

“I Touch Girls to Feel What They Are Selling”: Sexual Harassment of Female Learners in South African Schools

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ABSTRACT This article focuses on sexual harassment of female learners by male learners as a dynamic of school violence in the South African secondary schools. This research is based on a mixed method research approach and data was collected by means of questionnaires, focus groups and in-depth interviews. Participants were asked to recall incidents of violence either committed by them or they were subjected to in the school by fellow learners and/ or teachers. The study indicated that while the female learners suffer sexual harassment from male learners it is not reported due to fear; sexual harassment is excused as boys being boys, and/ or female learners having to enduring the humiliation.