

Mens rights forum proposal

Point one: the feminist society we feel is not doing enough

- Uni of Exeter Student Guild notes it is: “the students’ union for students at the University of Exeter's Streatham and St. Luke’s campuses. The Guild exists to represent the voice of the student body to the University and works to ensure that every student gets the most out of their time at Exeter.”
- Men do need to be provided with a forum, a forum which liberates them and provides them with sanctuary. Quiet men’s groups are able to tackle situations quietly and discreetly, there are groups in Exeter (like Male Journey) but to provide men with a voice on certain issues such as suicide.

Point two: Will give more attention to suicide problems

- Analysts also found that a record 134 students killed themselves in 2015. In the same year a record number of students with mental health problems dropped out of university. (Guardian)
- We would propose a fortnightly meet up for men to talk about their issues in a safe environment for people who can relate to each others sufferings.
- A core link to this is stress, and stress is known to be very high at university. In a 2016 survey of 1,112 employed men conducted by Opinion Leader for the Men’s Health Forum presents a picture of at least one in ten of the male workforce as significantly stressed. It was further noted by the Men’s Health Forum that 9% described themselves as severely stressed and 34% agreed or strongly agreed that they were “constantly feeling stressed or under pressure” and 11% strongly agreed.
- 82% of students suffer from stress and anxiety (The National Student + Unihealth) and over three quarters (76%) of students felt that more wellbeing support, support to fit the university life and ways to talk about their unhappiness would stop them from dropping out from university (UniHealth). 78% of students reported they had received health problems in the previous year (NUS + Unihealth)

Point 3: Patriarchy

- Patriarchy as a concept is seen as a something which is imposed by men on women. The Oxford definition is “A system of society or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family and descent is reckoned through the male line.
- The concept of masculinity itself is one of strength, this can be shown through what has happened in war, where masculinity monopolises violence. This is why men are forced into the military through the concept of patriarchy.
- This affects university students which can be shown through the high level of anxiety they face, through these earlier statistics, it does imply that men are affected by patriarchy at university negatively, as well as women. But a core faction which is furthermore affected is students on the autistic spectrum. Various studies show that the ration of autism affecting men and women ranges from 2:1 to 16:1