The Representation of the #Metoo Movement in Mainstream International Media

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ABSTRACT

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The final months of 2017 have witnessed the birth of a movement, the #Metoo movement, which started after several Hollywood actresses have accused famed producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment. The movement is an ongoing prevalent phenomenon on social media where its aim is to demonstrate the frequency and widespread of sexual harassment in all sectors of work, whereas the movement Media has been widely reporting on the movement and has given a platform to several women to speak their truths. In my research, I aim to conduct a comparative study of how three mainstream media outlets have covered the moment on their websites. The media outlets chosen are Aljazeera, BBC and CNN. The theoretical framework for the study will revolve around theories of representation, power, and to help in understanding how mainstream media represents the #Metoo movement on their news websites A total of 15 articles will be analyzed through a Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis. The study concluded that the #Metoo movement is represented through a constructionist approach, and there are minor differences between the three distinctive international mainstream media news websites.

Keywords: #Metoo, Mainstream media, Media Representation, Ideology, Power, Critical Discourse Analysis, Feminist Studies
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**Introduction**

Women have faced discrimination from their male counterparts in the past, due to the male dominance of institutions that oppress women. According to Lerner (1975a, as cited in, Bennett, 1989), women are oppressed through the degrading activities instituted by men in organized society, which denies them access to opportunities that would render them equal to their counterparts. Due to the historical lack of equality that women faced, the feminist movement began to challenge the misogynistic institutions and call for equal rights between men and women.

Since the 19th century, the feminist movement has stood up for the rights of women across numerous societies in the world. The feminist movement has challenged the unjust treatment that women went through in their communities, and confronted the misogynistic inequality, to give a fair opportunity for women across the globe.

In 2017, a new feminist movement became prominent on social media, the #Metoo movement. According to #MeToo (n.d), the movement was started in 2006 by Tarana Burke, an African American feminist activist to help survivors of sexual violence and young women of color, from impoverished communities to find the rightful means to heal. The movement has now flourished to include all survivors of all types of sexual violence to speak their truths and start a conversation regarding the impact of such atrocious acts.

#Metoo garnered the attention of mainstream media on October 15th, 2017, when according to Garcia (2018), a tweet by American actress Alyssa Milano encouraged those who have been victims of abuse and sexual harassment to come forward and tweet ‘#Metoo’. The tweet by Milano was provoked by the accusations of several women against famed film producer Harvey Weinstein, Milano sought to open a conversation where all victims had a platform to discuss the widespread of this violence in the workplace especially on females.

Soon enough, the viral hashtag became extensively used across all social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, where victims of sexual harassment and abuse tweeted, posted or shared #Metoo. This ignited a conversation encouraging several women with different employment statuses to come forward and give an account of their discordant realities.
News regarding the viral hashtag became prevalent, and several news channels and websites began to report on #Metoo extensively.

**Aim and Purpose**

The aim of this study is to understand how the #Metoo movement is represented in international mainstream media. The study will concentrate on how three different mainstream news channels have represented #Metoo during the birth of the popular feminist social media movement on October 15th, 2017. I will analyze the representation of the movement during the first two months due to the extensive coverage regarding the hashtag phenomenon. The chosen mainstream media outlets are Aljazeera, BBC, and CNN. In which these three mainstream media outlets have different newsroom agendas, are in different regions of the world, and targeting different audiences.

**Research Questions**

RQ1: How is the #Metoo movement represented by the chosen mainstream news on their websites?

RQ2: What are the similarities and differences in the online coverage of the #Metoo movement in the chosen mainstream news outlets?

**Literature Review of Previous Research**

**Search Criteria**

The following previous research was digitally retrieved using Google Scholar, Jönköping University library, and the Feminist Studies Journal. The literature was gathered using the keywords “Representation”, “Feminism”, “Feminist”, “Women’s Movement”, “Media” and “News”.

The following previous research is allocated and divided into themes in relation to their aim of study.
Representation of Second-wave and Third-wave Feminism

The studies below by Kaitlynn Mendes refer to research that tackled the representation of the second-wave and third wave feminist movements that rose both in the 1960s and 1990s, respectively in British and American media. The second wave feminism seeks to liberate women and expanding their roles from being just mothers, while the third wave feminism seeks to fight several injustices that women face, and it is inclusive. Mendes used both content and discourse analysis to decipher the representation and the discourse used in the news media for these two feminist movements in longitudinal studies that covered the timeframe of several years.

Firstly, Mendes (2011a) carried out a study that analyzed American and British newspapers regarding news reports on the second-wave feminist movement during its political peak from 1968 till 1982. The study gathered 804 articles using a digital database which was analyzed using both content analysis and critical discourse analysis to study the construction of post-feminist discourses within the chosen newspapers. In the findings, Mendes (2011a) argued that the discourses in both nations differed due to specific socio-political contexts. Moreover, Mendes proved that postfeminist discourses were rooted within patriarchal and capitalist ideologies, that propagated the idea of feminism as redundant and harmful in order to maintain the male privilege within society intact.

Mendes (2011b) also conducted a different study where she analyzed the news reports regarding the second-wave feminist movement from 1968 till 1982. The study focused on both American and British newspapers where she emphasized on the post-feminist discourse. The analysis was conducted using solely critical discourse analysis on 804 digitally gathered different American and British newspapers disregarding their social or political leanings. Mendes (2011b) concluded that there are differences between both nations. Moreover, the post-feminist discourse was contested by patriarchal and capitalistic ideologies from an early stage, and after several criticisms, feminism became legitimized and found power.

In addition to that, in another study Mendes (2012c), expanded the timeline of the sample from 1968 till 2008 to study the feminist discourse in print media. In the study,
the researcher analyzed 998 British and American news articles from national newspapers. Using both content analysis and critical discourse analysis, the study focused on the methods of discourse regarding feminism in news and how they have differed/shifted over time. In the findings, Mendes (2012c), argued that ‘radical’ feminism concepts have been removed from the news. Instead, a ‘neo-liberal’ form of post-feminist discourse has been applied in representing feminism in both societies.

The articles conducted by Mendes in 2011 and 2012, informs my study by giving me an understanding of how to conduct research on news coverage in two different nations.

**The Framing of Feminism and the Women’s Movement**

*These studies decipher how media highlights or downplays certain aspects regarding a movement. Methods such as content analysis and discourse analysis were used to comprehend the issue of the framing of these movements.*

Ashely and Olson (1998) studied the framing of the women movement in print media from 1966 till 1986. In the study, two mainstream printed papers and a magazine; The New York Times, Times and Newsweek were examined to understand how feminists and anti-feminists are framed. Using content analysis and led by the concept of framing, the study examined texts by feminists who supported the women’s movement and ‘anti-feminists’ who deterred the women’s movement. In their findings, Ashley and Olson (1998) concluded that both groups weren’t equally considered important. The feminist group was delegitimized, and superficial descriptive language was used to describe the members while giving no space for the goals of the movement. On the other hand, the anti-feminists were described well and celebrated using language that would frame them as ‘organized’ and ‘attractive’.

Following that, is the study conducted by Bronstein (2005) where she analyzed the framing of third-wave feminism in mainstream print media and whether stock frames (the available frames) form the second-wave feminism is used to represent the newer movement. In the study, 94 news articles were analyzed using content and textual analysis. The sample was from American national mainstream printed papers, spanning from 1992 till 2004. Guided by the framing concept, Bronstein (2005) concluded that journalists often portrayed the third-wave against the second-wave rather than ‘through’
it; where third-wave feminism is more friendly and agreeable, second-wave feminism is unattractive and mannish.

Sisco and Lucas (2015) analyzed the media framing of feminism, regarding the 2008 American presidential race of Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin. In the study, the authors used the concept of feminism to understand the representation of women in the media, especially in a leadership role; moreover, the theory of media framing was used to decipher how the media linked feminism to candidates and how they framed the feminist movement. Sisco and Lucas (2015) collected articles from November 2007 till December 2008. They gathered 97 articles in total from national newspapers. The study used qualitative discourse analysis. In the findings, the authors concluded that the articles focused on how the candidates were/weren’t feminists and on linking feminism to the candidates. However, not on program goals and discussion points, but rather on a personal level.

In a different study, Maliki (2011) studied the representation of the Iranian women’s movement in the U.S media. The author’s main aim was to understand how U.S media frames the movement through the discourse of race, gender, and sexuality. Through a discourse analysis, Maliki (2011) focused on American television and news coverage regarding the Iranian women’s movement. In her findings, Maliki (2011) concluded that the U.S media focused more on framing the Iranian women’s movement through an orientalist rhetoric, foregoing to highlight the demands of the movement instead. It also focused on setting the movement in opposition to the teachings of Islam where they would often portray Iranian women as victims to establish the ‘submissive women’ narrative.

Another research is the one conducted by Barakso and Schaffner (2007) where they analyzed the media portrayal of the women’s movement from 1969 to 2004. The study examined the coverage of the movement in national media outlets; such as The New York Times and nightly newscasts of ABC, CBS, and NBC. The researchers studied the abstracts for both chosen media outlets and conducted a content analysis reading the coverage of the women’s movement.

The study concluded that, while the women’s movement covers several issues, the sampled data clearly shows that the chosen media focused more on the reproductive rights issues, while other issues were downplayed or not covered at all.
The studies by Ashley and Olson (1998) and Bronstein (2005), inspired my study to have a better understanding how a movement such as the feminist movement is represented in high circulated newspapers.

The studies previously analyzed will inform my understanding the representation of the #Metoo movement on mainstream media. Barakso and Schaffner (2007) and Sisco and Lucas (2015) give me an understanding of the portrayal and the framing of women in power and how media view these women. The study by Bronstein (2005) acts as inspiration for understanding how mainstream media can represent feminism. In addition to that, the study conducted by Maliki (2011) which studies the framing of the U.S media regarding the Iranian women’s movement, gives me a perception regarding the framing and the representation of western media on non-western feminist movements.

**Representation of Feminists and Women’s Rights Advocates**

*The following studies main aim is to comprehend the representation of feminists and women’s rights advocates and women in leadership roles in media. Through a qualitative study using both content analysis and interviews, the studies shed a light on the representations of feminists and women’s rights advocates.*

Stone (1993) examined the relation between the representation of feminists’ opinions regarding violence against women and the Toronto Press newspaper. Stone (1993) used both content analysis and interviews to further understand the relationship between the movement and mass media. Stone (1993) concluded that feminists’ views were suppressed and absent from press coverage regarding incidents involving violence against women. However, the author retained that there is a glimpse of optimism as there is a considerable amount of approach for feminists to express their views in the future.


The data was analyzed using content analysis to provide understanding regarding the frequency of media coverage and its characteristics, and whether supporters and conservatives of women advocacy are pitted against each other. In the findings, Schreiber (2010) concludes that advocates for women’s rights are portrayed more
descriptively, while on the other hand, the conservatives for women’s rights are just described for their personal beliefs. Overall, the frequency of coverage for both groups is similar.

Walsh (2015) studied the representation of women in leadership roles both in traditional and new media. The author focused on Britain, Ireland and the U.S female leaders and their media. Guided by the concept of democratization of public sphere, and through the usage of feminist critical discourse analysis; the author has drawn the conclusion that female political leaders get to be compared and judged in comparison to their male counterparts. On the other hand, Walsh (2015, P: 1032) noticed that new media platforms allow feminists (both females and males) to disagree, monitor and avoid to a certain degree the revealing control of ‘masculinist malestream media’, which is how media is structured to cater towards males and their perspectives.

The study conducted by Stone (1993) contributes to my research a grasp concerning the portrayal of feminists and issues related to them, where women were violated, and their opinions are suppressed in the concerned articles. Schreiber (2010) studied the frequency and portrayal of two diverse groups, ‘the feminists’ and ‘the conservatives’, which inspires me to understand how the supporters and the opponents are portrayed during the later stage of the birth of the #Metoo movement. The study by Walsh (2015) acts as an inspiration in understanding how media often misrepresent women in power to fit a pre-established narrative.

**Representation of Feminism in Mainstream Media**

*The following studies focused on the representation of feminism in mainstream media. These studies used methods such as content analysis, discourse analysis, and corpus linguistic analysis to interpret how several forms of media represent/misrepresent the feminist movement.*

Lind and Salo (2002), did a research on the representation of feminists and feminism in both television and radio from May 1993 till January 1996. Both researchers analyzed the transcripts of the channels using a content analysis to undercover the themes and frames present in the representation of that specific group. Lind and Salo (2002) detected that ‘feminists’ are treated differently from other ‘women’, they are more personalized
and less trivialized. However, feminists and the feminist movement also face a negative representation: they are portrayed as odd and demonized by using negative target words.

Dean (2010), conducted a study to understand how feminism is constructed in mainstream media, whilst also understanding what conditions can be affirmed and made comprehensible within mainstream public discourse. In the study, the researcher used the notion of domestication, which can be defined as the creation of a space where a ‘moderate’ feminist is affirmed by denying and neglecting an ‘extreme’ feminist. The study used a discourse analysis of two main British newspapers, on two different political and ideological spectrums; The Guardian and The Times. In the conclusion, Dean (2010), stated that while both chosen newspapers may be different on their political tones, they share the tendency of approving the moderate feminist by renouncing the extreme version.

Marling (2010), analyzed the representation of feminism in Estonian print media. The study conducted a critical discourse analysis of the Estonian print newspaper *The Postimees* from 1996 till 2005. Along with critical discourse analysis, the study used lexical framing (framing using words), and social recontextualization (words and meanings are taken from their actual context and introduced into another one) for its theoretical structure. In the findings, Marling (2010), has uncovered themes of negative representation for feminism. Damaging connotations are attributed to the movement. Moreover, the study has revealed how non-feminist social actors are celebrated in contrast to adherers to the feminism movement.

The study led by Jaworska and Krishnamurthy (2012), analyzed the representation of feminism both in British and German media from 1990 till 2009. The researchers compiled the articles using Nexis UK with the term ‘feminism’ in national newspapers only. The study used corpus linguistics to analyze the patterns of discourse in the chosen articles. According to Jaworska and Krishnamurthy (2012), feminism is represented in a negative manner. The term is often described as outdated and old-fashioned. Moreover, the study concluded that issues concerning feminism were often marginalized and treated with irony.

The studies conducted by Lind and Salo (2002), Marling (2010), and Dean (2010), give me an important comprehension on the usage of CDA to analyze the representation of
feminism in the media. The research done by Jaworska and Krishnamurthy (2012), inspires my research on the method used for data gathering

Research Gap and Contribution

After considering several previous types of research conducted in the field of media and its relation towards feminism/ feminist representation, the following is the research issue that my study will seek to contribute to.

- The novelty of #Metoo Movement

The #Metoo movement is within the feminist spectrum that calls for an end regarding sexual harassment in the workplace. Due to the novelty of this viral movement that came into mediated prominence recently, there aren’t many empirical studies conducted on the movement.

Also, my study could contribute to the previous well-researched studies, to further the exploration in the field of feminism and media. As our society evolves and becomes more acute regarding media practices and their representation, media has changed its tone-deaf approach in representing groups. Hence, it is deemed interesting to add further knowledge on the representation of women and feminism with the evolving state of the media and the society.

Theoretical Framework and Concepts

In this section are the theories that will act as a structure to guide the analysis of the representation of the #Metoo movement in mainstream media. Hence identifying the relationship between society’s relationship with a movement whose aim is to become a platform for women all over the report to support each other, spread awareness and bring social change through social media, and mainstream media which aims to influence people.

In this study where the main notion is to understand how is the #Metoo movement and its female supporters represented in the media, the theory of representation was deemed appropriate. For identifying the relation of these media organizations and the causes for portraying the movement and its female supporters, the theories of power and ideology were used to give an additional insight in regard to the data’s findings.
**Representation**
As stated by Hall (1997), representation is the creation of meaning through language. Representation connects meaning and language to a culture.

Additionally, Hall (1997), elaborated how representation gives meanings to things, we make ‘sense of’ the world through the language to understand people and the society surrounding us. Hence, representation is an outcome labor of meaning that stems from discourse and it is connected to our societal norms and culture, where media as a vehicle of representation gives meanings, which leads us to view the world in spectacles designated to view it in a different light. It also gives us the means to make sense of the people and their communities.

On another account, Siapera (2010), details the circumstances representation exists in and how it manifests in our society. According to Siapera (2010), representation is both the outcome of the media production process as it must be understood within contexts of production. While on the other hand, representation can’t be formed outside of its function, since it will remain suspended until it gets in contact with people or perceived by them, so they could decipher their messages in their own way.

According to Orgad (2014), the process of representation is theorized in two main ways, the reflectionist, and the constructionist approach. Both approaches are supported by different perspectives on the relationship between the thing that is being represented (reality) and the act of representing it.

