**[Your address]**

**[Your telephone number]**

**[Your email address]**

**[Date]**

Dear **[insert name of headteacher]**,

**Re: Tackling sexism and sexual harassment in school**

I am the **[parent/carer]** of **[child's name]**. I am writing to enquire about what action the school is taking to combat sexism - including sexual harassment, sexist language and gender stereotyping. I am also writing to request that **[name of school]** adopts a whole school approach to tackling sexism.

Sexism in schools is widespread throughout the UK. Research commissioned by the National Education Union and UK Feminista, and undertaken by the University of Warwick, found:

* Over a third (37%) of female students in mixed-sex secondary schools have been sexually harassed while at school, yet just 14% of students who have experienced sexual harassment reported it to a teacher.
* 64% of teachers in mixed-sex secondary schools hear sexist language in school on at least a weekly basis.
* A quarter of all secondary school teachers say they witness gender stereotyping and discrimination in their school on a daily basis, and a further quarter say they witness it on a weekly basis.

The research also revealed deeply concerning findings on the current capacity of schools to adequately respond to and prevent sexism in the classroom:

* Over half (58%) of primary and secondary school teachers have never received any training to recognise and tackle sexism.
* Just 17% of girls at mixed-sex secondary schools think their school does enough to stop sexism.

The full research findings are detailed in the report, *"It's just everywhere": A study on sexism in schools and how we tackle it*, available at www.ukfeminista.org.uk

Please can you confirm what action **[name of school]** is currently taking, and any plans it has in place, to combat sexual harassment, sexist language and gender stereotyping?

In order to prevent and adequately respond to sexism, the National Education Union and UK Feminista recommend that schools take a 'whole school approach'. This means that action to combat sexism is sustained, comprehensive, guided by an over-arching framework and involves all members of the school community. The core measures involved in implementing a whole school approach to combating sexism are: 1) put in place a framework - including an Anti-Sexism Action Plan; 2) train and equip teachers; and, 3) support students to report incidents and take positive action for change.

A whole school approach to tackling sexual harassment is recommended by the Department for Education and Parliament's Women and Equalities Committee. Additionally, schools are required under section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to “eliminate discrimination”, “advance equality of opportunity” and “foster good relations” between girls and boys.

Guidance on taking a whole school approach - including template policies, classroom activities and training opportunities - is available on UK Feminista's online school resource hub: www.ukfeminista.org.uk

Please can you clarify what action **[name of school]** is currently taking to tackle sexism? Please can you also confirm whether **[name of school]** will develop a whole school approach to combating sexism and sexual harassment?

**[If you would like to request a meeting with the headteacher, insert the request here.]**

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Best wishes,

**[Your signature]**