

MEN Against

Sexist Shit



A.P.FIRSTLY,PLEASE CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT 'MEN AGAINST SEXIST SHIT' IS,WHAT IT AIMS TO ACHIEVE AND BY WHAT METHODS IT GOES ABOUT THOSE TASKS.

1) M.A.S.S (Men Against Sexist Shit) is a loose collective or group of blokes opposed to sexism. We aim to put the message round that (men) being sexist is shit. That men can live without fucking women and each other over. We are not into being 'right on' and/or being politically correct or any of that shit. It is in our interests (the working class) to get rid of sexism once and for all, since sexism helps make our lives shit, when we would be be much better off **IF WE FOUND WAYS OF IMPROVING OUR RELATIONSHIPS, GOT RID OF THE RICH AND STARTED LIVING OUR LIVES FOR OURSELVES.** We aim to do this by spreading the message in any way we can - **BY ALL MEANS POSSIBLE!**

RESIST

A.P. HOW MUCH HAS 'MEN AGAINST SEXIST SHIT' CHANGED SINCE IT WAS IN IT'S INFANCY AS A GROUP?

2) M.A.S.S began in late 1987 with about 12 blokes - a gut reaction to the mess we felt that this fucked up society was in. We talked and discussed how it felt living in such a screwed up sexist, racist, (anti-working class people) class society, where almost everyone is put down (treated as less than human) in some way or another - minus the stinking rich who hide behind their wealth and power.

After a while, we decided to put some of our ideas together in a booklet or two, so that we could share them with others. We also did this to encourage other blokes to look at their lives and how they treated each other and women, since we felt that women were getting more of a raw deal in this rich man's society than we were, because of the way that we behaved. Because men are taught that it is our role to keep women in there place, whether it is in the workplace, pub or bedroom, so that the rich can carry on living off our backs, by keeping us divided. That the most important thing we could do was to talk about how we really felt, sort ourselves out and learn how to live on our own two feet - without using women to do it for us. We have done both leaflets and booklets relating sexism to various issues such as rape, abortion, hunt saboteurs, punk rock gigs etc. Although we do not believe in treating sexism as a single issue OR a middle class 'in thing', which is why we are doing a new booklet called MEN, SEXISM & THE CLASS STRUGGLE.

A.P. DO YOU THINK YOU ARE REACHING A WIDE SECTION OF THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY MEN, WITH ANY OF YOUR PUBLICATIONS? ARE YOU PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED OR ARE YOU ATTRACTING NEW READERS/ACTIVISTS THROUGH YOUR WORDS?

3) No, although we do try to reach as many people as we possibly can. We have not and do not believe we could ever reach a wide section of the public, since we do have the resources or energy to do it all. Not that we would want to anyway! The society we live in is an extremely complex place. Doing away with this mess is going to involve a lot of hard work **AND A LOT OF FUN**. It is going to involve as many people as possible taking back control of their lives.

We do believe that we have had quite an impact with the booklets we have done up to now however, as they have helped other blokes think about how they live their lives, since we get a fair few letters telling us to **KEEP THE GOOD WORK UP!**

We don't believe that we are 'preaching to the converted', as I for one, don't believe anyone can be led if they don't want to be. No one thinks in a rigid way unless they are frightened of other people and the world around them. We all have minds of our own - no one can be converted. Good ideas need to be shared and developed further - all the way along the line.

A.P. HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED ANY CRITICISM AIMED AT WHAT YOU DO BE IT FROM MEN OR WIMMIN? WHAT SORT OF CRITICISM? HAVE YOU FELT IT TO BE JUSTIFIABLE?

4) We have had a fair amount of criticism I am glad to say, as we want others to know that we care about the stuff we do. We want blokes to question themselves and open up a bit and think about what they really want - to listen to what women are saying - because it all matters.

We don't mind answering any question that has a real purpose. Most of the criticism that we have had, has come from blokes who think we are putting men down. Once we have exchanged a few ideas most men realise that we are just trying to share our ideas with other men to get them to think about how they have been taught to behave, how this affects women and how this affects their own lives. We are not anti-men, we are anti-sexist, but it is important that we take steps to improve our lives by working together as equals. Men have more power in this society than women. It screws up our lives. Men put women down all the fucking time. We must take responsibility for the lives we live, if we are going to make them

relationships with both men and women, and get rid of the rich and the shitty society they force us to live in.