Hall (1997,) stated that the reflectionist approach is where the meaning is thought to lay in the subject while reflecting the true meaning as it already exists in the world, without any hidden or constructed meanings. Whereas for the constructionist approach, it acknowledges that meaning is constructed through “**representation systems such as concepts and signs**” (Hall, 1997, P:31).

Representation is deemed the appropriate theory to understand how media represents a movement that affects our culture and conveys it to the readers/viewers.
According to Hall (1997), language and representation are key elements in the study of culture, as it is vital in understanding how concepts are translated in the linguistic universe, where representation whether in written or spoken form carry meanings that are ought to be studied.

Moreover, representation is realized in several sectors that is a product of discourse, from language to academic books, and from mass media to images. According to Siapera (2010, P.122) discourse precedes and anticipates any cognitive and linguistic aspects of representation. In other words, “*media representations may have cognitive, linguistic, visual, etc. components, but these have already been determined by the discursive formations in operation*”.

**Power**

According to Fuchs (2017) power has to do with the question of who can influence what society looks like, and who controls the means that allow such influence. Castells (2007), defines power as the structural capacity of a social actor to dictate its will over another social actor (s). Thompson (1987, p: 159), discusses that power enables people to act in the pursuit of their aim and interests, “*where power is a capacity which enables or empowers some agents to make decisions, pursue ends and realize interests*”. On another account, Foucault (1991a, P:26-7, as cited in, Heiskala, 2001) states that power isn’t perceived as a property, but rather as a strategy that its effects of domination are attributed not to appropriation but to dispositions, maneuvers, tactics, techniques, and functioning, “*that one should decipher in it a network of relations which is constantly in activity, rather than a privilege that one possesses*”.

Hence, it is clear to witness that power has many different elaborated definitions, where for scholars such as Fuchs and Thompson power could be possessed by the dominant group and they exercise their ‘possessing power’ on those who don’t have it, to reach their own aim; on the other hand, scholars such as Foucault elaborates how power is not the property of anyone but rather a scheme that is deciphered in a network of relations. Interestingly, Castells (2011) refers to power to networks, as he elaborated how power in the network society is exercised through different networks.
In a concise manner, the shared notion between these perspectives is how power is used to attain a goal or reach an aim. Hence, according to Avelino and Rotmans (2009), the nearest definition of power would be, the ability of actors to organize resources to attain a certain goal. In addition to that Castells (2011), states that power relationships are the foundation of society since institutions and norms are constructed to fulfill the interests of those who are in power.

On that note, using power is to recognize the power of social actors, in this case, could be the sexual harassers who maintain a position of power who dictate or influence the victims of sexual harassment. Moreover, it is also important to understand the power of such movement which fueled by social media, would be all due to ‘mass self-communication’, and how the movement used social media to connect victims of sexual harassment all over the globe to recount their stories through the hashtag.

According to Castells (2007), the rise of mass self-communication created an astonishing medium for social movements to build their independence and confront the several institutions in their societies, providing an indispensable platform for debate and action. Putting the mass self-communication notion into perspective, and the power that it gives to the people, it comes as no surprise how social media has helped several social changing movements such as #Blacklivesmatter and #Lovewins to report injustices and bring change, which gives a new form of power being exercised by ‘weak’ to change the reality imposed by the ‘strong or the dominant’.

Regarding #Metoo, different groups of women have experienced this birth of sexual harassment self-reporting movement in diverse ways, where there are those who fully shared their experiences and those who used it as a platform to gain support from the raised awareness from different women across the globe. Hence as stated by Lazar (2005), the mechanisms of power not only often work in subtle and complex ways, but the relations of asymmetry are also produced and experienced in complexly diverse ways for and by different groups of women.

**Ideology**

According to Van Dijk (2000), ideology is a set of essential beliefs of a group and its members, Machin and Mayr (2012), state that ideology is the way that ideas and values are comprised in the interest of a dominant and powerful group.
On another occasion, Van Dijk (2006), explained how ideologies are made of social representations that describe the social identity of a group, its essence, and its common principles about its central conditions and ways of existence. Thompson (1987), stated that studying ideology is to study the ways meaning serve to sustain relations of domination and power.

Additionally, ideology is deeply embedded in our culture, where according to Griffin (2006) ideology can be regarded from the perspective of being both a cultural product and producer and an essential key in the formation of culture, which constantly reproduces itself without ever perfectly replicating itself.

When it comes to the nature of ideology, the fundamental principle is where there is a shared set of ideas and beliefs. According to Griffin (2006, P:80), ideology is a relatively organized, and vigorously evolving set of collectively held ideas or beliefs. Whether expressed in a spoken manner or in another form such as semiotic, ritual, and behavioral form. Ideology’s main socio-psychological purpose regarding the individual is to endow them with a sense of identity, purpose, and reality.

When it comes to discourse, ideology could be traced in the linings of language, where according to Van Dijk (2006, P117), ideology is the ultimate basis of the discourses and other social practices of the members of social groups as group members. Hence, when it comes to communicative interaction either through spoken or written form, group members legitimize their actions with reference to ideological discourse. Whereas on an individual level, as stated by Griffin (2006), it is the important part of the instinctive human drive to plan, rationalize, and condone action or deeds.

However, putting in mind the notion of the correlation between ideology and discourse, the relation between both could be found, yet as stated by Van Dijk (2006), the relation between them is intricate and often indirect, since discourse may depend on ideologically biased situations, on the ideological way individuals construe events, or more directly on general group beliefs that are ideologically controlled.

**Theoretical Framework Summary**

In a nutshell, the previously elaborated theories of representation, power, and ideology are to explain the findings during the analysis of the chosen mainstream international media. The following is a summary of the theories and their connection in answering the stated research questions.
Representation

Representation is where meaning is formulated via the use of language and acts as a link between meaning, language, and culture. Moreover, representation is also the product of a mediatic process, where there are two forms of representation; reflectionist and constructionist. Also, language and representation are vital elements in the study of culture, as it is existing in different sectors that deal with discourse.

Power

Power tackles questions regarding societal influences and how it looks like, and who controls it. Where for scholars such as Fuchs and Thompson, it is owned by individuals and used to influence others by reaching one’s aim.

While on the other hand, Foucault believes how power doesn’t belong by an entity but is a tactic that is perceivable in a network of relations, which accommodates Castell's approach as he explains that power is exercised through networks. Yet Avelino and Rotmans concisely explain, that power is the gathering of resources by social actors to attain a certain aim.

With the creation of self-mass-communication, power has been allocated to individuals to exercise their needs freely using new media channels, where issues regarding social change are being discussed due to the spread of awareness on these online platforms.

Ideology

Ideology is a set of beliefs belonging to both individuals or groups, where its notion is in the shared principles regarding its essential circumstances and ways of existence. Also, ideology is deeply intricated within our culture, where it is regarded as both a cultural product and producer. Concerning discourse, ideology could be found in discourse, however it is complex and often indirect, and it depends on the circumstances.

The three mentioned theories are to tackle the findings that are reached after the CDA analysis of the gathered data. Theory of representation will be helpful in answering RQ1 “How is the #Metoo movement represented in the chosen mainstream news websites?”. It is important to understand how these international mainstream media choose to represent the #Metoo movement.

Whereas, for the theories of power and ideology, they would help in answering RQ2 “What are the similarities and differences in the coverage of the #Metoo movement in
the chosen mainstream news websites?”. As it would be of value to understand the similarities and differences of these three different media portals.

**Method and Material**

According to the nature of the study where its aim is to analyze the relation between representation and power to evaluate the social power structures, a Critical Discourse Analysis is deemed the suitable method of analysis for the study. In this study, I aim to examine three online mainstream media outlets, which are Aljazeera, BBC, and CNN as they represent different newsroom agendas hence assumingly producing different representations regarding the #Metoo movement and its female supporters.

**Critical Discourse Analysis**

“CDA sees discourse – language use in speech and writing – as a form of ‘social practice’. Describing discourse as social practice implies a dialectical relationship between a particular discursive event and the situation(s), institution(s) and social structure(s) which frame it: the discursive event is shaped by them, but it also shapes them.” (Wodak and Fairclough, 1997a, as cited in, Weiss and Wodak, 2007, P:13).

CDA regards the use of language in verbal and written speech as a reflection of a societal system, where discourse subtly demonstrates a relationship between events, situations, social structures and definitive events with language, which helps in shaping society in return.

Moreover, Machin and Mayr (2012), believe that language in relation to power and ideology is not only a vehicle of communication or persuasion, but also a method of social construction and dominance. Discourse does not simply replicate social processes and structure but is itself seen to add to the production and imitation of these processes and structures.

Using CDA as an analytical qualitative method is to investigate the ideology of newsrooms and their relation to the movement, also understanding if gender inequalities are palpable or obscure in articles published by the mainstream media.

According to Weiss and Wodak (2003), CDA is essentially interested in investigating obscure as well as crystal clear structural relationships of dominance, discrimination, power, and control as manifested in language; In a nutshell, CDA aims to examine
critically social inequality as it is expressed, established, legitimized, and so on, by the usage of language (or in discourse).

In this study, I have used the Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis where both texts and images are studied. According to Machin and Mayr (2012), both texts and images recreate meaning, hence it is important to understand how visually and textually the #Metoo movement is represented.

Moreover, in the study excerpts are studied according to the analytical tools mentioned. According to Machin and Mayr (2012), CDA frequently deals with the analysis of a small number of texts, where only one or two excerpts can be analyzed, as it depends on the interest of the analyst regarding the usage of specific linguistic and grammatical choices.

**Analytical Tools**
In order to analyze the articles from the three mainstream news outlets (Al Jazeera, BBC, and CNN), and the following CDA analytical tools were acquired from Machin and Mayr’s 2012 book “How to Do Critical Discourse Analysis. A Multimodal Introduction”. The tools help in deciphering the representation of both the #Metoo movement and its female supporters both in text and images.

**Discursive Analytical Tools**
**Aggregation**
The first tool to be used in the analysis of the articles for the study will be the aggregation tool to determine whether the female supports of the movement and the main movement depicted in statistics and uniformed numbers.

According to Machin and Mayr (2012), aggregation is the method where participants are quantified or treated as statistics in texts. Van Leeuwen (2008), explains that with aggregation it is often used to normalize practice and to manufacture consensus opinion, despite the fact that it presents itself a technique of recording facts.

Machin and Mayr (2012), indicated an example regarding the use of aggregation in the following sentences;

“Many thousands of immigrants are arriving in...”

Through that example, the subjects are portrayed using quantified units and treated as an uninformed group, so rather than stating the exact numbers of the subjects in this case ‘Muslims’ the author depicted them as a uniformed group.

Through the usage of this qualitative tool, it is important to comprehend how the female supporters of the movement are represented, and if they just merely depicted in aggregatory terminologies.

**Individualization vs Collectivization**

Next, to understand the portrayal of the #MeToo movement, it is also of utter important to pinpoint whether the supporters are humanized in the text or subjected to collectivization.

Also, it is essential to shed a light on how the chosen mainstream media news portals describe the supporters: whether they are individualized which could give the impression that this movement is not for every woman, but only for western women, or whether they are collectivized and inclusive.

Hence, individualization vs collectivization is analyzed in the text. As stated by Machin and Mayr (2012) this process is used to understand how participants in texts are depicted, whether they are individualized or collectivized to show which group is humanized.

In their book, Machin and Mayr (2012), showed an example of how different ways groups are described, whether they are humanized or described as a collective unit.

"Two soldiers, Private John Smith and Jim Jones were killed..."

"Militants were killed today..." (Machin and Mayr, 2012, P:80)

Through those two examples, it is clear how the individualization of the soldiers in the first example leads the reader to personify the subjects. On the other hand, the second example keeps the subjects vague and doesn’t allow an emotional association with the reader.

**Objectivation**

Another tool to decipher the representation of the movement and its female supporters is through objectivation, where social actors are referenced through features.
As stated by Van Leeuwen (2008), objectivation is done through a feature reference, whereas stated by Machin and Mayr (2012), participants are reduced to a feature.

The following example from Van Leeuwen (2008), shows how black, unskilled, Muslim, poor or illegal immigrants in Australia are represented as ‘problems’.

“*Australia is in danger of saddling itself up with a lot of unwanted problems*” *(Van Leeuwen, 2008, P: 46).*

The above example shows how a group of people can be represented/misrepresented through the usage of certain words to depict them through discourse.

**Suppression**

The final tool for the textual analysis will be suppression. As stated by Fairclough, (2003a, as cited in, Machin and Mayr, 2012), suppression is when text is missing which may be important. What is missing from a text is just as essential as what is in a text.

Moreover, according to Van Leeuwen (2008), suppression plays a part in decreasing the number of times specific social actors are overtly referred to or mentioned. The usage of this method in the discourse analysis is to discover whether there is any exclusion regarding the female supporters or vital information regarding the #Metoo movement in the three mainstream news websites.

“In Japan, similar concerns are being expressed about a mere trickle of Third World immigrants” *(Van Leeuwen, 2008, P:29).*

Through that example, it is not clear who expressed the concern, which pushes the subjects in the background, and may allude to the reader that the concern is engulfing the entire population.

**Visual Analytical Tools**

In addition to the textual analysis of the articles, also a visual analysis of the images included in the news articles will be analyzed according to the two following tools acquired from Machin and Mayr’s 2012 book.

**Gaze and Pose**

During the analysis of the images included in the articles, it is important to study the features of gaze and pose of the images to understand the representation of both the movement and its female supporters through gaze and pose.
According to Machin and Mayr (2012), in the analysis of images gaze is an important part where it guides the reader how to evaluate a subject even if it is not bluntly stated.

Moreover, pose is important as well as it able to signify broad values, ideas, and identities in images.

**Setting**

In this study, images settings such as the environment of the female supporters will be analyzed to understand what the images are trying to communicate to the readers and how it can influence them.

**Population and Selection Process**

The mainstream news websites are Al Jazeera English, BBC and CNN. The three news organizations are English speaking news outlets that represent different perspectives. On a macro level, CNN and BBC represent the Western views and on the other hand, Aljazeera English represents the Middle Eastern views; while on a micro level, the three news organizations carry different discursive approaches towards news.

In a study conducted by Henery (2010), between the Aljazeera English, BBC and CNN on their editorial content stated that while the three global news networks have a common quest in providing a global perspective, however, there are major differences between the three networks, and one of them being in news presentation. Hence, it is fundamental to understand the methods of representation of these three global news networks and to decipher what are their similarities and differences in reporting on the #MeToo movement.

**Importance of Online News**

As mentioned previously, I chose to study online articles on the mainstream tv channels websites, rather than in their original televised format. The reasoning behind this is due to the easy access towards the required information, while also the opportunity to filter the news related to the #MeToo movement. Moreover, according to Fenton (2010), online news has more available space, which gives possibilities for more news to be covered. Also, it has the ability to provide up to date information that is characterized by speed.

15 news articles were gathered through searching on both the news portals and Google search, where befitting keywords for the articles were used; keywords were (#Metoo), (Feminist), (Sexual Harassment), (Sexual Assault) (Workplace) and (Tarana Burke), for
the words to be used for gathering the articles. The type of news that were gathered were gathered were both features and hard news articles. In order for the articles to be part of the data-set, the keywords #Metoo, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Gender Violence and Feminism were used.

Five articles were collected from each news websites, where the time-frame imposed for the articles was from 16th of October 2017 till 17th December of 2017, which represents the initial phase of the #Metoo. Also, the decision of focusing on the first two months of the movement’s introduction in the mainstream is due to the extensive coverage of news regarding the movement which could contribute to a wider set of data to be analyzed.

The articles to be analyzed include both hard and feature news found on the Al Jazeera, BBC and CNN tv channels websites.

According to Bell (1991), hard news is the staple product of newspapers, where it covers reports of accidents, crimes, announcements and other events which have occurred recently that could of public interest. Feature news is the typical example of soft news, are characterized by being long and cover immediate events that provide background information and it allows journalists to have the liberty of style.

**Brief Background on Selected News Websites**

In the following section, a brief background of each news outlet is given which helps in giving a perspective concerning the rationale and motives behind the types of articles that the news websites publish.

**History of Aljazeera**

According to Al Jazeera (2018), the news network was launched in 1996 as the first independent Arabic news channel in the Arab world to provide ‘comprehensive news and live debate’. Due to the far reach of the Aljazeera channel, Aljazeera English was launched in 2006 as part of a growing network where it furnishes to its global audience another perspective for news that stems from the Middle East.

