB became part of the punk subculture as a symbol of their anti-establishment belief, which lead to it becoming a popular slogan for anarchist movements worldwide. The earliest recorded protest was in 1215 when English people launched an insurrection against King John and the implementation of the Magna Carta which left them with practically no rights. Since then, protesting has been used as an activist strategy, allowing people to express their opinions on a societal happening, whilst drawing attention and demanding change. Now that you know their individual history let us look at their collective history. The BLM movement gained national recognition in 2014 for street demonstrations in Ferguson, Missouri after the murders of Micheal Brown and Eric Garner.

On August 9 2014, 18 year old Brown was fatally shot by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson after a confrontation - the details of which Wilson and Dorian Johnson, who was with Brown at the time disagree on. However, it was confirmed that Brown was shot 6 times at close range, the 6th being the one that ultimately killed him. 43-year-old Eric Garner was held in a chokehold and wrestled to the ground by police officer Daniel Pantaleo. With multiple officers pinning him down, Garner repeated the "I can't breathe" 11 times while lying face down on the sidewalk. After Garner lost consciousness, he remained lying on the sidewalk for seven minutes while the officers waited for an ambulance to arrive. He was pronounced dead at the hospital an hour later. Since then, participants in the movement have protested the deaths of Black people by police officers or while in police custody worldwide. In May 2020, the murder of 46-year-old George Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin (which so scarily mirrored Garner's murder) lead to numerous protests worldwide, and the term ACAB became heavily affiliated, almost synonymous, with BLM. In the United States, approx. 15 - 26 million people attended these protests, making it one of the largest movements in the country's history, showing the shifting public opinion on BLM. Many people wonder why George Floyd's murder in particular gained so much attention and "support" for Black Lives Matter, since after all it wasn't the first time something like this happened. First, we need to clarify what exactly this so called "support" is.

Posting black squares on Instagram or plastering the Black Power fist and phrase ACAB on everything possible is not support - it's performative activism. But yes, George Floyd's murder did get a lot of attention and the answer for why is simple. Social media. His murder was recorded and shared endlessly, which opens a whole new conversation onto Black Trauma P*rn but that's not the focus here. By sharing the video and his story to a generation, tired of staying silent about oppression (who at the time were stuck in lockdown and on social media more) a gateway was opened. More people were educating themselves on how to be better allies and keeping others with outdated and offensive views in check. But enough about America. In 2016 a UK branch of BLM was set up, called UKBLM.

Article continued on next page

"Posting black squares on Instagram or plastering the Black Power fist and phrase ACAB on everything possible is not support - it's performative activism."

On the 5th anniversary of the shooting of Mark Duggan, several protesters blocked London City Airport by chaining themselves together on the airport's runway. Mark Duggan's shooting in the evening of August 4th 2011 caused large uproar and led to London's biggest riot. Two unidentified (their identity has been protected) police officers stopped Duggan's taxi on suspicion of him planning an attack. Duggan got out of the taxi and ran but was fatally shot twice in the chest. Upon the first inspection of the site, no gun was found but a few hours later police found an illegal gun they claimed Duggan threw before he was killed - we still don't know whether it belonged to him or not. 2 days later his family and local residents peacefully marched from Broadwater Farm to Tottenham Police Station demanding answers.

However, the situation escalated when a 16 year-old girl approached police officers and allegedly threw something, leading them to swarm her with shields and batons, causing head injuries. In retaliation two police cars were set on fire and rioting began, lasting days and spreading to other large cities across the UK. As with George Floyd's murder, this came at a time of high tension between young people and the police. The young people, majority of whom were ethnic minorities from deprived areas, felt the police didn't respect them as people which was why they were so often stopped and searched. The murder of Duggan and the confusion surrounding it cemented this idea in their minds.

In 2020, protests were held in London, Manchester, Bristol, Cardiff and Leeds to support the US Black Lives Matter protests and commemorate black people who have died in the UK, like Duggan. The statue of Edward Colston (philanthropist, politician and slave trader) was pushed into Bristol Harbour; Winston Churchill's statue was defaced, and Union Jack flags were burned on June 7. Later in the evening violence broke out between protesters and police, resulting in the injuring 49 officers and arresting of 135 protestors.

So where are we now?

