

Student 6: High Not Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

The SlutWalk is a recent conflict that involves a Toronto police officer and people all around the world. SlutWalk is a campaign to do with victim blaming which was caused by a comment made by Constable Michael Sanguinetti. On January the 24th 2011 at a safety forum Michael said “You know, I think we are beating around the bush here. I have been told I’m not supposed to say this, however, women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimised.” This sparked outrage and SlutWalk was organised by Heather Jarvis to raise awareness of the rights of women.

Questions: What is the SlutWalk campaign and how did it come about?

What are the differing points of views, values and perspectives that relate to the social action?

What social actions have/were taken done to co-inside with the SlutWalk campaign?

The SlutWalk campaign was itself a social action. Men and women around the world have marched to raise awareness that women should be able to wear whatever they like. The marches were to raise awareness about victim blaming. The organisers stated “We are tired of being oppressed by slut shaming; of being judged by our sexuality and feeling unsafe as a result.” The first march took place in Toronto, Canada. It was expected that 200-300 people would turn up, but in fact 3000 did. The event then went global and over 40 countries introduced to the SlutWalk marches to highlight issues of equality and no victim blame.

Another social action associated with the SlutWalk campaign was the Facebook campaign on Facebook the SlutWalk organisers explains the focus of the campaign, why there is conflict, why people should join and what they can do to help the campaign. Almost 32, 000 people have liked the Facebook page. One girls said that from Facebook she found out about the campaign and then went and protested in a march. She said “We need people to understand about this issue. We need people to participate. I am grateful that the postings were up on Facebook as this is the best way to get young people involved.”

Dr. Gail Dines, a professor of sociology and women’s studies at Wheelock College in Boston and Wendy J Murphy an adjunct professor of sexual violence at New England Law Boston have a point of view on SlutWalk. They believe as women, that the protest is demanding the wrong thing by calling the protesters sluts. They said “Women need to take to the streets – but not for the right to be called a slut. Women should be fighting for liberation from culturally imposed myths about their sexuality that encourage gendered violence.” As feminists they both value equality.

Heather Jarvis is the cofounder of SlutWalk and an advocate for equality for women. She has a point of view on SlutWalk. She believes that action was needed to stop victim blaming. She said “We are fed up... and we wanted to do something other than just be angry.”

Reliability: All of my information was off the internet, with many from online blogs, news articles and websites. This means that my information may not be 100% reliable. Some of the information would be reliable like the guardian newspaper site. This is a well-respected newspaper and has won many awards for their stories and information.