



**“Boys will
be Boys”**

***How Stereotypes in Childhood
Sow the Seeds of Gender
Based Violence & What We As
Adults Can Do About It***

Susie Heywood

Gender Friendly Scotland

**Look at her climbing that tree - no fear!
She should've been a boy!**

That's such a BOY thing!

Line up - boys at this side, girls at that side.

What's The Harm?

He's kicking me so hard - he's defo going to be a footballer!

That's not for girls!

Look at her pretty dress! She's gorgeous!

Shall I get you that in blue?

Boy Box

“Frogs and Snails”
Boisterous
Naughty
Active
Immature
Likes rough play
Gets into physical fights
Messy/Disorganised
Into sports
Don't cry
Spark of Genius
Dinosaurs, Construction,
Vehicles

Girl Box

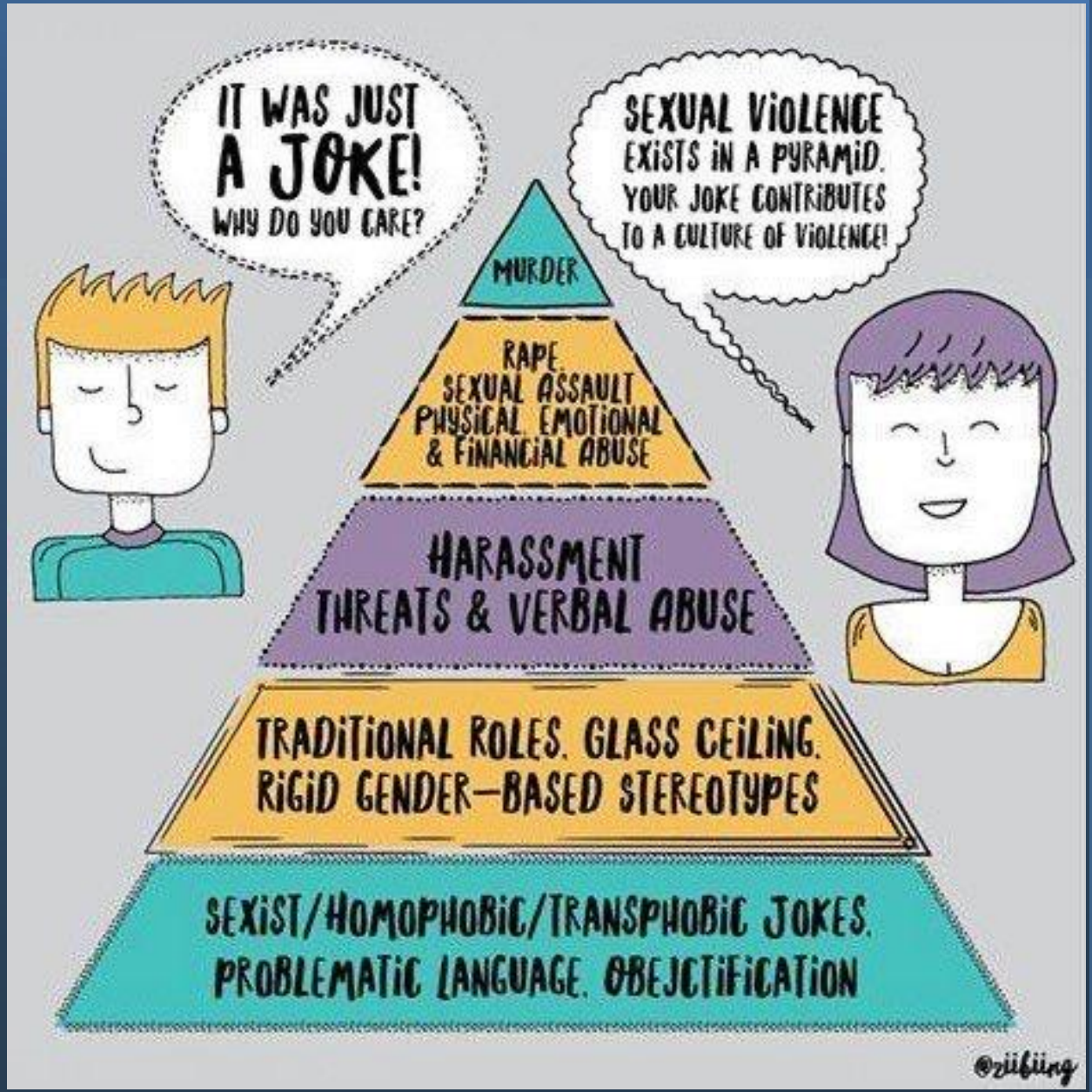
“Sugar and Spice”
Pretty / Likes sparkles
Passive
Mature
Moody/stroppy
Emotional
Well behaved
Tidy/Organised
Bitchy
Caring/nurturing
Hard Work & Perseverance
Unicorns, Baby Dolls,
Arts & Crafts

