



# The State of GENDER EQUALITY for U.S. Adolescents

## #MeToo

In 2018, Plan International USA, an international organization that advances girls' equality and children's rights, commissioned leading non-partisan public opinion research firm, PerryUndem, to conduct an extensive public opinion study of adolescents, ages 10 to 19, on issues and experiences related to gender equality. The goal of the research is to provide a resource for policymakers, media, and others who want to understand how adolescents feel about gender equality and what shapes their views, as well as inform solutions to achieve gender equality in the U.S.

### One piece of the survey explored adolescents' exposure to and the influence of the #MeToo movement in shaping perceptions around gender equality. Key findings include:

- While seven in 10 survey respondents (71 percent) have heard of the #MeToo movement, only one in three girls (36 percent) and 28 percent of boys say a parent has talked to them about how to prevent or stop sexual harassment as a result of the #MeToo movement.
- About one in five girls (23 percent) and boys (21 percent) says a teacher has talked to them about how to prevent or stop harassment as a result of #MeToo.
- About half of girls (55 percent) says the #MeToo movement has made them feel like they could tell someone if they were sexually harassed or assaulted, but fewer boys (34%) say the same.
- Black adolescents (48 percent) are more likely than Latino (30 percent) or White (26 percent) adolescents to say a parent talked to them about how to prevent or stop sexual harassment as a result of the #MeToo movement.

### Adolescents were also asked why they think some girls do not report things like boys making unwelcome sexual comments and sexual jokes. Among girls, the most common answers are:

- Not believing reporting comments will make a difference (51 percent).
- Not being sure if the comments are serious enough to report (48 percent).



53% ARE WORRIED PEOPLE WILL NOT LIKE THEM



48% ARE WORRIED THEY WILL NOT BE BELIEVED

THE FINDINGS ABOVE MIRROR SOME OF THE REASONS WOMEN DO NOT REPORT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE, ACCORDING TO A 2018 VOX/MORNING CONSULT POLL.

### Boys and girls not having a parent or teacher talk to them about how to prevent or stop sexual harassment as a result of the #MeToo movement is correlated with:

- Disagreeing that there should be equal numbers of men and women who are leaders in work, politics, and life.
- Not perceiving sexism as a problem in our society.
- Being more comfortable with women having traditional roles in society, such as caring for children and family.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STUDY AND PLAN'S CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY IN THE U.S., VISIT [PLAN4GIRLS.ORG](http://PLAN4GIRLS.ORG).