SYSTEM .SYSTEM.

System system your strangling me
I'm just anther small part
Of your machinery
Told what to think what to feel what to be
And no-one has a clue you do it so subtly

System system what a way to go
Your killing me slowly & i just don't know
You closed our eyes told us a pack of lies
So we don't even notice
We're not living our own lives

Well system system i don't need you
To tell me what i'm supposed to do
System system your fulla shit
Spent my whole life running round in it

System system fills me fulla dread
But i got big brother inside of my head
He showed me who was boss & i related to him
I wanted power too
Just like all the other men

System system made a man outa me
And i can use this to the best of my ability
We put the women down
When she try & have her say
And we pin the women down
when ever we wanna play

System system made it easy for me
But this ain't equality
System system your fulla shit
But we gotta change too cos we're full it



A.P. IN WHAT WAY CAN MEN GET INVOLVED WITH 'MEN AGAINST SEXIST SHIT'?

5) M.A.S.S is a very small organization. In fact there are only two of us involved at the moment. I suggest that the best way to fight sexism, is by becoming involved with trying to do your own thing. Look after the kids when you can. Form decent friendships/relationships with both men and women. Treat people as equals. Put out anti-sexist zines. Listen to what women are saying and what it means to you. Wear a Johnny. Make love not pain. Care about what you do. Care about yourself. Bring down the ruling class. Sort Nazi scum out. There are a 1000,000 ways to fight sexist shit!

A.P. DO YOU HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS? ARE WIMMIN ALLOWED TO COME ALONG? DO YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER SIMILAR GROUPS LIKE YOURSELVES ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY? IF NOT, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

6) We do not hold regular meetings, although we did meet once a fortnight, when we started but that was some time back. We decided that the meetings would be for men only, because we felt that we had to sort ourselves out **WITHOUT USING WOMEN**. We had to discover what it would be like to be 'men' without looking to women for support and comfort, as we felt that it was time we did it for ourselves. It is too easy for men to use women to satisfy our needs or as shoulders to cry on. **We are not interested in speaking for, or on behalf of women.** We felt it was important that we learnt to give each other support and comfort (as men), without using women!

A.P. HAVE YOU HAD ANY DEALINGS WITH THE RIOT GRRRL MOVEMENT BOTH HERE IN THE U.K. OR ABROAD? WHAT ARE THE GROUPS OPINIONS OF RIOT GRRRL? DO YOU SEE IT AS A POSITIVE MOVEMENT FOR GRRRLS/WIMMIN?

7) We have not had any dealings with the Riot Grrrl Movement. It sounds good.

A.P.AT ANY MEETING 'MEN AGAINST SEXIST SHIT' MAY HOLD,DO YOU GET A BROAD BAND OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER ETHNIC ORIGINS OR DO YOU FIND IT IS MOSTLY WHITE MALES THAT ATTEND?

8) All the men that have been involved with M.A.S.S have been white (anti racist). M.A.S.S was a totality voluntary group. No one was told to join or leave. Whilst there have been 'members' who were middle class, most of the men involved with the group have been working class. We were all involved in other things as well, from helping organizing raves to organizing creches.

A.P.WHAT ABOUT RELIGION?WHAT IS THE GROUPS FEELINGS ON RELIGIONS?I KNOW THAT IS A BROAD QUESTION,BUT FOR INSTANCE,CAN YOU RESPECT OR JUSTIFY THE WAY A WOMYN IS TREATED BY RELIGIONS WHICH PUT A STRANGLEHOLD ON HER AS A PERSYN?WHY DO YOU THINK WIMMIN WHO FOLLOW SUCH RELIGIONS CARRY ON FOLLOWING SUCH A SEXIST FAITH?

9) Religions are like governments - some are better than others - but all are shit. Most are sexist in one way or another. The BIG man in the sky sort of stuff. Believe what you like. If you feel free to believe in something you want too - without any hang ups or pushing it on others, then BELIEVE. All I would say as a ' member ' of M.A.S.S., is that the most important thing is to have **faith in yourself and other working class people**, rather than godlike creations.