As stated by Thussu (2007, P: 71), the greatest impact in news area outside the American and British news domain, is Aljazeera, where it is sometimes labeled as the ‘Arabic CNN’. In addition to that, Al Jazeera is in a distinctive position of being an independent and professional global news organization that is financed by the Sultan of Qatar.
History of CNN

A symbol of the globalization of American news and journalistic ethics in the world, CNN was founded in 1980 by Ted Turner as a 24-hour cable news. According to Thussu (2007), CNN is a key component of AOL-Time Warner (the world's biggest media and entertainment conglomerate). Moreover, Thussu (2007) stated that CNN’s has a wide reach both geographically and ideologically where due to its new agenda, it has shaped international relations.

Additionally, according to Flournoy and Stewart (1997a, as cited in Thussu, 2007), the reason for the rapid expansion of CNN was its use of satellite technology, where it firstly gave CNN a national audience in the US, and it was one of the first international broadcasters to take advantage of this technology to ‘blanket the globe’, using a mixture of satellites.

History of BBC

According to McChesney (1993a, as cited in, Thussu, 2000) The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), was instituted in 1927, as a non-profit, public broadcasting monopoly that provided a prototype for several other European and Commonwealth countries. Per the British Broadcasting Corporation (2018), the public service broadcaster uses the income from the license fee to provide services including 9 national TV channels and it also includes the extensive website, known as the BBC.

Analysis and Results

Hard News at First Glance

For this study, a total of two hard news articles was studied from BBC and CNN, whereas for Aljazeera three hard news articles were able to be gathered due to the established time-frame. The analysis of hard news is to understand how the #Metoo movement and its female supporters are represented in facts reporting the news. Moreover, it is also important to understand what the similarities and differences between the three mainstream media websites are.

Firstly, a noticeable characteristic in the collected articles from the three tv channels news websites is the difference in structure and text distribution. The hard news
collected from Aljazeera mostly have minimal text, where for the most part of the news is given through videos that are embedded in within the articles.

Whereas for the hard news collected from the BBC website are lengthier with minimal inclusion of videos. As for the articles collected from CNN, they are a mixture of both text and videos.

**Hard News Analysis: Aljazeera**
The first of the articles studied for the hard news analysis regarding Aljazeera was titled, “#Me Too: Women share stories of sexual harassment and abuse” which was published on 18th of October 2017, and it recounts on the transition of the #Metoo movement towards social media by the accounts of several women who tweeted the viral hashtag.

The next article was “#MeToo: Thousands march in Paris to protest sexual harassment” which was published on the 30th of October 2017, which informs on the march that took place in Paris where people marched to protest sexual harassment. This article has a video embedded in it, however, a textual analysis was conducted.

Lastly, the third article was titled “Women demand probe into alleged Trump sexual assaults.” which was published 11th of December 2017, and it narrates how several women were sexually assaulted by Trump in the past and have come forward to accuse the president.

The following are the analysis of excerpts gathered from the articles.

**Aggregation**
Through the analysis of the hard news articles on the Aljazeera website, the frequent tool used to describe the female supporters of the #Metoo movement was aggregation. The following is the aggregatory tool in use in the articles.

“*Hundreds of thousands of women.*” - Data 1

“*Thousands march in Paris.*” - Data 2

In the above statements are clear examples of the use of aggregatory terms in depicting the female supports of #Metoo movement. The two examples extracted from both articles carry the same technique of depicting the women through the usage of words
such as ‘hundreds’ and ‘thousands’ giving no clear indication towards the exact number of the women who were involved.

“…Hollywood producer accused of sexually assaulting and raping many actresses and subordinates over a number of years”. – Data 2

In the above statement, the women who accused Harvey Weinstein of rape and sexual harassment are quantified, where the journalist mentions ‘many’ without giving the exact number of victims.

**Individualization vs Collectivization**

“Women share stories of sexual harassment and abuse” - Data 1

In the above sentence, women are depicted as a collectivized entity, and the only social actor individualized in the article is Harvey Weinstein. It may seem like it is a method by the journalist to show that several women were affected by the behavior of Weinstein, however, this method of individualizing and naming the perpetrator humanizes him and creates a one-dimensional depiction of the women involved.

“Women demand probe into alleged Trump sexual assaults” – Data 3

Another example of individualization vs collectivization is in the above statement, where the women who accused President Trump of sexual assault and harassment are collectivized, whereas the perpetrator is individualized. As mentioned, this method humanizes Trump and describes the women in a collectivized one-dimensional manner.

**Objectivation**

“…many actresses and subordinates” – Data 2

In the above sentence, the journalist portrayed the assistants and the women working in lower ranks in comparison to Weinstein as subordinates. While the lexical usage of this term for the women who are in fact in lower ranks could be deemed acceptable, however, it serves as an indication of these women who may occupy assistant roles as inferior to Weinstein. Furthermore, it uses this negative term as the sole representative feature of the assistants and executives affected by Weinstein’s actions. **Suppression**

“These false claims, totally disputed in most cases by eyewitness accounts.”

– Data 3
In the above sentence, is quoted by the White House administration in regard to the accusations towards President Trump. The statement seems innocuous; however, the accusers of Trump are suppressed. Through the suppression of the victims in the statement, it indicates that the accounts of these women who publicly accused President Trump of sexual assault and harassment are refuted and depicted as fictitious.

Moreover, the suppressed social actors who are the victims of an important entity such as the President of the United States are excluded, which could give a general indication of the mainstream conduct of how society treats these types of accusations.

**Hard News Analysis: BBC**

The first of the articles collected from the BBC was titled “‘Half of women' sexually harassed at work, says BBC survey” and it was published on the 25th of October 2017, and it is a survey conducted by BBC on British women in regard to sexual assault.

While the second article was titled “Hollywood holds #MeToo march against sexual harassment” and it was published on the 13th of November 2017, which covers the march done by #MeToo supporters against sexual harassment, where Tarana Burke was on the frontlines of the march.

The following are the analysis of excerpts gathered from the articles.

**Aggregation**

“That followed allegations, including rape and sexual assault, against Mr. Weinstein from more than two dozen women.” – Data 4

In the above statement, an aggregatory terminology is used to show the severity of the Weinstein sexual assault scandal, where many women came forward and accused the Hollywood producer publicly. Additionally, while the usage of an aggregated term may convey proper journalistic method in stating factual information, however, it could also depict the severity of the actions of Weinstein, where his silenced actions have accumulated and negatively affected a lot of women in the course of several years.

"For every Harvey Weinstein, there's a hundred more men in the neighborhood who are doing the exact same thing" – Data 5

This statement by Tarana Burke, the founder of the #MeToo movement, gives a grave insight on the severity that Weinstein represents a violence, a gender-based violence;
where the usage of the aggregatory term ‘hundred more’ isn’t factually correct, however, it is used to create a consensus opinion on the widespread of sexual assaultive crimes in the workplace.

**Individualization vs Collectivization**

*“Jess Phillips and Mary Creagh were among the MPs to reveal their accounts.”* – Data 4

The usage of individualization on both Phillips and Creagh from the part of the journalist is to humanize the accounts of these MPs in the eyes of the readers. This will give a possibility for the reader to relate and to sympathize towards these individualized social actors. In contrary, if the journalist used a collective expression, which wouldn’t have impacted the reader as much.

**Suppression**

*“The march follows a torrent of assault and harassment allegations against public figures.”* – Data 5

The above statement lacks a definite social actor. The journalist used suppression to omit the subject and instead focused on the reason behind the march. Moreover, the platform or the banner under which the marchers walked under which was ‘#Metoo’ was suppressed as well, suggesting to the reader that this behavior is something bigger than a hashtag movement used on social media. In fact, it is an epidemic of violent culture where people and especially women often caught as victims.

*"What we're seeing, at least for now, is a unity of survivors, a community of survivors that have grown out of this #MeToo viral moment.”* – Data 5

In the statement above furnished by Burke, she suppresses the gender of the survivors of the sexual assault, and she also suppresses the features of the community of survivors (class, age, gender and sexual orientation) to point out how this type of gender-based violence can affect everyone and anyone. Moreover, she described the #Metoo hashtag as a platform where it has allowed for this community to come together and demand social change. Hence, by suppression she sends a message across that #Metoo is not just a female problem, but males are also involved in it as well.
Hard News Analysis: CNN

The first of the articles collected from CNN which was titled “Report: Women accuse Hollywood director James Toback of sexual harassment” and it was published on October 25th, 2017.

Where it reports on the news that several women were interviewed by the Los Angeles Times and accused James Toback, a noted Hollywood director of sexual assault.

The other article collected from CNN titled “One-fifth of Americans know someone who said #MeToo” which was published November 10th, 2017, and it gives information on a CNN conducted poll where it has questioned men and women on their experience with sexual assault.

The following are the analysis of excerpts gathered from the articles.

Aggregation

“Numerous women have accused Hollywood screenwriter and director James Toback of sexual harassment...” – Data 6

In this excerpt, the journalist depicts the women who have come forward and accused Toback in an aggregatory term. In which the journalist opted to use the term ‘numerous’ instead of the exact number of the women who accused Toback. This method may have been used to convey a consensus opinion on the vast number of women that have accused Toback of sexual harassment.

Individualization vs Collectivization

“Women accuse Hollywood director James Toback of sexual harassment” – Data 6

In the title set by the journalist, the women who came forward and accused Toback are collectivized, overstating on the number of accusers who came forward.

On the other hand, the director is given full individualization and through this method, the women are depicted as a homogenous group and the director is humanized instead.
“The long-term impact will take time to measure, but the fall of high-profile men…” – Data 7

In this above statement, a difference is made in contrast to the previous excerpt where the journalist has instead homogenized the ‘high-profile men’. This grouping method was used to convey that these men have in common characteristics, such as their wealth, and their usage of their power to sexually harass women at their workplace.

Suppression

“What happens in the next weeks, months and years will tell the real story.”
– Data 7

In the above passage, the journalist describes how two sides of the story have been told by both the women who came forward and the ‘high-profile’ men’. The journalist does not mention their identities. In fact, by suppression of the women who spoke against the actions of these men gives space for speculation, that some accusations are fabricated which negatively affects the message behind the #Metoo movement.

Summary of Findings Regarding Hard News Analysis

In a nutshell, through the analysis of the hard news articles on Aljazeera, BBC and CNN the prevalent tools that these mainstream media heads used were suppression, collectivization, individualization, and aggregation. Firstly, through aggregation, women were mainly quantified and treated as statistics there were reports on marches and protests, while it may be for stating fact, but it could also be a method of consensus opinion for the readers. Next, both Aljazeera and CNN used collectivization as a method to describe the actions done by sexual abuse survivors, while according to the data set concerned with BBC, it opted to individualize women according to their function instead.

Subsequently, the similar trait that all mainstream tv channel websites had in common is their method of suppression, where mainly the sexual survivors and the supporters of the movement are suppressed while it may be due to the reason that their suppression is equally as important as their insertion within the excerpts, however it may allude to the reader that their participation in these events where their welfare in discussions regarding their workplaces is not as important.
Lastly, for objectivation, there was a sole example that was found in Aljazeera, where women in lower-ranking career positions were depicted using a negative feature.

**Feature News at First Glance**

Next, for the analysis of the feature articles, a total of three feature news articles were studied from BBC and CNN, whereas for Aljazeera two feature news articles were able to be gathered in consideration to the limitation of the time-frame. The analysis of hard news is to understand how the #MeToo movement and its female supporters represented in the news where the journalists and the news organizations have journalistic liberty in writing the news.

Initially, all articles share similarities in text structure and distribution where a platform is given for survivors of sexual assault and women generally to voice their opinion. However, through analysis, a clearer distinction appears between the three tv channel websites.

**Feature Articles Analysis: Aljazeera**

The first of the articles gathered from Aljazeera for the feature news analysis was titled “Tarana Burke: #MeToo didn't start with Harvey Weinstein” and it was published on the 20th of October 2017, where it details the #MeToo movement originator Tarana Burke and thoughts regarding the viral hashtag. The next article was titled “Women in low-wage US farm jobs say #MeToo” and it was published on the 12th of December 2017, where it follows the harsh realities of low wage US women who come forward and say #MeToo.

The following are the analysis of excerpts gathered from the articles.

**Aggregation**

“...who number hundreds of thousands across the country.” – Data 9

“Approximately one in five (22 percent) Black women will be raped in her lifetime in the US.” – Data 8

In the above statements, women are described in the text as statistical and quantified numbers. However, both examples are different from each other. In the first example, the journalist explains how a sexual survivor assault who has realized that sexual harassment
and assault is a widespread reality, that many women in low-wage jobs face at their workplace. Yet, the journalist depicted the realization of the sexual assault survivor to show the severity of the problem, while it may be either an over or under-exaggeration, that women in low-waging jobs face sexual harassment at their workplace. Still, the journalist through this specific term conveys to the reader that the issue at hand is serious and it needs a solution. Whereas for the second example, is an aggregation where the journalist simply used a technique to present a fact; where black women face a harsh reality regarding their safety in the U.S.

**Individualization vs Collectivization**

“Women in low-wage US farm jobs say #MeToo” - Data 9

“Women of color in low-wage jobs” – Data 9

Both statements above have a similar approach towards describing women in a collectivized manner. Where they are assimilated and treated as a homogenous group, and their assimilating traits are them being ‘women’ ‘of color’ and having ‘low-waging jobs’. This type of depiction represents these women and refer to them by the color of their skin and function, which makes a significant difference in the way that these women are represented in the media. Creating a stock representation of women.

“and many more have come forward with stories of sexual abuse at the hands of powerful men working in media, politics, sports and other areas.” – Data 9

In this extract, the journalist depicted men in a collectivized manner. Where high-status men are represented in a collective form, conveying to the reader that ‘all men’ in those careers knew of the prevalent existence of that negative culture. ‘These powerful men’ are not individualized in order not to humanize them and deem them responsible for the actions committed by the responsible sexual assaulters.

“His behavior was reportedly an open secret in Hollywood, with high-profile actors, journalists and others quietly warning each other about being alone with the prominent producer for fear of sexual abuse.” – Data 8

The above statement shows a harsh reality of the women who worked alongside Weinstein. Where his reputation as a sexual assaulter/harasser was a defused notion among those who worked in the industry.
In this extract the journalist groups women according to function and depicts them as a close-knitted group, which represents women in this case in a good light.

**Suppression**

"Some of us could talk about it, but then ... no one wanted to say, 'It happened to me.'" – Data 9

In this quote by a woman, who faced the act of sexual harassment. The horrendous act is suppressed due to its powerful effect on these women, and how it’s mention would deem too negative for these survivors. The suppression of the sexual assault, in this case, is important in its withholding as it portrays the reality of these survivors to the reader.

“The public revelations regarding Weinstein have raised other important questions about sexual harassment and assault, especially in the workplace.” – Data 8

The above statement, the journalist describes the reactions after Weinstein-sexual harassment gate. Questions were raised regarding this culture of violence that many people and especially women are often the direct victims of this abuse. There is a clear usage of suppression, where the journalist does not mention who raises the question. Which indicates to a vast inquiry solicited from several work sectors, on the safety of their environment and how change should be brought upon this negative behavior.

“Accounts of sexual violence are common, and they aren't confined to the film or television industry.” – Data 8

In the above statement, there is a suggestion of a suppression as it does not indicate to whom these accounts of sexual violence belong to. Alluding to the reader that these accounts of sexual survivors are a widespread notion, not only in the fields of arts but also other career sectors. Which may attract the attention of the reader on the possibilities of the epidemic of this gender-based violence.

**Feature Articles Analysis: BBC**

The first of the articles gathered from BBC for the feature articles analysis was titled “How 'MeToo' is exposing the scale of sexual abuse” and it was published on 16th of October 2017, where it followed the response of a writer in India regarding the #Metoo movement and his admission to an impropriety. Next was an article titled “Creating a
safe workplace for women in the post-MeToo era” and it was published on 17th November 2017, and it recounted the appropriate steps for women to feel safe at their workplace. Lastly, the feature article to be analyzed for BBC was titled “Why women fear a backlash over #MeToo” and it was published on the 1st of December where it narrated the fears that women after stepping forward regarding their experiences with sexual harassment.

The following are the analysis of excerpts gathered from the articles.

**Individualization vs Collectivization**

“Why women fear a backlash over #MeToo.” – Data 12

In the statement above, women are depicted fearing repercussions after coming forward and recounting their negative experiences. In this statement, the journalist has collectivized and depicted women as a homogenous group, it may seem an innocuous description. However, women often fall victims of collectively being represented as a homogenous group, without any identificatory trait. While there is a validity in a statement, yet the depiction of women in this method creates a negative connotation instead.

“More than two dozen women - among them actresses Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Rose McGowan” – Data 10

In there are two approaches, where common women are collectivized, and famous actresses are individualized. This method is to attract the reader’s attention. It’s a technique to tell the reader that this negative culture is widespread, and that famed actresses have also fallen as victims.