In summer 2020, Black Lives Matter UK formalised its organisation, changing its name to the Black Liberation Movement UK in September. In January 2021, they began to distribute funds to black-led, anti-racist organisations across the UK. In America, people are still protesting after the fatal shootings of 20-year-old Daunte Wright, 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant and 42 year old Andrew Brown Jr by police officers in April. On the 20th of April, Derek Chauvin was found guilty on all counts: unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder and

second-degree manslaughter. This made him the first ever Minnesota police officer to be convicted for the murder of a black person. On the 25th of June, he was sentenced to 22.5 years in prison. Hopefully, this starts a new era of justice for the black people murdered by the people who swore to protect them. To find out more:

Home - Black Lives Matter

BLM UK gains legal status and renames as Black Liberation Movement UK | Black Lives Matter movement | The Guardian

Mark Duggan death: Timeline of events - BBC News

Who was George Floyd and what happened to Derek Chauvin? - BBC News



Our Elections Give an Illusion of Accurately Representing Our Views. It's Time to Make it Reality.

BY BEN



When you look at all of our previous governments for decades, it becomes blatant that there are only two major parties: Labour and Conservative. Sure, the Liberal Democrats squeezed their way into a coalition once, but go back dozens of years and our governments are just one massive list of red and blue. Surely there's a reason behind this? These parties must just best represent people's views, and easily win elections... right?

Well, not entirely. In our most recent election, Labour won 32% of the nation's vote and the Conservatives won 44%. Combined that's 76% of the overall vote, which is a lot. That other 24% nearly makes up a quarter of all votes though; clearly people don't just vote for the main two parties. The Liberal Democrats won 12%, the SNP 4% and the Green Party 3%, with the rest of the vote being split between other parties. The result of the election was a Conservative victory of 365 out of 650 seats, that's 56% of seats! But wait... they won well over 50% of the seats but only had 44% of the vote? It's clear something isn't completely exact here. Unfortunately, that's due to our electoral system. Right now we use a system called First Past the Post to decide the outcome of our elections. In short, the country is split into 650 constituencies

Each of these constituencies host an election, and the MP that gets the most votes wins the constituency and gets a seat in Parliament. The big issue lies in the fact that candidates only have to get more votes than the other competing candidates. If the Conservative Party got just one more vote than the Labour Party, that would be the same outcome as the entire constituency voting Conservative.

Because a lot of votes go towards smaller parties which ultimately don't win seats, a huge gap between votes and seats is created across all parties. This is why the Conservative Party won a comfortable majority with less than 50% of the vote. This system is terrible for smaller parties and makes it nearly impossible for them to win a large number of seats. While I greatly oppose the policy of UKIP, it's hard to ignore that in 2015 they won 13% of the vote (almost 4,000,000 people!) and got one, yes one, seat. If an example like that doesn't show how pitifully unfair our current system is, I don't know what will.

Allow me to play Devil's advocate for a second though. It is true that the current system is by far the easiest to understand and fastest to create results. There's not much point in an election if people don't understand how it works, and waiting for ages to find who will be running our country isn't desirable. A great part of our current system is also that our MPs represent constituencies, and so will think about the needs of their constituency rather than their party or the country as a whole. Finally, we already held a referendum in 2011 to see if we wanted to change our voting system, and the people decided NO.

The problem with that referendum though is that the method we would potentially switch to would be a method called Alternative Vote. This allows people to rank parties when voting so that if their first choice does not win, their second choice might win instead. It sounds good in theory, but when put into practice, it'll mean that parties that everyone agrees they can tolerate at best but don't prefer will always win.

I believe we can do much better than that, and that's why I'm a fan of a different style of system, called the Additional Member System. The idea behind this system is that we keep the constituencies that we already have, but just make them a bit bigger and have less of them. When you go to vote, there'll be two parts. One like the current, where you vote for a candidate, and another where you vote for a party. Votes for a party will directly go towards giving that party a seat. This means that if smaller parties like UKIP did win a large share of the vote again, they'd actually win a similar number of seats... instead of one. This way, we can keep all the benefits of the current system I described before, while also improving how fair and accurate to our views our elections are. It doesn't matter what side of politics you view yourself as. We can set our differences aside and all agree that the country would be more fairly ran if it represented us better. If you believe in a fair and just democracy, then there seems to be no way you could possibly support what we currently have, so change needs to come. For me, for you and for us all.