A.P.WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS CONCERNING THE RAPE OF THE YOUNG TEENAGER RECENTLY IN THE NEWS AND THE 'SENTENCE',IF THAT'S THE RIGHT WORD,OF THE 15 YEAR OLD BOY WHO COMMITTED THE RAPE?HOW DO YOU FEEL RAPISTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH NO MATTER WHAT THEIR AGE?

10) **RAPE IS TOTAL SHIT. RAPE IS AN EXERCISE OF POWER AND CONTROL OVER ANOTHER PERSON, ACTED OUT THROUGH SEXUAL VIOLATION. RAPE IS VIOLENCE NOT SEX.**

Whatever newspapers report, they only do it to increase their sells and make more money. Some of the grim facts are:

that a women is raped every two minutes;

that one in three women will be sexually assaulted at some time in their life.

that the assailant will be an acquaintance, friend or relation (47%);

and that one in five women are survivors of child sex abuse.

A.P.CAN YOU EVER SEE A SOLUTION TO THE DECLINE/END OF THE RAPING OF WIMMIN?WILL MENS' LUST FOR POWER ALWAYS LEAVE WIMMIN FEELING THREATENED?CAN A CHANGE IN SOCIETIES ATTITUDES CHANGE THINGS?WHAT MORE DO YOU THINK MEN AND WIMMIN CAN DO?

11) Until men take responsibility for their lives - for their behaviour - for their actions, then rape will continue. It is up to us as men, to ask ourselves what we are really up to? Why do we tolerate the rape and abuse of our sisters? Why is it allowed to happen? Why do we treat women as the inferior sex? We all play a part in this shit. We all tolerate sexism? Its time we acted. Its time we gave our sisters some genuine support. We have got to be more honest and open with each other about ourselves and learn to live with respect for each other. We should all have the freedom to do what we want with our bodies, but not hurt or try to get one over on women just to make us feel good! **NO MEANS NO. One solution is to SPRAY IT LOUD! THERE ARE LOADS MORE!**

BEYOND SEXUALITY...ANSLIM
'BEYOND SEXUALITY'...Feminism, Men's Liberation, Gender & Power, Sexuality, Class, Economics.
Phew!, A title and a half that one but it does explain what this book is about. A libertarian and anarchist viewpoint are given here to the issue of sex and the different genders that there are. Written by 5 authors, 2 men and 3 women, with backgrounds from the anarchist, feminist, mens, lesbian and gay and bisexual movements, the book goes on to examine attitudes to sexuality between men and women from countries such as the UK, Norway, USA, Finland and Sweden. A lot of topics are written about and in some cases discussed such as Feminism & Anarchism in the UK, Pornography, Reasons to be Celibate, Violence Against Men and many more. All in all, a very interesting book to read and make you think.

Available from: ANSLIM, Box A, 34 Cowley Rd, Oxford, OX4 1HZ.
Other reading for men: Achilles Heel, PO Box 142, Sheffield, S1 3HG.

A.P. DOES ANARCHISM FIT INTO ANY OF YOUR IDEALS/ARGUMENTS AND IF SO, IN WHAT WAY?

12) **Anarchy is Freedom Government is Slavery** as they say. Well, we might not always call ourselves anarchists, as people often get confused by what 'anarchy' means - as it is such a broad label to wear, but we are into **FREEDOM** and supporting the class struggle. We believe in getting involved with different groups such as **CLASS WAR, THE DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT, THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS (PRISONER SUPPORT GROUP)**. They all have an important role to play in bringing about a better society.

A.P. A LOT OF SEXISM, TO ME ANYWAY, SEEMS TO STEM FROM FATHER TO SON. IT SEEMS A KIND OF 'TRADITION' THAT MEN ARE BROUGHT UP TO BELIEVE WOMEN ARE ONLY PUT ON THIS EARTH FOR ONE THING, TO LOOK AFTER MEN AND FAMILIES. DOES THIS 'TRADITION' SEEM TOO DEEP TO BREAK?

