**Terms Defined**

1. **Benevolent Sexism** is a form of paternalistic prejudice (treating a lower status group as a father might treat a child) directed toward women. Prejudice is often thought of as a dislike or antipathy toward a group. Benevolent sexism, however, is an affectionate but patronizing attitude that treats women as needing men’s help, protection, and provision. Benevolent sexist attitudes suggest that women are purer and nicer than men, but also mentally weaker and less capable. Behaviors that illustrate benevolent sexism include over-helping women, using diminutive names (e.g., “sweetie”) toward female strangers, or “talking down” to women. Although benevolent sexism might seem trivial, patronizing behaviors can be damaging. <https://psychology.iresearchnet.com/social-psychology/prejudice/benevolent-sexism/>
2. **Hostile Sexism** Hostile sexism is an antagonistic attitude toward women, who are often viewed as trying to control men through feminist ideology or sexual seduction. <https://secure.understandingprejudice.org/asi/faq>

*Hostile Sexism Items:*

"Most women fail to appreciate all that men do for them."

"Women seek to gain power by getting control over men."

"Most women interpret innocent remarks or acts as being sexist."

*Benevolent Sexism Items:*

"Women should be cherished and protected by men."

"Many women have a quality of purity that few men possess."

"A good woman ought to be set on a pedestal by her man."

1. **Patriarchy** is a [social system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_system) in which [men](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men) hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, [moral authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_authority), [social privilege](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_privilege) and control of property. Some patriarchal societies are also [patrilineal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrilineal), meaning that property and title are inherited by the male lineage. Patriarchy is associated with a set of ideas, a patriarchal [ideology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ideology) that acts to explain and justify this dominance and attributes it to inherent natural differences between men and women. Sociologists tend to see patriarchy as a social product and not as an outcome of innate differences between the sexes and they focus attention on the way that [gender roles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_role) in a society affect power differentials between men and women.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarchy#cite_note-:2-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarchy#cite_note-Henslin-2)

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/acquired-spontaneity/201708/why-patriarchy-is-not-about-men>

1. **Covering** Introduced by sociologist Erving Goffman, covering is the concept of consciously changing the impression one is making to hide an ‘outsider' identity. An individual may have a visible or invisible stigma. For example, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was careful to conceal his use of a wheelchair from the public eye. Both examples show someone trying to pass as a different person. Professor Yoshino claims that covering appears across four dimensions:
   1. Changing one’s appearance to match mainstream culture, such as someone with a speech impediment keeping silent to circumvent attention
   2. Distancing one’s affiliation with an identity by avoiding stereotypical behaviors
   3. Refraining from advocating for a group they belong to, including someone of Chinese descent not correcting others who make jokes about Asian stereotypes
   4. Avoiding any association with other group members; for example, an individual with cancer not publicly joining a cancer support group so their competence isn’t questioned <http://www.vergys.com/covering-in-the-workplace/>
2. **Sexual Harassment** It is unlawful to harass a person because of that person’s sex. Harassment can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature. Harassment can include offensive remarks about a person’s sex. It is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general. Although the law doesn’t prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in the victim being fired or demoted. The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer. <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/sexual_harassment.cfm>
3. **Sexual assault is any type of sexual activity or contact that you do not consent to.** Sexual assault can happen through physical force or threats of force or if the attacker gave the victim drugs or alcohol as part of the assault. Sexual assault includes rape and sexual coercion. In the United States, one in three women has experienced some type of sexual violence.[1](https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/sexual-assault-and-rape/sexual-assault#references) If you have been sexually assaulted, it is not your fault, regardless of the circumstances. <https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/sexual-assault-and-rape/sexual-assault>
4. **Sexual abuse** is unwanted sexual activity, with perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage of victims not able to give consent. Most victims and perpetrators know each other. Immediate reactions to sexual abuse include shock, fear or disbelief. Long-term symptoms include anxiety, fear or post-traumatic stress disorder. While efforts to treat sex offenders remain unpromising, psychological interventions for survivors — especially group therapy — appears effective. <https://www.apa.org/topics/sexual-abuse>
5. **#Metoo, #Churchtoo** The ‘me too.’ movement was founded in 2006 to help survivors of sexual violence find pathways to healing. The vision was to address both the dearth in resources for survivors of sexual violence and to build a community of advocates, driven by survivors, who will be at the forefront of creating solutions to interrupt sexual violence in their communities. <https://metoomvmt.org/about/#history>

#ChurchToo is a movement that started on social media to bring to light the sexual harassment, abuse, and assault that happens within churches/faith communities. It is a collective story of individuals who have been harmed. It is also the story of the failure of religious communities and institutions. <https://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/churchtoo>