“Women are conscious that it's not enough to achieve this in a few high-profile industries where the men are famous and therefore more likely to be outed.” – Data 11

“These stories have revealed a gender knowledge gap - women know a lot about this issue and men are hardly aware of it.” – Data 11

In these two examples, both women and men are collectivized as two groups where the journalist identified them with generalized traits. In the first two examples, women are depicted as the knowing group who are ‘conscious’ of the issues revolving the unfair
treatment that their gender is often subjected to. On the other hand, men are portrayed as famous or the oblivious group. In both scenarios, the journalist depicted women collectively as victims to men, where their identifiable traits seem more vulnerable.

It also puts these two groups in stereotypical depictions, where women are knowledgeable yet they full victims to oblivious/famous men.

**Objectivation**

“The tip-dependent waitress who goes to work every evening shouldn't have to smile and put up with the unwanted advances of drunk customers.” – Data 11

“The check-out woman at the local supermarket shouldn't have to put up with the comments…” – Data 11

“The nurse in your local hospital shouldn't have to worry about whether the supervisor on the lonely graveyard shift is going to push himself …” – Data 11

In the above statements, the journalist explains how women shouldn’t carry the burden regarding their safety at the workplace due to their gender. The sentence is structured in a manner where the journalist described random women according to their features, in this case, their jobs. However, what can be noticeable are the job positions of these women. While blue-collar jobs aren’t shameful in any way, however, the journalist objectified all these women in these jobs, without the mention of a high-status job position. Hence, depicting women as weak, not occupying important career roles and susceptible to sexual abuse.

“One conservative commentator has made the point that Franken has apologized, unlike Judge Roy Moore in Alabama.” – Data 11

In this statement, the commentator who defended Al Franken sexual misconduct is objectified by their political leaning, to stress on Franken’s Democratic party and how his behavior could negatively affect them. However, in this statement, the conservative member is defending the liberal/democratic senator to delegitimize the #Metoo movement and depict it as a witch-hunt. Hence defending the opposing political party comes as a tactic to discredit the movement.
Suppression

“Publicity and exposure are helping to change the culture, but the power of this seismic shift must be harnessed with care. This is not a witch hunt.” – Data 12

In the last excerpt from the BBC, the journalist suppressed #Metoo and the power that this movement brings to the society. Moreover, the journalist explains how the mediatic momentum that the movement is gaining shouldn’t discourage the supporters and the principles of #Metoo, as it seeks to open a conversation and bring social change on this culture of violence that is embedded in many societies.

Feature Articles Analysis: CNN

The first of the articles gathered from CNN was titled “An activist, a little girl and the heartbreaking origin of 'Me too'” and it was published on the 17th of October 2017, where it follows the #Metoo movement founder Tarana Burke’s journey to the creation of the viral movement.

The next article gathered from CNN was titled “How #MeToo could move from social campaign to social change” and it was published 9th of November 2017, and it follows how the viral hashtag could move from its birthplace on social media to garnering social change. Lastly, the final article gathered from CNN was titled “Donald Trump's #metoo moment is here”, and it was published on 12th of December 2017, where it follows how several women accusing Donald Trump of sexual harassment.

The following are the analysis of excerpts gathered from the articles.

Objectivation

“An activist, a little girl and the heartbreaking origin of 'Me too'” – Data 13

In the statement above, the journalist describes the beginning of the #Metoo movement through features of the people who initiated the movement. The movement started as a conversation between Burke and a young girl who seeking guidance after being sexually abused by her step-father.

“A viral graveyard” - Data 14
In this statement, the journalist depicts the internet and especially social media as a viral graveyard, where hashtag movements meet their demise through the decrease of public attention. The journalist through this objectivation of social media conveys the concern of the demise of the #Metoo movement after the notoriety that has gained.

“Social media is littered with the digital bones of once-vibrant hashtags and memes, so getting the momentum behind #MeToo to translate into literal action could be an uphill battle.” – Data 14

As mentioned above, the journalist takes a further approach in portraying social media as a graveyard littered with the ‘bones’ of once active hashtags and memes. The reason behind this depiction is to question the longevity behind #Metoo. Whether, the movement’s notoriety will subside and meet its fateful end in the social media graveyard, or leap from social media and translate its message directly in communities around the world to bring social change.

“It's the hashtag that rocked the world.” – Data 14

In the above statement, the journalist portrays the movement in a metaphorical manner. Where the journalist used objectivation, in which the nature of the movement was used to depict the change that #Metoo is bringing into our societies. This usage of this method suggests to the reader of the immense magnitude that this movement is bringing into having a reflection on the inequalities that women face, especially in professional environments.

**Individualization vs Collectivization**

“Women -- and some men -- have used them to share personal stories of sexual harassment and assault.” – Data 13

In this example, both men and women are depicted in a homogenous manner to portray how this culture of violence concerning gender violence at the workplace doesn’t only affect women, but men as well. Additionally, the movement while was born as a haven for women to come together and speak their truths regarding their experience with sexual harassment in the workplace. However, it also includes men who have faced the same harmful situation.

“During the campaign, Trump was broadly dismissive of all the allegations - - and the women making them.” – Data 15
In the statement above, the journalist explains how Trump has denied the accusations that several women have made against him. In the excerpt, Trump is individualized, and the women collectivized. As mentioned before, the method of collectivizing women depends on the lexical choices of the journalist. However, women here are depicted as a standardized group, while Trump is depicted as an individual. As mentioned before, this usage of collectivizing women and individualizing Trump humanizes the latter. As he is a well-known social actor and his behavior may concern the reader to a higher degree in comparison to the women who came forward.

“It's the men's turn” – Data 14

In the above statement, the journalist explains how men should heed to the demands that women are making concerning the prevalence of the gender-based violence at the workplace. In this selection, the journalist alludes to the reader that it is the turn of men to bring change and establish a secure workplace for all women. Where they are not threatened, which depicts all men as the allies of women and how this movement should be a collective effort to bring social change.

Suppression

“But can a hashtag, a meme or any viral moment -- no matter how widespread -- really turn into a lasting movement that will create social change and reduce sexual abuse of women?” – Data 14

In this excerpt, the journalist ponders on the possibilities on whether social media movements can last or even leap into a more physical presence into our society. In this statement above, the #Metoo movement is suppressed and instead, the journalist generally describes the nature of this movement and their notoriety for being viral on social media. However, the suppression of #Metoo and how it was collectivized with other hashtags that have met mediatic demise, alludes to the reader that the #Metoo movement is on an uncertain path and might meet the same pivotal demise of previous social media movements.

Summary of Findings Regarding Feature News Analysis

In a concise manner, through the analysis of the feature articles on Aljazeera, BBC and CNN, the most defined tools used in the data collected were objectivation, collectivization, and suppression.
Firstly, In Aljazeera, aggregation was used on two different accounts where it used as a method to state a factual quantifiable statement in regard to the harsh reality that African American women could experience with sexual assault. The other aggregatory example is where the journalist used this method to manufacture a consensus opinion concerning low-waging women and the consequences they may face in a post #Metoo environment. While for BBC and CNN there was a lack of the use of aggregation in the gathered articles.

Next, BBC and CNN had a prevalent use in the objectivation tool where it reduced on different accounts the #Metoo movement, and the predominantly the women who came forward in the featured articles into a feature. However, Aljazeera showed lack of use in the objectivation tool in the gathered data set.

Subsequently, the common tool between the three chosen mainstream media was the use of the individualization and collectivization tool. Where for the most part women were grouped together and represented as a homogenous group, in comparison to their male counterparts. A few uses have been noticed in the use of individualization tool. Where it used as a method to humanize a person in the eyes of the reader.

Lastly, the prevalent tool used by the chosen mainstream media was suppression. Where Aljazeera, BBC, and CNN used this tool to suppress various features in the articles. The use of this tool gives a possibility for the reader to come to their own conclusions regarding the issues presented. While the suppression of social actors or information in the articles might indicate towards signs of misrepresentation. However, the suppression of information, for example, the critics of #Metoo movement, may be suppressed to legitimize the movement.

**Images Analysis**
In the following section, images included in the articles from the gathered dataset were studied to decipher how the #Metoo is represented visually in the articles, while also understanding the representation of its female supporters through images. Whilst, also aim to understand the similar and different approaches of Aljazeera, BBC, and CNN.

**Hard News Image Analysis: Aljazeera**
In the hard news articles concerning Aljazeera, there was a shortage in the use of images within the articles, where on the other hand videos describing the main events where
embedded instead of images and text. However, the only article that used images was the article titled “Women demand probe into alleged Trump sexual assaults”.

**Gaze and Pose**

In the first image used in the Aljazeera article, it features a woman, most likely a supporter of the #Metoo movement.

In the picture, the woman could be seen in direct focus of the camera, where her open palm has the written phrases #Metoo, and #BalanceTonPorc (Expose your pig). The woman in the image is blurred to let the reader focus on the writings of the protester. Moreover, the gaze of the protester is distorted and can’t seem to be fixed on the viewer. Hence, giving the reader a chance to observe the picture.

**Setting**

Regarding the setting of the image, the background in which the protestor is standing in front is blurred to let the reader focus on the writings on the palm of the protestor. However, it seems like it is in an outdoor setting where the march was taking part in.

**Gaze and Pose**

The second image features Donald Trump during a conference. Trump’s gaze is directed towards the reader. Which enables the reader to establish an ‘imaginary relationship’ with the subject of the picture. Moreover, the pose of Trump seems to reflect a sense of hostility, which conveys urgency to the reader.

In the background, there is also the presence of vice president Mike Pence, however, he got blurred to let the viewer focus on the actions of Trump instead.

**Setting**

The setting regarding this image is indoors, however it may be suggested that it is inside the White House, due to the status of Trump and his ‘job position’.

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*Figure 1: Aljazeera (Data 3)*

*Figure 2: Aljazeera (Data 3)*
Hard News Image Analysis: BBC

Next, the following are the analysis of the images included in the gathered articles concerning the hard news published on the BBC.

Gaze and Pose

In the first image, the BBC used an image of Sarah Killcoyne, a woman who was sexually assaulted by a teacher and a professor in Cambridge.

In the image, the gaze of Killcoyne is fixed on the reader. Hence allowing a connection to established between the viewer and Killcoyne, which gives the possibility for the reader to feel what Killcoyne feels. Her pose seems rigid and tense as if it is to convey her trauma of being sexually assaulted by her two teachers to the viewer.

Setting

The setting of the image seems in an office. Alluding to the viewer that it might be Killcoyne’s workplace, which fits the theme of the article being about gender-based violence in the workplace. The background is blurred, but the objects included are not distracting the viewer from observing the image.

The next images are included in the article ‘Hollywood holds #MeToo march against sexual harassment’ detailing the #MeToo march that occurred in Hollywood (See Data 5 in Appendix).

Gaze and Pose

The first image shows protesters marching with banners down a street. The #MeToo movement founder Tarana Burke is at the head of the march, alongside the predominately female supporters of the movement.

None of the protestors’ gaze connecting with the viewers. Instead, the protestors have their gaze set forward, giving the viewer the possibility to analyze the picture. Whereas for the pose, the protesters have a stance of defiance and rebelliousness, where they are either carrying a banner or have their fist in the air in protest. Which fits the usual image of a protestor.
Setting
The setting of the image is an outdoor environment, where the protesters are marching down a busy street, with onlooking pedestrians looking at the protest. The setting could convey to the viewer how a movement born on social media is defying the social norms that the prevalent patriarchal society has instilled. Hence #MeToo creating a disturbance in what seemed a functional society that accepted sexual harassment in the workplace.

The next image is of protestors, where one of the protestors is mainly in focus, where she is holding a banner that clashes with the setting of the picture.

Gaze and Pose
Firstly, most of the gazes of the protesters are shielded by the banners, but the protester in focus has her gaze on the right side of the picture, which leaves room for the viewer to imagine the possibilities regarding the protester’s thoughts. Moreover, is similar to the previous image of the march, where the pose of the protesters conveys rebelliousness and anger towards the unfair social system where women are taken advantage of in their workplace.

Setting
The setting of the picture is interesting as mentioned previously. The protester in focus is holding a sign where it says, ‘My boss asked me to put on a bikini’, and the protester is photographed next to a shop where mannequins are carrying underclothing. Which clashes with the banner that the protester is holding, suggesting to the reader the unfair treatment that women face in their workplace.

Hard News Image Analysis: CNN
In the articles gathered for the hard news analysis for CNN, only one picture was embedded, where the other features were videos, graphs, and a caricature. Hence, for this visual analysis, the images to be analyzed are from the article “Report: Women accuse Hollywood director James Toback of sexual harassment”. (See Data 6 in Appendix)
Firstly, the caricature of the image included of the article shows three fists raised in protest, which conveys to the reader feelings of anger, disapproval, and power, where those three feelings come from the anger of the protestors concerning the treatment of women in the workplace.

Next, is the image of James Toback, a famed Hollywood director accused of sexual harassment by several women.

**Gaze and Pose**

In the image, the gaze of the director is towards the left side of the image, making no connection with the viewer. Hence, giving a possibility for the viewer to observe the image. The pose of the director seems to be bent and rigid, which conveys to the reader a sense of dishonesty.

**Setting**

The setting of the image doesn’t seem clear, however, it indicates that it may be an official ‘red-carpet’ event, where the director is photographed in front of an unfocused background. The setting may suggest to the reader how notorious powerful men such as Toback are often the culprits of gender-based violence.

**Summary of Findings Regarding Hard News Images Analysis**

Through the analysis of the images, the three mainstream media channels didn’t have an abundant number of images embedded in the hard news articles. Instead, they opted for videos.

From the analysis, the gaze of the protestors in the march was often not in focus, blurred or hidden behind their banners. Whereas for images including Toback and Trump, their gaze was either connecting with the reader or visible to the viewer. Hence giving an opportunity for the viewer to establish a connection with the subjects.

The pose of the protesters was often caught in motion, to portray them as rebellious and distraught due to the negative culture hence protesting it. The pose of Toback seems to carry a rigidness that conveys ambiguity and doubt, whereas for Trump his pose conveys
hostility. Lastly, the setting for the protestants is an outdoor environment, whereas for Toback and Trump they are situated indoor.

**Feature News Image Analysis: Aljazeera**

Next, the images analyzed for the feature articles concerning Aljazeera. The first image is of Tarana Burke where she can be seen giving a speech, the image is pixelated and not of sharp quality. The article is titled ‘Tarana Burke: #MeToo didn't start with Harvey Weinstein’. *(See Data 8 in Appendix)*

**Gaze and Pose**

The gaze of Burke is concealed by sunglasses, as it doesn’t show to whom she is looking at. So as mentioned before, the viewer has the opportunity to observe the picture and create their own rhetoric.

The pose of Burke is closed, where both of her hands are locked since she is photographed mid-speech, suggesting to the reader the seriousness of the talk given by Burke and its content.

**Setting**

The setting of the image outdoors, where the background is blurred to let the reader focus on the Burke.

The next images were from the article ‘Women in low-wage US farm jobs say #MeToo’ The article has two images. Firstly, the image of Tarana Burke, where she is heading a protest. *(See Data 9 in Appendix)*

**Gaze and Pose**

The image depicts women marching, with the banner that says ‘#Metoo survivor march’. The main person depicted in the march is Burke, where her gaze connects with the viewer, as it establishes a connection with the viewer. The pose of the women is of defiance and protest, where they have photographed marching and chanting slogans.

**Setting**

The setting of the march is somewhere on a busy street. Alluding to the viewer that this march might be disrupting the status quo of the society.
The final image is of European Parliament member Terry Reintke in an assembly at the headquarters of the European Parliament.

**Gaze and Pose**

Reintke can be seen standing up between two parliament members. Her gaze is fixed on the left side of the image, giving the viewer space for observation and come down with their own conclusions.

In addition to that, the gazes of the two male parliaments seem occupied, as it suggests to the reader that they may be disinterested to the speech of Reintke, which could act as a visual analogy to the difference how issues regarding sexual harassment affect women and men.

Reintke is standing while holding a sign that says ‘#MeToo’. Whereas the pose of the two male members seem aloof and slumped. Suggesting as mentioned before a disinterest, where they are preoccupied with other tasks such as talking on the phone and reading notes.

**Setting**

The setting is inside the European Parliament, which gives an important message that workplace sexual harassment also happens in a professional environment such as the European parliament.

**Feature News Image Analysis: BBC**

The following are the images analyzed regarding the feature news articles. In the article titled “How ’MeToo’ is exposing the scale of sexual abuse” it features Alyssa Milano midst other women in a protest. *(See Data 10 in Appendix)*

**Gaze and Pose**

The image focuses on Milano, where she is centered in the middle of the image. Her gaze falls on the left side of the image, which gives an opportunity for the viewer to look at the image in an observing manner. The pose of Milano seems attentive, where she seems to be engaging or listening to other protesters.