13) We are all taught that sexism is natural. Women are taught to play a submissive role - men are taught to play a dominant role. It is all shit! Patriarchal shit. It deeply affects our lives but it only benefits the rich and powerful. Shit that we can get rid of - **IF WE WORK TOGETHER.**

A.P. IN 'SEX AND MEN-AHOT POTATO', ONE OF YOUR PAMPHLETS, IT SAYS-'THE FAMILY IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE STATE'. CAN YOU PLEASE EMPHASISE MORE ON THAT?

14) The statement that 'The family is the foundation of the state' is used by the ruling class to maintain the belief or myth that everyone wants to live a normal 'straight' life! That everyone is supposed to play their own part in the rat race, whether or not you are into wasting your life helping the rich stay rich or not. Everyone is different, but how often are you allowed to be? Some men are gay, some women are lesbians - some people are bisexuals - some people are straight or hetero - but the state wants us all to be the same, so that no one rocks the boat and brings it all crashing down. The lie - that everyone is a straight narrow-minded greedy capitalist is passed down from generation to generation, by making out that everyone wants to be part of the mum, dad couple of kids set up. This is not to say that it's wrong or right to live a certain way. It just means that people may want to live on their own, with a lover of the same sex, with a group of friends - or any way they fucking like etc. Many men are so violent that their partners have to seek refuge to survive. The family is used as an example of how we should live to help keep the state strong.

A.P. WHAT IS 'MEN AGAINST SEXIST SHITS' POSITION ON PORNOGRAPHY? DO YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE BANNED OR CENSORED? WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON CENSORSHIP? DO YOU THINK THERE WOULD BE MORE RAPES COMMITTED IF PORNOGRAPHY WAS BANNED OR IS IT A MYTH?

15) Pornography makes money. Pornography makes profits by showing women as passive victims. Pornography IS used to hurt women. It cannot be banned or censored however, as this would only push it further underground. It would be better to make good pornography which shows (different) people enjoying sex, whether or not they are men or women, gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight or big or small. Pornography can be used to make sex more fun. M.A.S.S is not an anti-sex organization. We do not believe in promoting morality. Sex should be fun. We should not be forced to feel ashamed of our needs, feelings or bodies!

A.P.ON HOMOSEXUALITY, WHY DO MEN FEEL SO THREATENED BY SEEING TWO OTHER MEN TOGETHER? WILL HOMOSEXUALS EVER BE TREATED EQUALLY? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S POLICY OF ALLOWING HOMOSEXUALS INTO THE ARMY?

16) IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE HAS THE FREEDOM TO DISCOVER FOR THEMSELVES WHAT MAKES THEM HAPPY - as long as they don't hurt anyone else. Whether or not they fancy someone of the opposite sex, their own, or both! We are all attracted to one another at different levels. 'Straight' men feel threatened by gay men and lesbians because it makes them feel insecure - because they will not face the fact that they may also have feelings for members of their own sex.

I think president Clinton is an egoistic shithead. We should get rid of armies - they kill people!

We are people living in the world of property relationships.



a world of sharp class contradictions.



and of an individualistic morality.



We still live and think under the heavy hand of an unavoidable loneliness of spirit.



Man experiences this "loneliness" even in towns full of shouting, noise and people.



even in a crowd of close friends and work-mates.



Because of their loneliness, men are apt to cling to illusions about finding a soul-mate from among the members of the opposite sex.



They see sly Eros as the only means of charming away, if only for a time, the gloom of inescapable loneliness.



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A.P.THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD,PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO.

17) I would like to add: That if you don't like yourself, don't always blame others (although the ruling class are to blame for 99.99999% of the shit we live in) - look at yourself - take some responsibility for yourself and your actions!

ITS TIME WE STOP SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE RULING CLASS AND SUPPORTED THE INTERESTS OF EACH OTHER - OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE WORKING CLASS.

CHEERS FOR YOUR TIME,
THE M.A.S.S. POSSE

BOX 25,
52 CALL LANE,
LEEDS LS1 6DT
W YORKS.

MEN AGAINST SEXIST SHIT MERCHANDISE:

Sex And Men...40p plus p&p.

Men Speaking Out On Men And Sexism No 1....35p plus p&p.

Men Speaking Out On Men And Sexism No 2....35p plus p&p.

'No Means No Rape Is Violence not SEX'patches(with design)...40p plus p&p.

Men Sexism and The Working Class Struggle...40p plus p&p.