To find out more: [The First Past the Post Voting System - Voting in UK Election - National 4 Modern Studies Revision - BBC Bitesize](#)



Images: The Sun

Mental illness: It's a disorder, not a decision

Trigger warning: Mention of suicide and mental disorder

As you are reading this, I'm sure you can think of at least one person you know who suffer from or have suffered from one or more mental disorders. This person may even be yourself. I make this assumption purely based on the fact that 1 in 4 of us will experience mental ill health each year as of October 2020, and I'm sure the pandemic and multiple lockdowns- which we were promised weren't going to happen again- have made this figure escalate and therefore intensify. But this is not necessarily a rant about our government! It's about opening up the conversation about mental disorders, stigmas and mental health services.

Ignoring Mental Ill Health

There are so many issues, it's hard to know where to start, but I'm going to begin with one of the biggest impacts on the limitations on the number of people accessing help, stigmas and misconceptions. As much as I do believe Gen-Z are bringing a more accepting and progressive stance to our society, there are still people dotted around in all age groups who still believe mental disorders are not real illnesses. Over time, more and more research has been designated to focusing purely on the mind and all the different explanations as to why people have battles with their own brains; from childhood trauma to substance abuse during pregnancy and even genetics such as the SERT gene which biologically causes some to have lower serotonin levels. Diagnosis for mental illness is also very hard to access and is usually only given to those on the extreme side of mental health disorders. But this does not mean that others are not still suffering. However, the ideal of things you cannot see not existing is embedded into our society. I mean, mental health illness is not a unicorn! And surely, if 3 million people in the UK alone said they saw a Unicorn, surely people would begin to believe they are real. So why is it different for an illness, such as depression?

One thing that we always have to remember, is that mental illness is never one's own fault. We cannot blame a person for struggling with anxiety or ADHD or BPD. Self-harm isn't done to seek attention. Binge eating isn't just an excuse to eat lots. And mental illness is not a trend.

Mental Health and Crime

Following on from exploring the misconceptions around mental disorders, we can begin to look into the effects of these. Specifically, within the media, mental ill health is mostly only reported on in extreme cases where these people fall into crime or have 'episodes' which lead them to commit crime. However, people with severe mental illness are much more likely to be victims of crime that perpetrators. Many people with severe mental illness show vulnerability, which makes them seem easy targets to criminals. They can end up being groomed, robbed, scammed and much more due to the fact they can be viewed as weak.

This false representation is also extremely prevalent within the film industry. I would estimate that there is probably hundreds of horror/thriller movies and series that involve 'insane asylums' and being infested with murderers and criminals.

And as much as we may all love it, this is even seen in American Horror Story, which millions of people have watched. All these things generate an alarming feeling for some when they are around people with severe mental illness as they fear they will be harmed by them (even though they are usually much more common to harm themselves than others.)

Now, I'm not saying we need to ban every episode of American Horror Story or every horror film that has 'Asylum' in the title, I just think more focus and attention should be brought to the matter of educating people on mental disorders. As much as I would agree that the education system and society in general are definitely making progress with more common disorders (depression, anxiety, OCD, ADHD etc), I would say that the rest are forgotten about, which is leading to some of these stigmas.

Mental Health and the LGBTQ+ community

As you may know, sadly those who identify within the LGBTQ+ community may suffer a great deal of criticism, discrimination, and abuse just for being themselves. And if they have not yet felt comfortable enough to be open about their identity with others, the feeling of being ashamed by it or uncomfortable talking to others or keeping it a secret can eat them up inside. Once again, societal expectations are the most common cause of these issues. This therefore means that those within the LGBTQ+ community are more likely than others to suffer from low self-esteem, social anxiety, suicidal thoughts and much more. They may deal with this in different ways (such as alcohol/drug misuse or self-harm) and 1 in 8 people within the LGBTQ+ community have attempted suicide. I also wanted to specifically focus on the transgender community and the way that they are treated by others around them and in society in general and how this affects their mental health. In an article published on the Stonewall website, it was stated that studies show that around 89% of transgender people have thought about committing suicide. This conveys the severity of the issue with absolute clarity. Discrimination towards this community is almost accepted in our society with hate crimes based on transgender identity carrying a lower maximum sentence than those of race or faith in England and Wales. Makes total sense, doesn't it?! *rolls eyes*

