

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
Tuesday 27th October

No More Exclusions responds to unfounded claims it supports sexual violence

On Monday 26 October it was claimed on a blog that abolitionist education pressure group [No More Exclusions](#) [1] is “willing to tolerate sexual assault”. This was based on an [FAQ](#) [2] produced by NME last summer on why and how educators can argue for alternatives to school exclusions.

This blog was then shared by a number of twitter users who amplified this claim. Simultaneously, the NME website was also taken down by a virus. It is not clear where this virus originated from, but it appears to have been the result of a targeted attack.

The attacks on the organisation come at a time when an NME group - the Coalition of Anti-Racist Educators (CARE) and the Black Educators Alliance are mounting a [legal challenge](#) to the government’s Sex and Relationship Guidance which they believe will suppress progressive education.

No More Exclusions has highlighted that exclusions are an ineffective tool to deal with all forms of violence, including sexual violence. The forceful removal of children from their education through exclusions can also cause further harm and violence in the future. In September, NME, together with a coalition of educators, students, parents, activists and politicians, called for a total moratorium on school exclusions for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

No More Exclusions spokesperson Zahra Bei said: “We are disappointed to see bloggers attempting to misrepresent the position of No More Exclusions”.

Bei said: “No More Exclusions stands against sexual violence and all forms of violence. Some of us are survivors of sexual violence ourselves and we stand in solidarity with all survivors of sexual violence”.

“We believe our “critics” are acting in bad faith and attempting to misrepresent both our position and statistical evidence. We know that excluding children doesn’t solve the problem of sexual violence in schools, it just moves it around. When 59% of young women aged 13-21 say that they have experienced some form of sexual harassment at school during the past year it is clear that the current approach isn’t working for anyone. [2]

Bei added: “Fighting for a just alternative to school exclusions does not amount to condoning behaviour that has previously been used to justify exclusions.”

No More Exclusions remains committed to a world without exclusion, where young people are empowered to learn in environments free from all kinds of violence.

Notes

[1] [No More Exclusions](#) is a Black-led grassroots abolitionist group founded by educators, working to abolish school exclusions and to bring about free quality inclusive education for all. NME's abolitionist stance on school "discipline" is about dismantling the cycles of punishment, harm and exclusion upon which the school-to-prison pipeline is founded, with a particular focus on racial justice.

[2] For the details of this call, please see NME's letter to the Secretary of State for education at <https://nomoreexclusions.com/moratorium-on-school-exclusions/>

[3] Source: <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/campaign/metoo-at-school/>

Contact

<https://nomoreexclusions.com/contact-us/>