What is interesting, is how all the subjects in the image are carrying cell phones, which alludes to
the notoriety that #Metoo has reached due to social media and how it gained momentum because of it.

**Setting**

The image is situated outdoors, which is a recurring setting for the protests and the marches regarding #Metoo movement. As it gives the viewer the suggestion that the movement made a transition from social media, to directly into the societies where women are seeking justice and change.

In the next image, that is included in the article ‘Creating a safe workplace for women in the post-MeToo era’. *(See Data 11 in Appendix)*

The first image features a protestor in front of a banner that reads ‘#Metoo’

**Gaze and Pose**

In the image the protestor is looking upwards and seems to be attentive. Moreover, her gaze doesn’t contact with the view. Hence removing the burden from the viewer to establish a connection. The pose of the protestor doesn’t show due to the size of the image.

**Setting**

The background of the marcher is blurred but it shows several other protestors holding banners, where women seem to be looking the same direction as the focused protestor. A frequent method is to use images where women are the main actors, to convey to the reader is mainly a women’s movement.

In the second image featured in that article, is of four protestors who seem to react differently in the march.
Gaze and Pose

The two front protestors are blurred and yet visible. Their gazes fall on different sides of the image. The woman on the right’s gaze falls on the left side and seems to be attentive to the speech given in the march, while on the other hand the woman on the left’s gaze falls on the left side of the image and seem to be looking outwards or looking at the woman on the right. Both womens’ gazes don’t engage with the viewer. Hence, giving the viewer the opportunity to observe the image. The poses of the two women seem to be open and yet cautious.

On the other hand, the couple who are in focus have their eyes closed. Their pose is interesting, where the woman is leaning on the man’s chest and seems to be seeking support and comfort from the male protestor. While the male protestor is kissing the forehead of the woman conveying to the reader reassurance and care. Which could be a message about how women are seeking change and men need to support women’s rights.

Setting

The setting of the image seems to be during a protest or a march, which is a recurring theme when articles cover the #Metoo movement.

The next image that is also featured in the same article shows five activists both females and males standing with their banners and wearing the infamous ‘pussy hats’.

Pose and Gaze

All gazes of the protestors fall on the left side of the image. Where they seem to be distracted by the commotion happening during the march. Their poses are closed and hidden by the banners that they are holding.

Setting

The setting of the image seems to be in a park or a garden. Moreover, the background as previous images of the protestors is blurred, which allows for the reader to focus on the banners that that protestors are holding. Especially, their choice of attire, ‘the pussy hat’.
The next image featured in the article, is of Donald Trump, alongside Melania and Tiffany Trump. The image is from the inauguration of Trump as the president of the United States.

**Gaze and Pose**
The gazes of the Trump family are upwards, which may convey to the reader a sense of formality and high-status principles. Moreover, their gaze doesn’t meet the viewer, hence giving the viewer the possibility to interact as an observer and skim through the image.

**Setting**
The poses of the Trump family convey to the viewer different types of poses that deals with obedience and formality.

The penultimate image featured in the article is of Melania Trump sitting on a couch and surrounded by journalists and reporters who are holding cameras, phones, and microphones.

**Gaze and Pose**
The gaze of Melania Trump falls on the left side of the image, which gives the viewer the opportunity to observe the image and come up with the different circumstances concerning this image. The gazes of the photographers, reporters, and journalists are occupied by surveying a scene which is not shown in the picture.

The pose of Melania Trump is closed, and it conveys guard. As she is sitting rigidly on the couch, also he demure seems to exude self-composition and of formal demeanor. Whereas for the poses of the journalists, reporters and photographers are of curiosity and it conveys to the viewer urgency and importance.

**Setting**
The setting of the picture seems to be inside of the White House, due to the formality of the first lady Melania Trump on the couch.

The last picture featured in the article is of Senator Al Franken and Kirsten Gilliband, where they are both pictured together from neck up.
**Gaze and Pose**
The gaze of Franken is blurred, hence could observe the image instead. Whereas, for Gillbrand, it indeed connects with the viewer which may require the establishment of a connection. The pose is interesting, where Gillbrand is situated behind Franken, and it seems as if she is peering from behind him. Which may convey to the reader how women are often sidelined and headed by men.

**Setting**
The setting regarding this image can’t be deciphered as it the image concentrates on both senators.

One of the images from BBC has been analyzed previously, as it was featured in a previous article by Aljazeera.

Next, the next image features both #Metoo movement founder Tarana Burke and activist actress Rose McGowan.

**Gaze and Pose**
In the image, both Burke and McGowan are facing each other in an amicable manner. Hence, their gazes don’t engage with the viewer, as it gives an opportunity for observation to be made.

The poses of both activists are open, and it conveys to the reader determination and the willingness to bring change into our societies, together as a unified front.

**Setting**
The setting for this image seems to be on a stage, where both activists seem to be giving a speech.

**Feature News Image Analysis: CNN**
As mentioned before, in the articles gathered a frequent style of reporting, is the use of videos that cover information. Hence, images are scarce in the articles gathered, especially for the feature news concerning CNN.

The following image is retrieved from the ‘An activist, a little girl and the heartbreaking origin of ‘Me too’ article. The image is of close-shot of Tarana Burke.
Gaze and Pose

The gaze of Burke is not situated on the viewer. Hence not requiring the demand of an imaginary connection. Moreover, Burke’s gaze is upwards and seems surprised, or being caught off guard. Whereas for the pose, Burke suggests rigidness and preoccupation.

Setting

The setting of the image can’t be deduced, the image is of low-quality which is a frequent method used to depict Burke.

Summary of Findings Regarding Feature News Image Analysis

Images of supporters of the #MeToo movement are frequently females. Whereas for very few instances, males could be seen represented in the images. The gazes of the protestors are usually blurred or not in focus, whereas the gazes concerning the culprits such as Franken and Trump are in full view.

The poses of the protestors are mostly open and convey defiance, where they are often photographed during a march. Whereas the poses of the Franken and Trump are controlled and convey moderation and level-headedness. Which may represent the activists in a negative light. Representing them as disruptors who create havoc on the street, where they target all powerful men.

The setting of the individuals related to the movement is always photographed outdoors, specifically in protests and marches, making it seem to the viewer that the movement is not legitimized to be taken into consideration inside a formal setting. Whereas, for those who are on the other side of the spectrum, they are photographed in indoors settings that complement their job positions, conveying to the reader a sense of composure.

Discussion of Findings

The aim of this study is to understand the representation of the #MeToo movement in mainstream media. Through the analysis of the data gathered from Aljazeera, BBC and
CNN, have given an outcome on how the movement is represented. Whilst, also deciphering the similarities and differences in the coverage concerning #Metoo.

Firstly, through the analysis of the hard news articles concerning Aljazeera. The Qatari-based news tv channel website had a lack of the coverage regarding the #Metoo movement during the initial phase of the movement, in mid-October 2017. Hence, according to Lind and Salo (2002), that failing to attend or cover feminists and feminism in the news it construes to the public how this group and movement is unimportant, and in this case, the #Metoo movement and its supporters are deemed not worthy of coverage.

In the analysis of the articles using the Multimodal CDA tools, it showed a prevalence in the use of the aggregation and collectivization tools. Where the activists and survivors behind the #Metoo movement are either depicted in a homogenous term or used in an aggregatory manner. While it could be debated that it is a mere method of reporting news. However, it is also important to point out that misrepresentations could happen. According to Ashley and Olson (1998), reporters could easily contribute to influencing perceptions though word choices.

Whereas for BBC, the common tool used in their hard news coverage of the #Metoo movement, is suppression. While it is often stated that suppression is used to negate the voice or opinion of a social actor in the text. However, in the case of the BBC, text suppressed is as important as the available text. As stated by Machin and Mayr (2012), ambiguity in the text is also used to convey a certain perception or feeling to the reader.

Next, regarding the hard news coverage of the CNN on the #Metoo the excerpts analyzed, it showed how the famed American tv channel website opted to moderate the language, in which the social actors were represented. Where there were instances when CNN used collectivization and individualization in the case of Toback.

As for the visual analysis of the images concerning the hard news articles. It shows how from the gathered data a lack of image representations of the #Metoo movement and its supporters. Instead, the websites selected videos reporting on the incident. The chosen mainstream channels had in common the use of imagery where the protestors are photographed during the marches. Often their gazes are not connecting with the viewer or blurred. Whereas, usually for the images concerning the culprits such as Franken and Trump, their gazes are either connecting or visible to the viewer.
As stated by Machin and Mayr (2012), when the gaze of person looks at the viewer, it expects a response from the viewer where they are invited to acknowledge their existence and to be like them.

Also, the setting of the activists involved with the #MeToo movement would generally be photographed outdoors, usually during a protest. As mentioned by Lind and Salo (2002), feminists are less likely to appear in the context of home, a specific geographical location, at a workplace or other ‘regular’ ‘activities that ‘regular’ women do, hence representing them as these angry women who often occupy and disrupt the streets.

Next, concerning the analysis of the feature news articles, Aljazeera has used a complicity of different tools. Firstly, aggregation to report a consensus opinion to the reader. Secondly, collectivization of both women and men. Women are collectivized as the group who have survived sexual harassment incidents or are the group protesting with the #MeToo movement. Whereas men are collectivized as powerful entities.

Whereas for BBC, the British giant has used an eclectic variety of tools. Where women were objectified by their job positions and in this case low-ranking job positions. On the other hand. Men were depicted as powerful. Hence misrepresenting women as the weak victims and men as the powerful successful culprits. According to Bronstein (2005), feminists and women, in general, are less often depicted as entities who exercise agency.

Lastly, for CNN a noticeable trait was how BBC depicted social media as a viral grave, and that #MeToo movement would likely meet its mediatic demise after the declining public attention. That would suggest to the reader the approaching mediatic end that #MeToo will be facing. Hence misrepresenting it as a fad.

The tool most used by all three mainstream media was suppression. Where the three famed media used it to suppress #MeToo and let the reader ponder on the possibilities of the survival of the #MeToo movement. Also, the suppression of certain social actors such as the victims and the survivors. For its suppression could convey to the reader how these women fear the backlash they might receive from stepping forward. Furthermore, painting #MeToo negatively, where instead of being a platform for women to share their experiences with gender-related violence in their workplace, it has instead become a platform where women may be shamed and persecuted. Also, it is painted as a movement that goes after powerful men. Despite being a movement that opens a conversation on how certain entities misuse their power to assault others.
In the analysis of feature news articles embedded images, the visual representations carried similar tones as the hard news articles images. However, what was noticeable was the usage of low-quality images of the #Metoo movement activist Tarana Burke. The images used were unflattering and of low resolution, where she was often photographed mid-action and not gazing towards the viewer.

**#Metoo Through Theory Lenses**

Social media has given many movements a rightful platform to validate their cause and gain momentum through the public opinion to bring change in communities all over the world. The #Metoo movement is no less. In fact, it has gained popularity due to the millions of women who have shared their stories of sexual assault. That shows how social media has given the power to the women to share and communicate their burdens regarding gender-based violence freely on the various social media platforms, whereas mentioned before, Castells (2007), social media has given people the tool to self-communicate; hence, social media giving a legitimate platform for survivors and activists to come together and end sexual assault crimes.

Another aspect to understand is the ideology that those three mainstream media heads have regarding the #Metoo movement. Initially, through a superficial aspect, Aljazeera doesn’t have much coverage regarding the #Metoo movement during the initial phase of the birth of the movement, whereas for BBC and CNN they have extensively covered the movement. In a deeper retrospect, BBC and CNN have covered the effect that #Metoo has in their respective societies. Indeed, articles belonging to BBC and CNN included stories concerning women from their respective societies. While on the other hand, Aljazeera didn’t cover the effect of the #Metoo movement in the Middle Eastern region. Since as mentioned before, Aljazeera gives another perspective that stems from the Middle East. Because of that lack, it may be argued that Aljazeera not covering issues related to the #Metoo movement, and its affect in the Middle East region conveys a negligence from the part of the Qatari-based news channel website, in regard to gender-based violence in the workplace.

Also, another interesting aspect is how CNN would dominantly use names of powerful men to further the narrative within the articles, considering that this approach may be used by CNN to garner attention and clicks from the readers.
Research Questions Answers
This study has used critical discourse analysis on fifteen articles including their images, to answer the research questions.

RQ1: How is the #Metoo movement represented in the chosen mainstream news websites?

The #Metoo movement is represented moderately in a positive manner, where the viral hashtag is depicted as a social movement that is bringing change in societies all over the world. Moreover, it is represented as a platform where women can recount their traumatic experiences with sexual assault and getting to be supporters of other women as well. Yet, in minor instances, the #Metoo movement was depicted as a ‘witch-hunt’ where powerful men are targeted due to their statuses. In addition to that, the three-mainstream media tv websites have frequently pointed out how #Metoo have opened a discussion on this gender-based violence problem. The representation technique of the #Metoo movement was often made through a constructionist approach, where the mainstream media tv channels have chosen to construct and represent the #Metoo movement through language systems that depict the movement both as a game-changer or a witch-hunt. According to Hall (1997), the constructionist approach indicates that the language system or any other system are used to represent the concepts, where social actors use abstract systems to construct meaning and make the world meaningful.

RQ2: What are the similarities and differences in the coverage of the #Metoo movement in the chosen mainstream news websites?

In the analysis of the three-mainstream media tv websites, the similarities have been the curiosity behind the founder of the #Metoo movement Tarana Burke, where they took an interest in detailing her journey from founding the movement in 2006 to becoming a platform on social media for women to come forward and share their stories. Another similarity is how they depicted the activists and survivors behind #Metoo as one group, where they would use ‘women’ to represent the supporters of the #Metoo movement. Furthermore, they would also depict men in a collectivized manner, where they would convey to the reader that this movement targets ‘powerful high-profile men’, which misrepresents #Metoo as a movement whose main goal is retaliation and creating a battle between the two sexes, rather than a movement that is seeking to open a conversation and bring justice to those who have suffered. However, the main difference is the lack of
coverage furnished by Aljazeera, in contrast to BBC and CNN; where the Qatari-based website didn’t extensively cover the movement as much. While BBC and CNN reported stories regarding western women, Aljazeera opted to either cover marches and protests, or not report at all; which indicates to a lack of interest coming from Aljazeera regarding the effect of #Metoo in the Middle Eastern societies.

Regarding power, social media has given power for women to come forward and share their stories. In fact, it has given them the power to report and spread awareness without any intermediary parties. According to Castells (2007), mass self-communications offers an efficient medium for social movements to build their autonomy and confront the institutions of society. It has also given power to the #Metoo movement to be legitimized and covered by mainstream media, where it’s role is to percept and influence the public.

In the study, the ideologies of the chosen mainstream media were detected during the analysis, where there is a difference between the three mainstream media channels. Firstly, Aljazeera has shown a slight disinterest in the movement, treating it as secondary news rather than being extensively covered. Whereas on the other hand, BBC has shown keen interest and covered the events revolving around the movement while also giving a platform for victims to come forward and recount their experiences. Lastly, CNN has also shown interest in the movement, however, the American-based news giant frequently used powerful men as their main narrative to recount the stories of the victims. According to Van Dijk (2006), words, phrases, and topics are not ideologically based, but their use in communicative situations are. Additionally, the intentions of the speaker and whether they are made explicit in discourse counts as ideologically based.

Conclusion

The aim of this study was to understand how mainstream international media represents the #Metoo movement through their online websites. To make this possible, a total of 15 articles were analyzed. Using the Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis tools, the analysis studied both hard and feature news, alongside the images embedded in them. The theoretical framework was encompassed by theories of representation, power, and ideology, which each guide in answering the research questions.
Through the analysis, the study concluded that the #Metoo movement is represented moderately positive. The #Metoo movement is applauded for trying to change the status quo. The representation approach of the three mainstream international media was constructionist, where they constructed the #Metoo movement through language systems.

Moreover, the three mainstream international media channels had a slightly different approach towards the coverage of the #Metoo movement. BBC and CNN reported and covered women who came forward with their own experiences, in their respective countries. However, Aljazeera failed to cover the effect of the #Metoo movement in the Middle Eastern region. This could reflect the different ideological perspectives regarding the #Metoo movement.

Power was an underlying theme in the articles, where social media and the #Metoo movement were applauded for furnishing a platform for women to spread awareness. These types of online movements have garnered much attention for allowing people to mass-self-communicate.