I also believe that more people should be educated, especially the youngest generations from a young age, on the fact that people within the LGBTQ+ community are just like everyone else that exists on the Earth. They deserve to be treated the same and how they identify is none of anyone else's business if they don't want it to be. They aren't harming anybody (because apparently, it's a really difficult concept for some people to wrap their heads around!) Then our society will become much more diverse and inclusive and reduce the detrimental effect mental ill health has on members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Article continued on next page



Mental Health and Men

Continuing the discussion of stigmas and misconceptions, we can look further into the inequalities within mental illness and the way that it also seems to target men. If you are a woman, you understand that we are used to being the victim of inequalities created by the patriarchy in everyday life, but this is one of the issues where we must understand how the patriarchy is adversely affecting the health and safety of men.

As extracted from the 2019 Office of National Statistics report, three quarters of UK suicides fall victim to male lives, meaning 4,303 men ended their own life as opposed to 1,388 females. Now, this is not in any way attempting to invalidate female struggles, it's simply highlighting that the men around us do struggle and we must find ways to irradicate the 'boys don't cry' narrative. We see this expectation of hyper-masculinity all over society.

For example, think of this: one of 'the boiz' is feeling insecure about his acne, his persona has changed, and he has begun to show symptoms of depression. Now imagine he expresses these thoughts and feelings with one of his friends in the group of 'the boiz'. He'd be labelled as 'gay' and 'feminine' and be essentially bullied for showing his emotions (since being gay or female is apparently such an insult!) and would avoid putting himself in this situation again and therefore not get help from those around him. So, when we mention how patriarchal society affects both sexes and all genders, this is just one of the examples.

But I guess he can go to professionals, right?

Mental health and The Failing System

Right? Well, this suggestion is most definitely debatable. Since the late 2000's, mental health funding has been cut by around 5.4%, leading to limited hospitals, resources, and staff, with the equivalent of 200 full-time mental health doctors having been cut. The workload is just simply too much for them to successfully handle. Since they are having to deal with serious cases that can lead to extreme self-harm and suicide, urgency is key. Nonetheless, only 14% of children waiting for treatment begin it within four weeks, and even a month can be too long for some. And for many this is the case, as a comprehensive study on mental health services in England claim that thousands have attempted to take their own life whilst on the waiting list for psychological treatment.

To put this further into perspective, hospital and mental health services are most necessary for cases in which people are sectioned under the 1982 Mental Health Act, where the most serious cases, where the patient is at high risk of seriously harming themselves or others, are acted upon. These services are so important because the cases have to be dealt with through extreme surveillance and caution. But, due to the immense shortage of staff, most people are only sectioned after they take action upon harmful thoughts, by which it can then be too late.

So, what else can we do?

There are a huge number of non-profit organisations which can end up making a huge difference to hundreds and thousands of lives. You can even get cheap clothing out of it by visiting charity shops such as 'Mind'! We can spread information on the current affairs within the world of Mental Health. You can get involved in petitions and even peaceful protests to demand change and so many more things! Talk to your friends about any ideas this article has given you and check up on them regularly, even the ones who seem the happiest! The little things really do matter!

But to just supply you with a little bit more hope about salvaging the future of the mental health services, the Government has announced that they will be investing 10's of millions of pounds in response to the spiking of mental illness as a result of the aftermath of lockdowns. Although it did take a literal global pandemic to bring about this change. It's better than nothing, I guess?!

The school have also introduced Mental Health First Aiders, so look out for a green badge quoting 'I have time to talk' if you'd rather talk to a student than a teacher!

If you would like to research and educate yourself further into this topic, visit <https://www.mind.org.uk> or <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health> or <https://youngminds.org.uk> or Mental health | Stonewall

Hotlines:

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): 1-800-950-6264

Or visit this link to access all numbers for specific disorders

Get help from a mental health charity helpline - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

People to talk to:

1-2-1 counsellor chat | Childline

Get urgent help (youngminds.org.uk)

Using this tool | Mind, the mental health charity - help for mental health problems

Top 10 UK Mental Health Charities | Flatmate HQ (idealfatmate.co.uk)

Petitions

Petition · Increase Mental Health Funding · Change.org

Petition · UK Parliament: Increase funding for NHS Mental Health Services · Change.org

