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Speech given at Bristol Reclaim the Night, 18 November 2011,
Portland Square.

I met a boy in a school the other day that told me it was ok to be violent towards women because a woman needed to know her place. Abuse isn't just about adults, it is increasingly about teenagers too.

1 in 4 girls have experienced violence in an intimate relationship

More shockingly, **1 in 3** have experienced sexual violence

While we know **1 in 6** boys have also exp violence, the effects are worse for girls.

Girls experience abuse **more often**, what they experience is **more severe** and it has a **greater level of negative impact** on their welfare.

This is all taken from the **NSPCC and Bristol Uni** report into the issue and they more recently found that abuse increases for young disadvantaged teenagers.

At 4YP Bristol we offer advice and information to 13-24 year olds about relationships and sexual health, both through our website and at over 100 4YP points across the city.

There is also prevention work being done across the city including trying to improve relationships and sex education.

The 4YP brand is managed by NHS Bristol but is part of a multiagency group of workers and organisations from across the city. 4YP is in schools, in youth centres, in GP surgeries and more, and our hope is to reduce stigma around this topic area and increase young people's access to unbiased, confidential help and advice.

As part of our work we provide teen abuse training for professionals working with young people offering practical advice on how to do prevention work around this topic area.

And we run campaigns. We're currently touring round secondary schools asking young people to make a stand against teen abuse by pledging that they...

Will ask for help if it happens to them

Won't ignore abuse if it happens to a friend

And won't ever be abusive towards a partner

While this isn't going to stop the problem in itself, we hope it goes some way to raise awareness of the fact that domestic violence isn't just 'domestic' and isn't just about adults and that it is not ok for it to happen in a relationship, whatever age you are.

Join the voices of people across Bristol and pledge on our website today – 4ypbristol.co.uk.