Finally, mainstream media is both a reflection and an influencer. The #Metoo movement gained many supporters through social media. Yet, mainstream media has legitimized and has given relevance to the movement by taking a keen interest in covering its development. Whether #Metoo movement will follow suit of prior social media movements and join the ‘viral graveyard’ is debatable. However, for the meantime, the #Metoo movement has started a conversation and is bringing positive change for women all over the world.
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Nabila Nuraddin


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# Appendix

## Data Set Table for Hard News

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<th>Article Name</th>
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Al Jazeera’s Rob Reynolds reports from Los Angeles.
#MeToo: Thousands march in Paris to protest sexual harassment

*Thousands of people in France have taken the 'Me Too' online campaign to the streets. The hashtag has been used by millions of women worldwide to highlight and protest against endemic sexual harassment.*

by David Chater
30 Oct 2017

Thousands of people in France have taken the "Me Too" online campaign to the streets.

The hashtag has been used by millions of women worldwide to highlight and protest against endemic sexual harassment.

It was triggered by the Harvey Weinstein scandal, the Hollywood producer accused of sexually assaulting and raping many actresses and subordinates over a number of years.

The French government has recently acknowledged the scale of the issue and proposed new legislation to combat sexual harassment and assault in France.

Al Jazeera's David Chater reports from Paris.
Women demand probe into alleged Trump sexual assaults

Three women who have accused Donald Trump of sexual assault are calling on US Congress to investigate the president.

11 Dec 2017

Three women who have accused Donald Trump of sexual assault and misconduct are now calling on Congress to launch a bipartisan investigation into the US president’s alleged actions, saying a probe should go beyond partisan politics.

Samantha Holvey, Rachel Crooks and Jessica Leeds first came forward last year, detailing separate instances in which they say Trump sexually harassed and forcibly kissed and groped them before he became president.

"This isn’t a partisan issue. This is how women are treated every day," said Holvey, a former Miss USA contestant, during a press conference in New York on Monday morning, where the women called for the independent investigation by Congress.

"The standard that our president is setting, it's not high enough right now," Holvey said.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Trump administration denied the women’s claims.

"These false claims, totally disputed in most cases by eyewitness accounts, were addressed at length during last year's campaign, and the American people voiced their judgment by delivering a decisive victory," the White House statement reads, according to The Washington Post.
"The timing and absurdity of these false claims speak volumes, and the publicity tour that has begun only further confirms the political motives behind them."

Speaking to reporters later in the day, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the president has denied all the allegations.

"This took place long before he was elected to be president and the people of this country, at a decisive election, supported President Trump," Sanders said.

But the women's call for a formal investigation into the president's actions comes as Senate Democrats have made their own push for Trump to resign over sexual assault allegations.

"We have a president who acknowledged on tape that he assaulted women. I would hope that he pays attention to what's going on and thinks about resigning," Bernie Sanders wrote on Twitter last Thursday.

'Nothing I could do'
At least 16 women have come forward accusing Trump of sexual misconduct since he first launched his campaign for US president, according to the organisers of Monday's press conference.

Holvey was a contestant in the Miss USA pageant when she says Trump - who owned the pageant for nearly two decades - entered the backstage area unannounced as women were in various stages of undressing.
She told CNN in October 2016 that Trump personally inspected each contestant individually and "would step in front of each girl and look you over from head to toe.

"As a little girl, I would watch the Miss USA pageant every year and dream of being one of those beautiful, successful, incredibly confident women. These dreams never included a man lining us up to look us over like pieces of meat," Holvey said on Monday.

Crooks was working as a receptionist at Trump Tower when she says Trump forcibly kissed her on the mouth.

"I felt there was nothing I could do," Crooks said on Monday about the incident.

Leeds, meanwhile, said she was sitting next to Trump on a plane in the 1970s when he forcibly reached up her skirt. She said she managed to get away from him and get out of her seat, and then moved to the back of the plane, where she waited for all the other passengers to disembark before she could move.

Women have shared stories of sexual harassment with the hashtag #MeToo [Christophe Petit Tesson/EPA]

"That was the last time I wore a skirt travelling," Leeds said at the press conference.
She added that Trump's presidential victory last November "absolutely destroyed" her. "We're at the position now where in some areas of our society, people are being held accountable for unwanted behaviour. But we are not holding our president accountable for what he is and who he is," she said.

Trump has repeatedly called the accusations against him unfounded, however, and cast doubt on the motivations of his accusers.

He has more recently sought to discredit a 2005 recording, in which he can be heard bragging to Access Hollywood host Billy Bush about kissing and touching women in Hollywood. "You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful - I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait," Trump said in the recording, which was released by the Washington Post and NBC News in 2016.

Trump apologised when the tape was first released.
"When you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything," he says in the recording. "Grab them by the p***. You can do anything."

**Trump 'unscathed'**

In recent weeks, many women have come forward across several industries to accuse men of sexual abuse, harassment, rape, and other unwanted sexual behaviour.

The slogan #MeToo has been used worldwide to show support for survivors of gender-based violence, and, last week, Time magazine named "The Silence Breakers" - the women who have spoken out about sexual harassment and assault - its "Person of the Year" for 2017.

Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, Democratic Congressman Al Franken, and other men in positions of power have resigned amid the allegations thus far.

But, according to Crooks, despite publicly sharing the details of her alleged assault at the hands of the now-president, her and other women's stories "seem to fall on deaf ears" and Trump "has escaped [the allegations] unscathed".

She said she hoped Americans "will hold Mr Trump to the same standard as Harvey Weinstein" and others.

"If they were willing to investigate Senator Franken, I think it's only fair they do the same for Trump," she said, adding that how society views sexual harassment of women needs to change. "We shouldn't let politicians get away with this," she said.

**Support for inquiry**

According to a recent Quinnipiac University poll, 70 percent of Americans believe Congress should investigate the Trump allegations. Another 73 percent of respondents said it was hypocritical for the president to criticise other men accused of sexual harassment.
"The message to President Donald Trump on calling out offenders: People who live in glass houses, even if it's the White House, shouldn't point fingers," said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the poll, in a statement.

Most Republicans have remained silent on the allegations against the president.

But Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the United Nations and one of the highest-ranking women in the Trump administration, recently spoke out, saying that women who have accused the president of sexual abuse "should be heard".

"They should be heard and they should be dealt with. And I think we heard from them prior to the election. And I think any woman who has felt violated or felt mistreated in any way, they have every right to speak up," Haley told CBS's Face the Nation on Sunday.

Cory Booker, a Democratic Senator from New Jersey, also recently told VICE that Trump should resign over the allegations.

"I just watched Senator Al Franken do the honourable thing and resign from his office. My question is, why isn't Donald Trump doing the same thing - who has more serious allegations against him, with more women who have come forward," Booker is quoted as saying.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA NEWS
'Half of women' sexually harassed at work, says BBC survey

25 October 2017

Half of British women and a fifth of men have been sexually harassed at work or a place of study, a BBC survey says.

Of the women who said they had been harassed, 63% said they didn't report it to anyone, and 79% of the male victims kept it to themselves.

The ComRes poll for BBC Radio 5 live spoke to more than 2,000 people.

The survey was commissioned after sexual assault claims against Harvey Weinstein resulted in widespread sharing of sexual harassment stories.

Women and men who have been sexually harassed have been revealing their experiences on social media using the hashtag "me too" to show the magnitude of the problem worldwide.

That followed allegations, including rape and sexual assault, against Mr Weinstein from more than two dozen women - among them actresses Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Rose McGowan.

The Hollywood producer insists sexual relations he had were consensual.
- Are you being sexually harassed at work?
- When does flirting become sexual harassment?
- Why I chose #MeToo for my sexism experiment

The Radio 5 live survey, of 2,031 British adults, found that 37% of all those asked - 53% of women and 20% of men - said they had experienced sexual harassment, ranging from inappropriate comments to actual sexual assaults, at work or a place of study.

More than a quarter of people surveyed had suffered harassment in the form of inappropriate jokes or “banter” and nearly one in seven had suffered inappropriate touching.

Of those who had been harassed, 5 live’s survey suggests one in 10 women had been sexually assaulted.

More women than men were targeted by a boss or senior manager - 30% compared with 12% - and one in 10 women who had experienced harassment said it led to them leaving their job or place of study.

Sarah Kilcoyne, from Cambridge, told BBC News she was sexually assaulted when she was still in education by two different men - a school teacher when she was a teenager and later by a college professor.

She said: “I would very much like to see the people around the predators - we know there’s only a few of them - to stop enabling them.”

'Dirty and uncomfortable'

One man, who did not want to be identified, said he had been harassed by his female boss.
He said: "She made constant comments about my appearance and how I dressed - comments asking about my hairy chest and what I liked in a woman."

"It was all laughed off by other mainly female office staff, but it left me feeling dirty and uncomfortable."

"I ended up with depression and confidence issues and had time off with anxiety as a result."

Since the allegations about Mr Weinstein surfaced, many high profile names have used social media to highlight the problem of sexual assault, some also detailing the harassment they have endured.

'Paralysed by fear'

Jess Phillips and Mary Creagh were among the MPs to reveal their accounts as they wanted to encourage victims of abuse to speak out.

Labour's Ms Phillips told the London Evening Standard how she had been left "paralysed by fear" when she woke up at a party to find her boss undoing her belt and trying to get into her trousers.

Fellow Labour MP Ms Creagh said she was just seven when she was sexually assaulted by about 12 boys during a school playground game of kiss-chase.

The results of the BBC survey follow research published last year by the TUC which also suggested more than half of women say they have been sexually harassed at work - and most had not reported it.

Reports low

People often fail to report sexual harassment for a range of reasons, Manuela Barreto, the University of Exeter's professor of social and organisational psychology, told the BBC.

They might feel the harassment took place in a "subtle" way, or was couched in humour.

When one case is exposed in the media, however, those effects change. "It facilitates understanding, and therefore detection, of what qualifies as sexual harassment," she says.

"It gives the message that it's a serious matter and that there are many out there who support the perception that this is a problem."

#MeToo momentum

Activist Tarana Burke is the founder of the original Me Too campaign - launched 10 years ago in the United States to provide "empowerment through empathy" to survivors of sexual abuse, assault, exploitation, and harassment in underprivileged communities.

She told 5 Live she feels there is now momentum behind a genuine change in the way sexual harassment is handled.
"From what I'm seeing and hearing, and from the groundswell of support for this, it doesn't feel like it's stopping," she said.

"My ultimate goal is to make sure this is not just a moment, that this is a movement, and we will continue to raise our voices, we will continue to disrupt, we will continue to tell our stories until we are heard and until we move the needle."

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Diplomatic and defence editor, Newsnight
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Hollywood holds #MeToo march against sexual harassment

13 November 2017

Hollywood sexual harassment scandal

Hundreds of people have marched in Hollywood in support of victims of sexual assault and harassment, inspired by the #MeToo social media campaign.

The march follows a torrent of assault and harassment allegations against public figures, set off by revelations about the movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The marchers started on Hollywood Boulevard and walked along the "Walk of Fame" to CNN's headquarters.

They were predominantly women but many men attended.

Tara McNamara, 21, of Los Angeles, told Reuters news agency that the march felt cleansing after years of not being taken seriously about abuse.

"I've been sexually assaulted multiple times throughout my life," she said. "It's affected me in every aspect of my life."
The #MeToo hashtag was first used by social activist Tarana Burke and popularised by actress Alyssa Milano in the wake of the Weinstein allegations.

Ms Burke led Sunday's march. "For every Harvey Weinstein, there's a hundred more men in the neighborhood who are doing the exact same thing," she wrote on Facebook ahead of the event.

"What we're seeing, at least for now, is a unity of survivors, a community of survivors that have grown out of this #MeToo viral moment, that I'm just hoping and praying that we can sustain."

- How 'MeToo' is exposing the scale of sexual abuse
- Harvey Weinstein: The accusers' stories
- How the scandal unfolded
- Louis CK admits sexual misconduct allegations

The actor Kevin Spacey and comedian Louis CK are among the high-profile figures accused of sexual harassment over the past few weeks.

Louis CK published an apology on Friday, admitting after years of denials that the allegations were true.

"The power I had over these women is that they admired me. And I wielded that power irresponsibly," he wrote.

The New York Times reported in October that Weinstein, 65, had settled out of court with eight women who had accused him of sexual harassment and unwanted physical contact.

Weinstein has also been accused of rape, but said through a spokesperson that he "unequivocally denied" any allegations of non-consensual sex.
World

Toback of sexual harassment

By Darran Simon and Janet DiGiacomo, CNN
© Updated 1847 GMT (0247 HKT) October 25, 2017

Story highlights

The Los Angeles Times says it has interviewed multiple women about their alleged encounters with director James Toback

Toback has denied the allegations to the LA Times, the newspaper reports

(CNN) — Numerous women have accused Hollywood screenwriter and director James Toback of sexual harassment, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The Times says it interviewed multiple women about their alleged encounters with Toback over several decades; the Times says most of the women spoke on the record.

The article reported that according to the woman: “In a hotel room, a movie trailer, a public park, meetings framed as interviews or auditions quickly turned sexual.”

CNN has not independently verified all of the allegations, but is reaching out to the women.

Toback’s agent, Jeff Berg, said Sunday he would pass a request for a comment on to his client. Berg has since ceased representing Toback. The director, 72, denied the allegations when contacted by the Times, the newspaper said.

Toback told the paper he had never met any of the women — or if he did meet them, it “was for five minutes and (he had) no recollection.” He said that for the last 22 years, it was “biologically impossible” for him to take part in the behavior the women described in the article, saying he had diabetes and a heart condition requiring medication, the Los Angeles Times reported. He declined to elaborate.
Hollywood screenwriter and director James Toback

The allegations against Toback come in the wake of a New York Times story this month detailing numerous accusations of sexual harassment against powerful movie producer Harvey Weinstein. The New York Times identified several of Weinstein's accusers.

The allegations against Weinstein sparked the Twitter hashtag #metoo, in which women have shared personal stories of sexual harassment and abuse.

More than 40 women have accused Weinstein of inappropriate behavior, ranging from sexual harassment to rape. Through a spokeswoman, Weinstein has "unequivocally denied" all allegations of rape.

Related Article: The survival stories that powered #MeToo
Gretchen Carlson discusses the Weinstein scandal 08:32

On Sunday, three of Toback's accusers -- Sari Kamin, Starr Rinaldi and Terri Conn -- appeared on NBC's "Nightly News."

Kamin, 37, later told CNN that she met Toback in 2003 while making copies of a script at a print shop in New York.

She said he talked about his movies. They went to diners together, and she thought she was "being discovered" and did not want to ruin her chances.

He later coerced her to join him in his hotel room and told her to take off her clothes, she said. While she was sitting in a chair, he started rubbing his groin against her, she said.

"That's when I asked him, 'Are you trying to get off?' and he said, 'Absolutely,' " she said.

She said for a long time, she felt a sense of shame and blamed herself.

Another woman, Ashley McCune, told CNN she was a flight attendant walking through the Los Angeles airport in 1998 when he stopped her.

"The whole thing was so surreal. I was in the middle of my trip and actually out in the airport looking for Beanie Babies," she said, referring to the line of stuffed animal characters.

She said they talked about his movies, "Harvard Man," and he gave her "homework" to watch his films. They met several times later, ran errands together and even went to a film location together, she said.

On one occasion they were in his hotel room and he told her, "I don't have a lot of time to get to know you. I need to get to know your soul so for now, I need you to get out of your clothes. I need to get to know you through my fingers," she said.

None of the women contacted the police at the time of the alleged incidents, the Los Angeles Times reported.
According to his biography on IMDb, Toback has 17 screenplay/writing credits, and 12 credits for directing.

His first film, "The Gambler" in 1974, starred James Caan. Toback is also credited with writing and directing "Fingers" in 1978, starring Harvey Keitel and "The Pick-up Artist" in 1987 starring Robert Downey Jr., and Dennis Hopper.

In 1992, Toback was nominated for an Academy Award for his role as the screenwriter of " Bugsy" starring Warren Beatty. Toback would later direct Downey in two other films -- "Two Girls and a Guy" in 1997 and "Black & White" in 1999, according to IMDb.

Toback most recently wrote and directed "The Private Life of a Modern Woman" starring Sienna Miller, Alec Baldwin and Charles Grodin, according to IMDb.

This story has been updated to add that Jeff Berg no longer represents James Toback.

CNN's Sandra Gonzalez, Stella Chan and Tom Kludt contributed to this report.

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One fifth of Americans know someone who said #MeToo

By Emanuella Grinberg and Jennifer Agiesta, CNN
Published 1047 GMT (1047 HKT) November 10, 2017

Not just Hollywood: Survivors share their stories 02:01

Story highlights

1 in 5 Americans said close friends or family members shared stories on social media.

52% think recent news coverage will help reduce sexual harassment and assault.

