Combatting Sexual Harassment, Misogyny and Gender Stereotyping

In November 2025, a 1940 self-portrait by the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo sold for $54.7m (£41.8m) at a New York art auction, setting a new top sale price for a work by any female artist.

In the same week in New York, Sotheby's sold a painting by the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt for $236.4m.

Gender stereotyping – one male artist worth five times more than one of the greatest artists because she was a woman.

Sexism and patriarchy still work against equality for women, and the prevalence of sexual stereotyping in all forms of social media continues to harm us all.

Right-wing ideas demand women should be back at housework, childcare, and domestic sex work.

We are asking conference to continue to campaign against sexual stereotyping in all its forms.

We have called for the TUC to organise a campaign with representatives from the TUC's creative unions to increase awareness of gender stereotyping.

Commission a working group of TU representatives and academics to recommend how we can challenge and change cultural stereotypes.

The Government's initiatives on sexual harassment at work, our union believes, don't go far enough, particularly as these measures do not give protection at work for self-employed women, a vast number in the creative industries. We would like to extend the definitions of what and where work takes place, and to recognise it exists both at work and outside of work.

We believe there should be test cases using existing legislation to take to court cases where harassment has become violent or threatening. This is the only legislation we can use to get justice for sexual harassment.

“Misogyny is deeply rooted in our patriarchal ecosystem. It exists at every level, as shown by Epstein, Mountbatten, and Mandelson.”

We are asking for the TUC to campaign to continue to raise awareness of misogyny, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

Some women’s groups believe that making misogyny a hate crime might make the situation worse; others think it would be the only way to effect real change. We saw an amendment to the Crime and Policing Act introducing such a measure defeated by the Labour Government in the Lords this February. These issues need to be carefully researched.

So we are calling on TUC to lobby for there to be more research, discussion, and evidence. If misogyny is not made a hate crime, what are the alternatives that we can campaign for that can call it to account?

I don’t want to come to this conference and hear the injustice, the hate, and fear that is directed at women. Time and again we know that already – what we need is action. We need justice.

Please support.

Loraine Monk, Co-Chair of AUE
Combatting Sexual Harassment, Misogyny and Gender Stereotyping , TUC Women's Conference 2026