

A BOLD VOICES PARENTS TOOLKIT

HOW TO TALK TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT ANDREW TATE

Andrew Tate may have been **banned** and deplatformed from social media, but his message and his values live on. At Bold Voices we deliver talks, workshops and peer mentor training to staff and secondary school students aged 11-18 to equip them with the skills to **talk about** and **challenge gender inequality, gender-based violence and misogyny**. Back in July we heard Tate's name mentioned in every session we delivered; now we're back in schools after Tate **blew up in the public eye** over the summer, and we've found that nothing has changed. Young people still have questions about Tate's messages, his values, and his deplatforming, and if we sit back and hope he'll be forgotten, we not only risk allowing his views to fester and develop in the minds of young people,

but we miss a valuable opportunity to open up the wider conversation of the culture of gender-based violence and how we can tackle it. We understand that these conversations can feel polarising, awkward and scary - that's why we've put together this toolkit to equip you with the **practical skills** you need to open up conversations around Tate and everything he represents with the young people in your life.

Please pass this toolkit on to anyone who might find it useful, and reach out to us at **hello@boldvoices.co.uk** or visit our website at **www.boldvoices.co.uk** to find out more about our work and how we can support you in your school communities!



WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT TATE

Note on terminology: For the purposes of this toolkit we will be using binaried gendered language (boys, girls). This is not to lend credibility, power or space to the idea of a gender binary, or to exclude trans, intersex and non-binary folks from this conversation, rather it is to acknowledge that our society is structured in this way, and we must recognise this before we can disrupt and dismantle it.



1. We need to acknowledge that Tate is reaching a very young audience of teenage boys - even if we think 'it's definitely not our kids'



2. It isn't about Tate as an individual - he is a current manifestation of a pre-existing culture - it's not enough to just hope he will be forgotten



3. His words and ideas are influential and will be validating harmful ideas to impressionable young people; he is dangerous and has incited violence



4. There is a clear link between his ideas and messaging with **incel culture**



5. We need to find alternative role models for young men and alternative positive versions of masculinity



6. It's important to disrupt his ideas by naming them - misogyny, hate speech, racism etc



7. It's an opportunity to prepare young people to develop a critical lens and start understanding that they have agency in whether they take part in this culture of gender-based violence or challenge it



8. It's not just gender - Tate also spreads racism, homophobia and unhealthy ideas around mental health



9. It can lead to broader conversations about gender-based violence - this is a springboard for discussion and an opportunity to open up channels of communication



10. Tate positions feminism as a threat to men - reinforcing the belief that anyone who challenges sexism and misogyny is attacking men



PREPARE TO TALK ABOUT TATE

Objectives:

1. **Knowledge and Consciousness** → creating awareness about where Tate has come from, the culture which he participates in and the harm he causes
2. **Critical Thought** → not telling young people that it's bad and they are wrong to like him - rather, giving them the skills to decide for themselves
3. **Agency** → empowering young people to feel agency - helping them to understand that passivity is an active (complicit) choice, but that there is also the choice to challenge
4. **Open Dialogue** --> being transparent about why it's difficult to challenge this culture, and exploring and learning about the topic together



PREPARE TO TALK ABOUT TATE

Tate models himself as the 'alternative to woke culture' - **it's important to not engage with this 'us vs. them' discourse**, where challenges to sexism and misogyny are perceived as a threat to masculinity. Instead, we want to create a space where we can critically discuss these issues without anyone feeling as though they're going to be 'cancelled' or having to double down on their views to defend themselves.

Here are some tips on how to set up a friendly but challenging space to hold these conversations:



Body language and tone - keep the discussion light, casual and friendly. Consider changing the space and change your body language (foster a sense of equality). Try striking up the conversation in a space without direct eye contact, when driving, walking or watching TV to avoid feelings of confrontation.



Centre **empathy** and **challenge** - all views are welcome but we must all be open to being challenged. Don't stoke **cancel culture**. Avoid the "bad apple" view and move towards **collective responsibility**.



Little and often - less intense, less awkward, less pressure! Come back to this topic, this is a stimulus and can be used as a template for how to have and continue these conversations into the future.



Discuss **healthy alternatives** to current role models and narratives around masculinity.



Be proactive not reactive - bringing up the conversation organically rather than in reaction to a comment or event will set the tone as objective and minimise defensiveness.



Don't panic or react with shock - prepare yourself emotionally - it might be shocking or enraging to hear some views coming from teenagers, however reacting with shock or anger can shut down conversation.



No right or wrong narratives - inspire agency by offering information and letting them think about it critically, setting up the space as a conversation and not a debate.



Don't ban social media - misses the fact that social media is a vehicle and not a root cause.