(CNN) — In the month since news broke of allegations of sexual harassment and assault against Harvey Weinstein, about 1 in 5 Americans said close friends or family members shared stories about sexual harassment or assault on social media, according to a CNN poll.

Headlines about the scandal and the culture in which it flourished were just as ubiquitous, especially as other powerful men were called out. About 65% of people said they’ve heard a lot of news stories about sexual harassment and assault lately, according to the same poll.

But what do people really think of all this coverage and the impact it will have? The CNN poll conducted by SSRS found that most people are hopeful that the surge of attention on sexual harassment and assault could lead to positive change.

What’s more, the men and women surveyed had, for the most part, strikingly similar reactions to the news while greater differences emerged among age groups.
A narrow majority of 52% of the respondents think these stories will reduce the amount of sexual harassment and assault women face. When broken down by gender, about 54% of men and 53% of women said the media attention will reduce the prevalence of mistreatment.

Almost three-quarters or 74% think attention to those stories will lead to a more widespread understanding of what constitutes sexual harassment and assault. Opinions varied among generations; people ages 50 to 64 were the most optimistic compared with 43% of people ages 35 to 49.
While most respondents -- 76% -- said they weren’t surprised by the types of behavior being described as sexual assault in news accounts, 19% of men and women said they were. The number of people ages 18 to 34 -- 22% -- expressed more surprise than any other group.

But optimism reigns by a slim margin, and a substantial percentage of respondents remain pessimistic about the implications of the growing scandals.

For example, a sizable 44% think the amount of attention the accusations are getting will make it harder for men and women to interact in the workplace.
The stories came in a rush on social media after actress Alyssa Milano called on people to share.

Women were more likely to report seeing such stories from close friends or family on social media than men: 23% vs. 15%. Younger Americans were more likely to have seen those stories on social media: 30% of women under 50 said they’ve seen those posts, compared with 20% among men in the same age group.

Fewer have had personal conversations about it with close friends or family members. About 13% said that in the last month a close friend or family member told them personally about instances of sexual harassment or assault that they had not shared before. That includes 16% of women and 12% of men.

Among women under age 50, 21% report having had those conversations, almost double the 12% of younger men who’ve had similar conversations.

The long-term impact will take time to measure, but the fallout of high-profile men and increased calls for accountability offer some signs of hope. What happens in the next weeks, months and years will tell the real story.

The CNN poll was conducted by SSRS by telephone November 2 to 5 among a random national sample of 1,021 adults. The margin of sampling error for results among the full sample is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points; it is larger for subgroups.

Related Article: The #MeToo stories you shared with CNN
Tarana Burke: #MeToo didn't start with Harvey Weinstein

Movement’s founder says she hopes the viral campaign can bolster support for sexual abuse survivors.

by Jillian Kestler-D’Amours

20 Oct 2017

Every year, an average of 321,500 people above the age of 12 are raped or sexually assaulted in the US

(Courtesy of Tarana Burke)

Montreal, Canada - “Me, too.”
That's what Tarana Burke wishes she had said nearly a decade ago, when a young girl who had survived sexual violence was trying to connect with her over the pain she was experiencing.

A survivor of sexual violence herself, Burke said she wasn't equipped to deal with what the young girl was telling her at the time.

"When she left, when she walked away, I kept saying... 'All you had to say was, 'Me, too,'" Burke recalled.

"That sat with me for the longest time."

That's why Burke - a public speaker and community organiser based in New York - named the movement she founded about 10 years ago to support and amplify the voices of survivors of sexual violence, assault and abuse, "Me too."

"I just felt like it was succinct and powerful, and I felt like it can be a conversation starter... or it can be the whole conversation. You just really don't have to say much more," Burke told Al Jazeera.

**#MeToo goes viral: 'A watershed moment'**

This week, women from around the world began using #MeToo on social media to share their own experiences with sexual harassment and sexual assault.

The two-word hashtag was mentioned more than 1.7 million times on Facebook, according to social media analytics programme TalkWalker, and more than 1.5 million times on Twitter, according to Trendsmap.

The posts were sparked by news reports that revealed how Hollywood super-producer Harvey Weinstein had allegedly sexually assaulted and harassed numerous women over several years.
Weinstein, who has denied many of the accusations, was fired as cochairman of The Weinstein Company, and forced to resign from the company’s board of directors this week.

His behaviour was reportedly an open secret in Hollywood, with high-profile actors, journalists and others quietly warning each other about being alone with the prominent producer for fear of sexual abuse.

The public revelations regarding Weinstein have raised other important questions about sexual harassment and assault, especially in the workplace.

Many are asking how Weinstein was able to sustain his alleged abuse for so long, and how prevalent it is for men in positions of power to wield that power in abusive ways.

"Unfortunately, this kind of sexual predatory behaviour is a lot more common than most of us think it is," said Sheela Raja, a clinical psychologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago and an author of books on how sexual abuse survivors can overcome trauma.

"It's a positive thing that we are now having some of these larger discussions," she said.

"Maybe this will be a watershed moment."

**Hundreds of thousands affected**

Every year, an average of 321,500 people above the age of 12 are raped or sexually assaulted in the US, according to the anti-sexual violence organisation RAINN.

A vast majority are women and girls, and many survivors experience post-traumatic stress disorder or have suicidal thoughts tied to their assault.

Sexual violence also disproportionately impacts women of colour.

Approximately one in five (22 percent) Black women will be raped in her lifetime in the US, according to a 2010 survey.
More than a quarter (26.9 percent) of women who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native will also be raped, the survey found.

In Canada, one in three women will experience sexual violence in her lifetime, according to the Native Women’s Association of Canada.

More than half (54 percent) of aboriginal women in Canada reported severe forms of family violence, including sexual assault, compared with 37 percent of non-aboriginal women.

Accounts of sexual violence are common, and they aren’t confined to the film or television industry.

Fox News’ Roger Ailes and Bill O’Reilly were recently forced to resign after they were accused of sexually harassing female colleagues; the vice president of the University of Southern California stepped down after an investigation was launched into his treatment of women; innumerable reports have exposed the toxic culture in Silicon Valley and what has been dubbed a “sexual-harassment crisis” in the tech industry there.

_Whether you know it or not, you do know a survivor of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and we all need to operate based on that premise instead of necessarily forcing people to come forward with all of their painful stories._

SHEELA RAJA, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Earlier this week, US Olympic gymnast McKayla Maroney published an open letter on Twitter saying that she had been repeatedly sexually abused by a team doctor since she was 13 years old.
"People should know that this is not just happening in Hollywood. This is happening everywhere. Wherever there is a position of power, there seems to be potential for abuse," Maroney wrote.

The will to make excuses for abusers, while disbelieving survivors' accounts of that abuse, is also common.

"There's a lot of people complicit for this kind of abuse to continue, and it takes a lot of really, really brave survivors to come forward and talk about their story to really help change the culture on these things," the University of Illinois at Chicago's Raja told Al Jazeera.

However women shouldn't feel like the onus is solely on them to share their stories of abuse again and again, since this can be re-traumatising, Raja said.

"Whether you know it or not, you do know a survivor of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and we all need to operate based on that premise instead of necessarily forcing people to come forward with all of their painful stories," she said.

Educating men so they can recognise situations that are making women uncomfortable, and how they can intervene, is important, as is providing education in workplaces and schools.

"Now we need men to step up and say, 'How are we going to participate in changing the culture around some of these things?" Raja said.

'Bigger than a moment in time'
Burke said she understands the impetus for survivors to share stories of sexual violence or harassment on social media, and to demonstrate the prevalence of the problem.

Prior to #MeToo, several similar social media campaigns had also gone viral.
The hashtag #BeenRapedNeverReported drew attention to the issue of sexual violence after Canadian media presenter Jian Ghomeshi was accused of sexually assaulting multiple women in 2014.

Earlier this year, #YesAllWomen was also widely used to denounce sexism and violence against women more generally.

But reading social media posts about this type of trauma has been triggering for many people, Me Too’s Burke said.

She added that she hopes the conversation can shift from focusing on the scope of the problem to finding out what types of support survivors need to begin to heal.

"What happens when these people open themselves up? What happens when they start talking about things that they’ve possibly never talked about in their lives? Where do you point them, what direction do they go in, how do you support them?" Burke asked.

"This is bigger than a moment in time," she continued.

"I don’t ever try to define what healing looks like for anybody. But I think when we start sharing stories of healing ... it changes the conversation."

SOURCE: Al Jazeera News
Women in low-wage US farm jobs say #MeToo

Women of colour in low-wage jobs face uphill battle to report and get justice for sexual abuse and harassment at work.

by Jillian Kestler-D’Amours
12 Dec 2017

People march in support of sexual assault survivors in Hollywood last month [Lucy Nicholson/Reuters]

Mily Trevino-Saucedo was eight years old when she first started working on farms in the US.
As one of 10 children, she worked before and after school in agricultural fields alongside her siblings and her father, who spoke little English but was able to find work on farms in Washington state, Idaho and California, as the family moved around the US.

It was as a teenager, decades ago, that Trevino-Sauceda said she first encountered sexual harassment in the industry.

"When I was a teenager and young adult, I was sexually harassed several times [at work]," she told Al Jazeera.

But when Trevino-Sauceda tried to tell her father about the incidents, she said he asked her what she had done to prompt what had happened.

"I silenced myself after that," she said. "I just remember crying and I remember not wanting to speak any more."

It would be several more years until Trevino-Sauceda realised just how widespread sexual harassment, assault and violence was among women farmworkers in the US, who number hundreds of thousands across the country.

"It was very, very hard," she said, about speaking up on sexual abuse and violence in the industry. "Some of us could talk about it, but then ... no one wanted to say, 'It happened to me.'"

**Highly vulnerable**

Last month, the Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, an organisation representing about 700,000 current and former farmworker women, published an open letter in solidarity with women who have come forward across the US to share stories of sexual harassment and assault.

Several women accused Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault, and many more have come forward with stories of sexual abuse at the hands of powerful men working in media, politics, sports and other areas.
Women from around the world have used the hashtag #MeToo on social media to share their experiences and show solidarity with one another.

While many of the women coming forward worked in the US entertainment industry, Alianza wrote that its members - despite not working "under bright stage lights or on the big screen" - understood "the hurt, confusion, isolation and betrayal that you might feel."

"Even though we work in very different environments, we share a common experience of being preyed upon by individuals who have the power to hire, fire, blacklist and otherwise threaten our economic, physical and emotional security," their letter reads.

Farmworker women are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse at work because of "a severe imbalance of power” between employers and supervisors and the workers, many of whom are immigrants, according to a 2012 Human Rights Watch report.

Many of the women don't have legal status in the US, leaving them with little recourse to report abuse, seek legal recourse or get any other type of support. The nature of their work - seasonal, temporary and low-wage - also plays a role.

"Whoever hires the women knows what kind of vulnerabilities they have," Trevino-Sauceda said.

"A very large percentage of the women are undocumented," she added.

"They're threatened that they're going to be deported if they say anything.

"It's not just about leaving that job and trying to look for another ... If they don't have work, where can they live? What about their families?"

**Few protections**

Sexual harassment and abuse at work is widespread in industries dominated by low wages, and these positions are often filled by women of colour, explained Chandra Childers, a senior researcher at the Institute for Women’s Policy Research.
Childers told Al Jazeera the factors that lead to sexual violence in the workplace vary by occupation.

In food services, for example, waitresses and hostesses are dependent on tips from the people they serve, which makes wanting "your customer to be happy when they leave" paramount, she said.

"Very high shares of these workers are exposed to sexual harassment and sexual abuse," Childers said.

"They come to accept that that's part of the job, that it goes along with the territory, while customers may feel that it's 'part of the experience.'"

Domestic workers, such as at-home nurses, elderly caregivers, nannies and maids, also work in isolated environments and have little protection in case of abuse.

Many also aren't covered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the agency that provides US workers with protection against workplace discrimination.

"They're isolated. They're in a private home. There is no human resource for them to go report to," Childers said.

**Workers isolated**

A 2016 survey of 500 women employed in Chicago-area hotels and casinos, commissioned by local union, UNITE HERE Local 1, found that 58 percent of hotel workers and 77 percent of casino workers had been sexually harassed by a guest.

"The results were staggering," said Sarah Lyons, a researcher at the union, which represents 15,000 workers in the Chicago metropolitan area.
In more than half of all the cases, a hotel guest answered the door naked, or exposed himself to or flashed the employee, the report stated.

Other instances of harassment included unwanted touching or kissing, unwanted sexual comments or demands for sexual favours.

Ninety-six percent of the hotel workers surveyed said they would feel safer if they had access to a panic button while they work.

"Rooms are made to be private - made to be soundproof - and the physical environment of the work puts women at a particular risk for this sort of harassment, and [it] increases the risk of not being able to escape if something were to happen," Lyons said.

She added that the power imbalance between guests and hotel workers - many of whom are women of colour and immigrant women - also plays a factor.

"There's a significant power imbalance between the woman who's cleaning the room and the man who can pay hundreds of dollars a night to stay in these rooms."
'Breaking open the silence'

In October, after pressure from the union, the Chicago municipal council passed an ordinance that requires all hotels to provide panic buttons to employees who work alone in guestrooms and restrooms.

The ordinance covers all union and non-union hotel workers in the city and also protects them from retaliation if they report sexual violence or harassment in the workplace.

The city has until July 1 to implement the new policy, Lyons said.

"This campaign hasn’t just resulted in a legislative victory, it’s been about breaking open the silence around this issue," she added.

"We really want to encourage strong implementation and continue to have people feel empowered ... [and] to speak up and to feel like they have support."

However, according to Childers, low-income women workers have a harder time walking away from abusive workplaces because their livelihoods - and the lives of their families - often depend on the minimum wage salaries they hold.

She added she was unsure whether recently publicised cases of sexual harassment and abuse in industries like Hollywood would encourage low-income, women of colour to speak out about their own experiences.

"The media is not going to be interested in many of these workers. They’re not going to get the coverage that we see of these big stars," Childers said.

Women, she said, should not be put "in a position of having to ... [decide] between keeping their job to feed their families, or have to suffer indignities that no person should have to".

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA NEWS
How 'MeToo' is exposing the scale of sexual abuse

By Rozina Sini
BBC UGC and Social News
16 October 2017

Women and men from all over the globe who have been sexually harassed have been sharing their stories across social media using the hashtag "me too" to show the magnitude of sexual assault.

It follows further allegations of rape against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

More than two dozen women - among them actresses Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Rose McGowan - have made accusations against him including rape and sexual assault. Weinstein insists sexual relations he had were consensual.

- Harvey Weinstein scandal: Who has accused him of what?
- Harvey Weinstein timeline: How the scandal unfolded
- Exploring the casting couch culture of LA

Since the allegations surfaced many high profile names have used social media to highlight the problem of sexual assault, some also detailing the harassment they've endured.

The latest prominent hashtag, #MeToo, has been used more than 200,000 times since Sunday night. The term gained momentum after actress Alyssa Milano asked victims of sexual assault to come forward in a show of solidarity.

Me too.

Suggested by a friend: "If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too.' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem."

Alyssa Milano
@Alyssa_Milano

If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet.
10:21 PM - Oct 15, 2017
53K 91.8K people are talking about this

A number of singers, actors and actresses responded including Debra Messing and Anna Paquin.

Lady Gaga
@ladygaga

#MeToo
12:57 AM - Oct 16, 2017
33K 9,824 people are talking about this
Many other social media users shared stories of the abuse they had suffered. One Twitter user who wanted to remain anonymous posted: "I was 19. He plied me with alcohol, forced a tongue kiss and touched my chest. I blamed myself for being drunk. #MeToo."

- Why are some women boycotting Twitter?
- Donna Karan defends Weinstein, suggests women 'asking for it'
- Sebastian Gorka: 'Pence rule on women would prevent abuse'

Men and members of the transgender community have also voiced their support of the campaign including actor and singer Javier Munoz, and other men shared details of their own experiences.

To everyone who's posted a #MeToo tweet I want you to know I think you're incredibly courageous, it's not your fault and I believe you.

8:21 AM - Oct 16, 2017
858 233 people are talking about this
Cortney Anne Budney posted on Facebook: "Me too for men too. Let's not forget the men and boys. Their "me too"s are equally important and often quite hidden."

Wiler Charles Clymer, who has been the victim of rape, took to Facebook to share his views. He said although both genders suffer abuse "there's a specific misogynistic component to rape culture."

"It's okay to take aside time to highlight misogyny specifically and amplify women," he posted on Facebook.

* Rajini Vaidyanathan: 'My #MeToo experience is sadly typical'

Although the #MeToo hashtag is trending worldwide - including in the UK, US, India and Pakistan - other hashtags are also being generated.