Donate

Donate to the Mental Health Foundation | Mental Health Foundation

Donate | Mind, the mental health charity - help for mental health problems

Support Us | Stonewall

Written by Emily

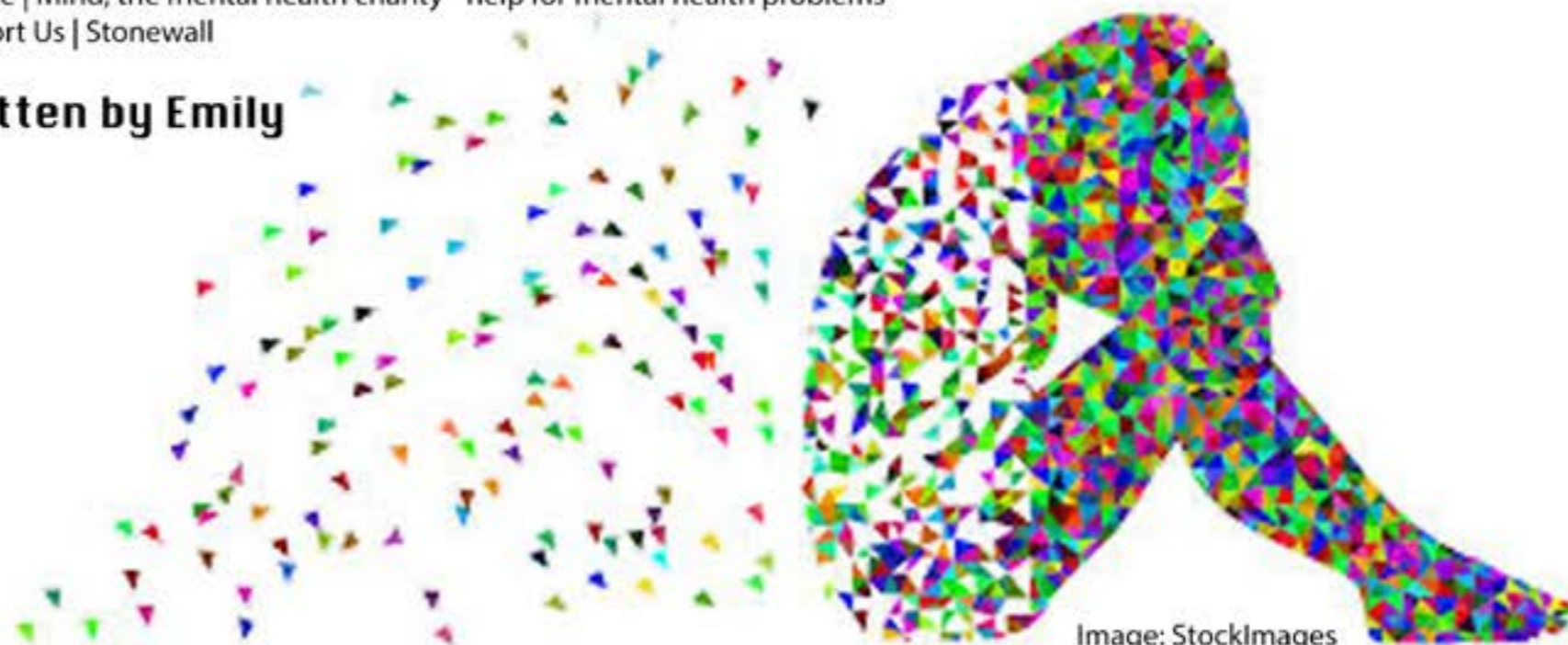


Image: StockImages

SARAH EVERARD: the increasing violence against women

I'm sure most of you reading will have heard of Sarah Everard, either in passing conversations around the time of her disappearance, or if you were following the case closely as it developed back in March 2021. However, in case you need a refresher, Sarah Everard was a 33-year-old marketing executive who disappeared near Clapham Common in South London on the evening of the 3rd of March 2021. Her disappearance made headlines across the country as police searched for her. One week later, 10th March, her body was found in a woodland in Kent and a police officer, Wayne Couzens, was arrested and charged with her kidnapping and murder. He is currently awaiting trial.

The Sarah Everard case achieved a lot of media attention and was a very high-profile case, but sadly violence towards women is not as unusual as it may seem.