Man Box

Strong
Doesn't show emotion / cry
Dominant
Powerful
Tough
Violent
Breadwinner
Sporty/muscular
Male solidarity
Career before family
Out to Work
Head of the Family

Woman Box

Pretty
Sexy
Modest
Gentle
Submissive
Emotional
Dependent
Caring/nurturing
Gossip
Family before career
Stay at home
Housewife



@zibling

**“It’s probably
because
he likes you!”**



GCU

Glasgow Caledonian
University

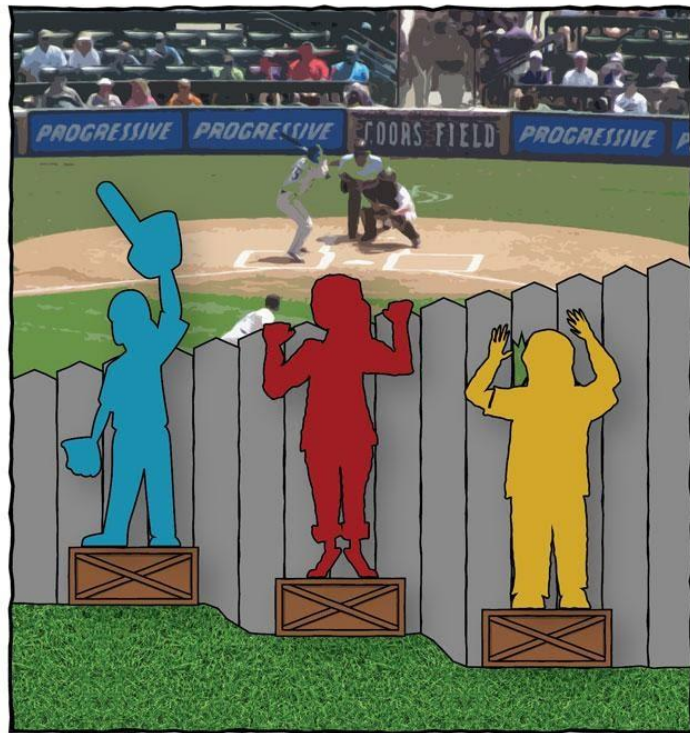
Ideas About Violence

(A study with 11-12 year olds in Glasgow
by Dr Nancy Lombard)



- Male violence as “natural”
- Clear definition of “real violence”
- Normalised amongst peers & siblings
- Relationship violence justified by heteronormative gender roles

So What Can We Do?



EQUALITY



EQUITY

WHEEL OF POWER/PRIVILEGE



Adapted from ccrweb.ca

@sylvriaduckworth



For all kids
(but especially
for boys...)

- **Representations of men, masculinity and a variety of gender expressions.**
- **Use resources to provoke conversations**
- **Create safe spaces for boys to talk.**
- **Discipline – what messages are you sending?**
- **Encourage help seeking.**
- **Support & encourage friendship.**
- **Teaching care & respect for everyone.**
- **Model healthy & respectful relationships.**



Fostering Activism....in the early years?

- **Play, play, play, play, play**
- **Develop character and values**
- **Teach empathy**
- **Promote teamwork & involving others**
- **Talk to them about important issues**
- **Teach them to question & challenge**



Thanks for listening!

Susie Heywood

Co-founder

Gender Friendly Scotland

GenderFriendlyScotland@gmail.com

@GFNScotland