

**THE
‘S’
WORD**

SCREENING NOTES

GENDER MATTERS IN SECTARIANISM

It is a challenge to bring women into the discussion about sectarianism in Scotland. Sectarianism is framed, in the media, by policymakers, and in the academic research, as taking place within male-dominated spheres such as football. This idea that sectarianism is just “men behaving badly” means that women can take some time to talk about the distinctive ways that sectarianism affects them.

Engender’s work over the last eighteen months is an initial contribution to the work to overcome barriers to understanding what sectarianism means to women, and how they act and are acted upon within the context of sectarianism. We have been creating spaces across Scotland where women could come together to talk about sectarianism, and its impact on them and their lives.

This film is part of that work.

The Film

The film was produced by three young women, Gaby Renehan, Lorraine Monaghan and Najma Abukar, working with Urbancroft Films based at Glasgow Film City. It was made using a participatory process designed to enable these young women to explore different perspectives on sectarianism over a number of months, while building their skills in documentary film-making at the same time.

The film explores the different views and experiences of sectarianism of women living in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, as well as charting the journey of the three young women as their own perceptions of sectarianism are challenged.

We hope that as you follow Gaby, Lorraine and Najma through the film you will join them in exploring your own thoughts, attitudes, and perspectives on women and sectarianism. We would invite you to think critically about the prevailing perceptions of women’s experience of sectarianism in Scotland.

You can see more about the project, download our reports and share this film on Engende’s website: www.engender.org.uk/content/projects-sectarianism

Questions

Below are some questions to help guide your thinking about the film – they can be used by individuals or as part of group work.

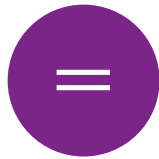
- Why do you think people normally talk about sectarianism as an issue which only affects men?
- Did this film make you think differently about women and sectarianism? How?
- Lorraine, Najma and Gaby (the three young filmmakers) found it very difficult to persuade women to speak with them about sectarianism. Why do you think that is?
- The film raises the problem of ‘toxic masculinity’ (the view that men have to be aggressive, dominant and obsessed with competition) contributing to sectarianism. Do you think this is a problem? How can men and women work to challenge this?
- Why do you think that so little work has been done to study the impact of sectarianism on women?
- In Engender’s work speaking to women across Scotland, many said that women should be more involved in projects and institutions which are trying to stop sectarianism. How do you think this could be achieved? Are there any reasons why women might not be able to participate in some institutions or projects?
- In the film, Angela Haggerty talks about the role of the media in perpetrating sectarian attitudes. Do you agree with her? What do you think the media could do to be more responsible in its reporting of sectarian issues?
- Many of the women in the film spoke about the links between sectarianism and traditions or culture. Can you think of any other examples where tradition or culture has led to discrimination?

Resources

Engender has produced a number of resources on sectarianism, including a toolkit to help organisations who are delivering anti-sectarian work. You can find all of this at: www.engender.org.uk/sectarianism



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