PREPARE TO TALK ABOUT TATE

"This didn't happen
in my day..."
"No one I know
would do that..."

GET INFORMED

Understand the key messages so that you can discuss Tate without having to engage directly with the content (or accidentally spread it).

This article provides a good overview.



CONTEXTUALISE

Understand what a 'culture of gender-based violence' **looks like**.

Look at how gender-based violence

manifests for young people today.



GET CLOSER

Resist the urge to distance yourself.

Consider that the digital sphere is a new vehicle for an old problem.

Self-reflect on where you play a part in the culture and model this to young people!



UNDERSTAND THE APPEAL

- ✘ For some, Tate is an "antidote" to woke culture and through this he has provided a role model for groups of young men who don't see themselves reflected in media.
- ✘ He provides a model for an aspirational standard of masculinity that values money, being a 'player', being dominant in relationships, being strong and defiant.
- ✘ Young boys respect his work ethic and his possessions - they see him as a role model for success. Some of what he says seems legitimate and positive - for example not quitting.
- ✘ His narrative relies on scapegoating and avoiding feelings of guilt as gender-based violence conversations become more public.
- ✘ His content is everywhere - his followers help spread his message on social media and **algorithms** target his content towards young boys.



HAVING THE CONVERSATION

PRACTICAL TIPS:

Ask Questions

(with open answers)

Have you heard of him? What do you think? What do your friends think?

Address the connection between language and action

Name It

Explain concepts like misogyny, call out homophobia etc.

Situate in a wider culture

Where else do we see views like this?

Think Big

What are the consequences of these views being so pervasive? does language lead to action?

Model Critical Thinking

"I can see that he's appealing in some ways, he makes lots of money, but have you thought about the ways in which he's harmful? What is the downside of the expectation that men should make lots of money?"

Leave the Conversation Open

This conversation should be had many times over, ask more questions, bring it up again, allow space for confusion, reflection, and changing minds.

Model Empathy

Weigh up different perspectives, consider how people may feel about certain statements or views.

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- What messages does Andrew Tate give us about men and women and their roles in society?
- If we separate his positive messages from negative - are there any downsides to the positives? What could be negative about aspiring to make lots of money, date lots of women, never feel emotions?
- What do you know about gender inequality? Why do you think it exists?
- Have you heard of misogyny before?
- Where else are we seeing messages like these? Think about media and pop culture.
- How does it make you feel? How do you think it makes other people feel?
- Is there a chance someone hearing these messages would take them more literally than you? Does that change how you feel about it?



QUOTES FROM ANDREW TATE TO USE AS A STIMULUS

! Warning symbol next to quotations which are especially explicit.

! *"The masculine perspective is you have to understand that life is war. It's a war for the female you want. It's a war for the car you want. It's a war for the money you want. It's a war for the status. Masculine life is war. If you're a man who doesn't view life as war, you're going to lose.*

Society's expectations of men is much higher than the societal expectations of females."

"The hallmark of a real man is controlling himself, controlling his emotions, and acting appropriately regardless of how he feels."

"I have everything every man has ever dreamed of. I got a big mansion, I got a super cars, I can live anywhere I want, I got unlimited women, I go where I want... I do anything I want all the time. So, I'm an amazing role model."

*"Females are the ultimate status symbol... People think I'm running around with these h*es because I like sex. That's nothing to do with the reason why I'm running around with these b*tches. I got these b*tches just so everyone knows who the don is."*

"I think the women belong to the man."

"Depression isn't real."

! *"It's bang out the machete, boom in her face, and grip her by the neck. Shut up bitch."*

"[I am] absolutely a misogynist."

"I'm a realist and when you're a realist you're sexist. There's no way you can be rooted in reality and not be sexist."

"[Women are] intrinsically lazy."

"[There is] no such thing as an independent female."

! *"If I have responsibility over her, then I must have a degree of authority [...] You can't be responsible for a dog if it doesn't obey you."*



WHO WE ARE

Bold Voices is an award-winning social enterprise preparing and empowering school communities to recognise and tackle gender inequality and gender-based violence. Our education is for young people aged 11-18, staff and parents.

Founded in 2018, Bold Voices has been delivering education on gender inequality and gender-based violence in schools, universities, start ups and corporates across the UK and internationally for four years.

In the last year Bold Voices has worked with over 20,000 students and young people and 2000 staff and parents to deliver critical education on these issues.

After young people participated in Bold Voices workshops...

83% **KNOWLEDGE**
could name at least five different forms that inequality takes.

92% **CRITICAL THOUGHT**
acknowledged that gender equality is a pressing issue in the world today.

87% **COURAGE TO SPEAK UP**
are more likely to speak out against inequality.

GET IN TOUCH!

www.boldvoices.co.uk

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