Research from the Femicide Census organisation found that across the UK, 1,425 women were killed by men in the 10 years to 2018. In the same time span, approximately 290 men were killed by women, according to the Home Office Statistics. This means that every 3 days a woman is killed by a man, and 57% of the time, these women are killed by someone they know, which is an ex or current partner 32%. This compares to 39% of men who are killed by someone they know and only 2% of that is by an ex or current partner. This shows that while there is undeniably violence from the opposite sex on both ends of the spectrum, it is much worse for men killing or harming women than the other way around, especially as 90% of the time, the person killing someone is a man.

Some people, such as radical feminists, would argue the large amount of violence against women is a product of our patriarchal society and the fact that, as young children, boys are encouraged to be rough and act out because "that's just what boys do" which can lead to violent acts later in life. Although others, such as Functionalists, would argue it's just outliers in society committing the crimes, ones who don't choose to conform to society's accepted norms and values. That doesn't change the fact that those in power are not doing enough to stop the crime or help prevent it.

**“Every 3 days a
WOMAN
is KILLED by a
MAN”**

Following the Sarah Everard case, there was outrage at the lack of political intervention into the safety of women. Prime candidates for the London Mayorship made barely any promises to help prevent violence against women in London. The two leading candidates, Sadiq Khan from the Labour Party and Shaun Bailey from the Conservative Party, both made statements vowing to take action to help prevent VAWG [violence against women and girls] but since those statements in March, we have heard barely anything aside from a promise to add more streetlights.

And even worse, there was supposed to be a hustling (which is any political event where candidates are present e.g. speeches or debates) for the London mayoral elections which was specifically devoted to VAWG but only one candidate showed up, Mandu Reid of the Women's Equality Party [WEP]. What message does this send out? Schools could also do more to help by taking more time to educate pupils, both male and female, about issues such as consent, equality and what constitutes as sexual harassment. Recently an Ofsted report found that sexual harassment is not being acted upon effectively enough in schools. They have issued specific guidance, including recommending more training for teachers on what constitutes sexual harassment.

As statistics from the UN show, up to 97% of women aged 18-24 have been sexually harassed or worse in the UK. And while not every crime will be done by a man, it stands true that most crimes are done by man in this situation. The biggest problem is that some men don't even know they are harassing someone. They see a cat call or flirting even after having been turned down as acceptable, usually because they've never been taught otherwise. If everyone is taught at a young age what is and isn't acceptable, and that no means no, then I personally believe that we won't see the same statistics in the future.

(Article continued on next page)



Improved education would hopefully see a massive decline in the control of women, both in public and private spaces, something that sociologist and feminist Heidi Heidensohn explained in her Control Theory. Control theory states girls are controlled in every sphere of life, the public, the private and the workplace. At home they are controlled by fathers and male siblings. They must be home earlier than their brothers and have less time than boys when they are able to be free and not be watched. This control then shifts from male family to husbands as women grow older and get married. Some husbands may expect their wife to spend more time at home, care for the children and restrict when she sees friends or her money. While this is becoming less common, it's something that occurs in our society and is much more common than a wife restricting her husband. These are only some small examples of control theory; others include when in public spaces women must dress as to not "lure men in by looking like they want 'it'" or not walking alone at night.

In a more positive light, at least the review into sexual abuse and assault in colleges and secondary schools in the UK may lead to change. While the review has raised some less than positive results, it does mean that the government and the department of education is looking into the issue and will be introducing new laws and/or policies to help this issue. And it means that people are now listening and taking stories from students seriously, making schools a safer place for young students.

So, what can you do to help this issue? First off, you can write to your local politician about violence against women in your local area, asking them to speak out more about the issue both in general and in parliament. You can also attend protests and other scheduled events in your local area, provided it is safe to with COVID regulations still in place. Finally, the very least you can do is talk to your friends and family about the issue, opening a dialogue and raising awareness of the issue. If you need someone to talk to about anything raised in this article, please call: 0800 2000 247 - Women's Aid helpline 0800 802 9999 - Rape Crisis UK helpline

Bibliography and useful links if you would like to learn more:
WEP article and Sarah Everard Case
Homicide numbers and information
Info on woman and sexual assault
Info on woman, assault and murder
Data on trends in homicide
Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

“If everyone is taught at a young age what is and isn't acceptable, and that no means no, then I personally believe that we won't see the same statistics in the future”

-Aliysha

Image:nytimes.com