In France, Twitter users are using #balancetonporc or "rat on your dirty old man" to encourage women to name and shame their attackers, while #Womenwhocare is another term being used to encourage victims of bullying or sexual abuse to speak up.

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- Harvey Weinstein
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Creating a safe workplace for women in the post-MeToo era

Ketty Kay
Presenter, BBC World News
@KettyKayBBC

17 November 2017

Every woman dreams of a workplace where her boss doesn't suggest they grab a drink after work, where there isn't that colleague you'd just rather not get stuck in the office with alone and where your job prospects don't depend, however subtly, on whether you put up with lascivious comments from a man who has power over you.

That dream today looks tantalisingly close and many of us are daring to hope the current rash of sexual harassment stories will help us get there. We've been through moments like this before and been disappointed - maybe not this time.
Our goal is simple. We want a workplace that is safe for all of us. Where suggestive comments or acts aren't tolerated. Where men making women feel uncomfortable is totally unaccepted. And where people in positions of power can never use that power to ask for sexual favours.

Women are conscious that it's not enough to achieve this in a few high profile industries where the men are famous and therefore more likely to be outed.

The tip-dependent waitress who goes to work every evening shouldn't have to smile and put up with the unwanted advances of drunk customers. The check-out woman at the local supermarket shouldn't have to put up with the comments, or pats, or squeezes of her loathsome manager in order to ensure she gets enough shifts that week.

The nurse in your local hospital shouldn't have to worry about whether the supervisor on the lonely graveyard shift is going to push himself up against her yet again and then pretend nothing happened.

- **US House requires anti-harassment training**
- **'MeToo' and the scale of sexual abuse**

That's the world so many women navigate every single day. I honestly do not know a woman, in any profession, at any level, who has not at some point, often at many points, had to repudiate the unwanted advances of a man they've worked with or for. We shouldn't have to.

With this new focus on male predators, we aren't cut to destroy careers. This is not revenge we seek. It's just safety and respect and the freedom to do our jobs without having to deal with this kind of crap.

I'm older and more senior now so it doesn't happen to me much anymore. Predators don't go for women with power of their own - they prey on the vulnerable. On women who depend on
the pay check, or women who are eager, quite rightly, to advance their careers, or on women they can trust will keep quiet, for whatever reason. Those are the women we want to protect now.

My concern is that there could be a backlash that sets us back in that quest.

BBC reporters share their #MeToo experiences

- ‘My #MeToo experience is sadly typical’
- Me too: I was sexually harassed at 11
These stories have revealed a gender knowledge gap - women know a lot about this issue and men are hardly aware of it. This is simply because the vast majority of men are good, decent people who would never molest a woman and because straight men are rarely on the receiving end of harassment.

There's already some disconnect between men and women in the press coverage of this story. My female colleagues are without exception excited to see this issue finally come to light. Some of my male colleagues are more uncomfortable, or feel we've covered it enough.

If there are many more of these stories, at what point will people start to roll their eyes and ask, "another sexual harassment story, really?" If that starts to happen, then this will just be
Another women's moment, not a lasting change.

There's some indication of that in response to the Al Franken story.

One conservative commentator has made the point that Franken has apologised, unlike Judge Roy Moore in Alabama. Another has suggested there's no need for an investigation because of Franken's apology.

- George Bush Snr accused by interpreter

I confess I don't know how we respond to the issue of degrees of harassment and degrees of apology. Is all harassment equal? Are all apologies enough?

When a man is accused multiple times of harassing children and still doesn't apologise, the case for condemnation seems clear. But are there grey areas?

I read Al Franken's apology and found it heartfelt, full of regret and credible. But that doesn't negate the fact that the senator from Minnesota forcibly stuck his tongue in a woman's mouth and she was left feeling disgusted and dirty.

If he stays in office, what message does that send to our daughters, or to other predators?

Actually the woman who's come out with this story isn't asking for Al Franken to step down and she recognises that times and standards have changed. But she did want her account and her photo out to protect women now.

And that's what matters - the goal of a safe workplace. This is a difficult conversation that we need to have among women but more importantly with our male colleagues. It's a conversation that's not going away because some men have repeatedly behaved badly for years and those stories will come out.
But perhaps that conversation will be easier and more productive if it’s about a better future, something every man and woman and parent can hopefully agree to, not about retribution.

Maybe that’s the way this #MeToo movement becomes more than just a #MeToo moment.

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US & Canada
Why women fear a backlash over #MeToo

Katty Kay
Presenter, BBC World News
@KattyKayBBC

1 December 2017

Hollywood sexual harassment scandal

That whispering you hear from American women right now? It’s not elation, it’s anxiety: the fear of a backlash.

Just two months since the Harvey Weinstein accusations emerged, women here are already concerned that this revolution will indeed eat its own.
This is a surprisingly controversial topic, because even raising a potential backlash against the #MeToo movement smacks of appeasement, of wanting to let predators off the hook.

There are women who say it’s been so unfair for so long that if a few innocent men get wrongfully accused, that’s a price they are happy to pay. I’m a lot more comfortable with the first half of that sentiment than the second.

To be clear, no one wants to stop this movement, we want to to keep it alive in a way that creates safe work places and ends up helping women, rather than hurting us.

Publicity and exposure are helping to change the culture, but the power of this seismic shift must be harnessed with care. This is not a witch hunt.

The biggest backlash risk is a fake accusation that will undermine genuine accusers. Whether for personal, vindictive reasons or for political, strategic reasons, a woman will falsely accuse a high profile man of sexual misconduct, the story will get attention and then when it’s proven to be fake, the backlash will begin. The response will quickly be: “You see, all these stories aren’t true. Women are making it up.”

The next fear is that men will get so nervous that they’re going to be accused of harassment that they will simply stop hiring, meeting or socialising with female colleagues. There are reports this is already happening. We will get shut out of the room where important decisions are made because men fear our presence? How ironic would that be?

- Newspaper uncovers fake sex story ‘sting’
- Safe workplaces in the post-MeToo era
- Harassment in Hollywood: Who’s been accused?

It’s known here as the Pence rule after Vice-President Mike Pence, who said he doesn’t ever meet alone or have dinner alone with female colleagues in order to avoid any perception of impropriety. That can hinder female professionals by excluding us from work occasions that men can and do take advantage of.

The question of who stands as judge and jury is also a cause for concern. There’s often no corroborating evidence in cases of historic abuse, no witnesses or photographs. We are all still learning how to distinguish what seems credible and what doesn’t. Women’s stories of harassment should be believed, and they often haven’t been in the past, but they should also be able to withstand scrutiny.

As in all reporting, due diligence is as necessary here as ever. As we get more accounts of fake accusers, trying to discredit real accusers, this need for scrutiny will grow. Women are tough enough to withstand fair questions.
The final reason is also the most complex because it raises the thorny issue of relativity. Are all incidents of harassment the same and equally egregious? Do some apologies count for more than others?

Women have a lot of passionate views on these questions and there is no single right answer.

The backlash fear here is that if all cases of bad behaviour are treated equally this could quickly become a vendetta in which lots and lots of men are implicated and punished. Men will be seen as the bad guys simply for the crime of being male.

- Why so many sexual harassment cases in US, not UK?
- The story that highlights an ugly American tribalism

Already men are nervously asking what's acceptable and what's not. Is all flirting now banned? Is a pat on the back ok, but a pat on the bottom always a sackable offence? This confusion could fast turn to anger.

The risk is that men, feeling under siege, kick back and say "enough is enough, this is not fair". Then we risk losing the support and sympathy of our male colleagues. We do indeed become seen as witch hunters, or worse, as witches.

To be clear, men who have sexually abused and harassed women should be called out. But we are all learning in this process. And we're finding out that in harassment, as in most areas of life, what initially seemed such a simple case of black and white, actually has shades of confusing grey.

A backlash now against women would be the worst thing that can happen, it would shove this topic back under the carpet for years. So let's tread carefully, act soberly and use this moment, with the willing support of our male colleagues, to make our workplaces safer and happier.
'Me too'

By Cassandra Santiago and Doug Criss, CNN

Updated 19:36 GMT (03:36 HKT) October 17, 2017

Tarana Burke, wearing a 'me too' T-shirt, addresses the March to End Rape Culture in Philadelphia in 2014.

(CNN) — ‘Me too.’

Ever since the allegations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein surfaced, those two simple words have become a rallying cry.

Women -- and some men -- have used them to share personal stories of sexual harassment and assault.

The hashtag caught fire over the weekend when actress Alyssa Milano tweeted a call-out to victims "so we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem."

But the online movement didn’t start with Milano on Sunday. It started more than 10 years ago with activist Tarana Burke.

"It’s not about a viral campaign for me," she told CNN on Tuesday. "It’s about a movement."

And that movement began -- as she put it -- in the "deepest, darkest place in my soul."
Tarana Burke

Then

Burke is the program director for Brooklyn-based Girls for Gender Equity. Its goal is to empower young women of color.

But the seeds for the movement were planted earlier than that -- in 1996, when Burke was a youth camp director.

After an all-girl bonding session, a young girl asked to speak to Burke privately.

This is how she describes the encounter on the Just Be site:

“\[The shock of being rejected, the pain of opening a wound only to have it abruptly forced closed again - it was all on her face\]

Tarana Burke

“For the next several minutes this child ... struggled to tell me about her ‘stepdaddy’ or rather her mother’s boyfriend who was doing all sorts of monstrous things to her developing body. ... I was horrified by her words, the emotions welling inside of me ran the gamut, and I listened until I literally could not take it anymore ... which turned out to be less than five minutes. Then, right in the middle of her sharing her pain with me, I cut her off and immediately directed her to another female counselor who could ‘help her better.’ ”

Burke said she never forgot the look on the girl’s face.

https://www.gge.org/2017/01/17/about-our-foremothers-tarana-burke/
"The shock of being rejected, the pain of opening a wound only to have it abruptly forced closed again -- it was all on her face," she wrote.

"I couldn't help her release her shame, or impress upon her that nothing that happened to her was her fault. I could not find the strength to say out loud the words that were ringing in my head over and over again as she tried to tell me what she had endured: ...

"I watched her walk away from me as she tried to recapture her secrets and tuck them back into their hiding place. I watched her put her mask back on and go back into the world like she was all alone and I couldn't even bring myself to whisper ... me too."

---

#MeToo: Social media flooded with stories 04:43

Later

That was the genesis of the movement -- to help young women of color who had survived sexual abuse, assault and exploitation.

"On one side, it's a bold declarative statement that 'I'm not ashamed' and 'I'm not alone.' On the other side, it's a statement from survivor to survivor that says 'I see you, I hear you, I understand you and I'm here for you or I get it,'" she told CNN.

The movement has taken a life of its own, Burke said.

"It started with young people and I quickly realized adults needed it too," she said.

"When you experience trauma and meet other people that have a similar experience, and you show empathy for each other, it creates a bond. "

Today

Late Monday, actress Milano credited Burke with creating ‘Me too’ and tweeted a link to her organization.

“The origin story is equal parts heartbreaking and inspiring,” Milano tweeted.

Burke said she’s happy to see her idea reach a larger audience.
“I’ve seen it happen over and over again in small waves, but to see it happen en masse has been pretty amazing,” she said.

The challenge now is to figure out how to take it beyond a viral moment.

“I think the one responsibility we have as survivors -- once we get to a place where we can -- is to create an entry point to healing for other survivors,” she said. “For years I couldn’t figure out what that would be for me and then ‘Me too’ became that thing.”

She said she’d like to see conversations about what healing looks like. She wants sexual violence or gender-based violence approached as social justice issues.

“I think the viral moment is great but the amplification of that -- I worry about disclosing their status as survivors en masse on social media and not having space to process. I worry about survivors coming on to social media and being bombarded with messages of ‘me too,’” she said.

For now, ‘Me too’ shows no signs of slowing.

Since noon Sunday, the #MeToo hashtag has been used 525,000 times, Twitter reported Tuesday.

The numbers are equally staggering on Facebook.

The company said that in less than 24 hours, 4.7 million people around the world have engaged in the “Me too” conversation, with more than 12 million posts, comments and reactions. According to Facebook, more than 45% of people in the United States are friends with someone who’s posted a message with the words “Me too.”

CNN’s Lisa Respers France contributed to this story.
How #MeToo could move from social campaign to social change

Health +

Story highlights

#MeToo has been used in 85 countries around the world

A new campaign is encouraging men to take action: #IWillSpeakUp

Experts say coordinated action between activists groups is needed to turn #MeToo into a lasting legacy

(CNN) — It's the hashtag that rocked the world.

Since #MeToo went viral two weeks ago in the wake of sexual harassment allegations against producer Harvey Weinstein, Twitter reports that more than 1.7 million women and men have used the hashtag in 85 countries.

In Italy, women rallied behind a version called #QuellaVoltaChe, which translates to "That time when," while French women decided to ou their harassers by name under #BalanceTonPorc, which roughly translates to "snitch out your pig."

At least nine well-known powerful men have been accused of various forms of sexual assault, including former President George H.W. Bush, Hollywood producer James Toback and journalist and author Mark Halperin. And just last week,

California Rep. Jackie Speier launched #MeTooCongress, asking Washington staffers to share their stories on harassment on the Hill.

But can a hashtag, a meme or any viral moment -- no matter how widespread -- really turn into a lasting movement that will create social change and reduce sexual abuse of women?

Maybe. But experts say it's going to take a coordinated effort between antiviolence organizations, the media and Hollywood as well as concrete actions from each and every one of us, especially men.

"I am really tired of talking about women," said Toni Van Pelt, president of the National Association of Women. "We must focus on the men. We must be demanding that the men step forward and take responsibility, whether they think they are the good guy or not. They are not the good guy if they are not speaking out against this, if they are allowing the bullying to continue."

Related Article: The (incomplete) list of powerful men accused of sexual harassment after Harvey Weinstein

It's the men's turn

A Call to Men, a violence prevention and male socialization group, is hoping the launch of its new campaign, #IWillSpeakUp, will help the cause.

"We felt like we really needed to respond because it's out of control," A Call to Men co-founder Ted Bunch said.

"And it's not just Hollywood. Viewing women as objects, property and having less value than men is something that
all males have been taught, even by 'well-meaning men,' and we pass that on to our boys. So this has to become a men's issue, because men won't stop unless other men say so."

Launched Monday in conjunction with the Joyful Heart Foundation, founded by "Law and Order: SVU" star Mariska Hargitay, the campaign includes an op-ed and public service announcement featuring male celebrities such as Danny Pino, Blair Underwood, Christopher Meloni, Anthony Edwards and Peter Hermann, who all encourage men to pledge better behavior toward women under the hashtags #WillSpeakUp and #SupportSurvivors.

The theme of the PSA is "I'll say something next time," Bunch explained. "It finishes with a line that we frequently use when we train men on healthy, respectful manhood: 'Most men are not abusive. But they are far too often silent about the abuse committed by other men. Their silence is as much of the problem as the abuse.'"

A viral graveyard

Social media is littered with the digital bones of once-vibrant hashtags and memes, so getting the momentum behind #MeToo to translate into literal action could be an uphill battle.

Last year, Canadian-born writer Kelly Oxford shared her story of being groped at age 12 on the bus; the response from women to her #ItsNotOkay was unprecedented. But it soon faded.

Other hashtags expressing social outrage over sexual abuse have suffered similar fates: #YesAllWomen, #WhyIDidntReport, #YouOKShia, #EverydaySexism, #ToTheGirls and #BrockTurner, to name a few.

#MeToo was created over a decade ago by female activist Tarana Burke, who works with Girls for Gender Equity and founded Just Be Inc., organizations focused on empowering women of color. She launched the hashtag after her own experience with abuse kept her from helping a traumatized young girl.

"I could not find the strength to say out loud the words that were ringing in my head over and over again as she tried to tell me what she had endured," Burke wrote on her website. "I couldn't even bring myself to whisper...me too."

Alyssa Milano
@Alyssa_Milano

I was just made aware of an earlier #MeToo movement, and the origin story is equal parts heartbreaking and inspiring

googl/mh79IF

1:24 AM - Oct 17, 2017

justbeing | The 'me too.' Movement
The 'me too.' Movement
justbeing.wixsite.com

3,656 1,495 people are talking about this

Though Burke sees #MeToo as a movement, she admits that the hashtag's popularity ebbs and flows. "I've seen it happen over and over again in small waves, but to see it happen in mass has been pretty amazing," she told CNN.
Some social activists blame the media for the public’s short attention span, believing that online interest is driven by the amount of time and attention the press gives to any given subject. Just look to #Charlottesville, #Ferguson and #BringBackOurGirls.

Others point to “slacktivism,” a portmanteau of “slacker” and “activism,” as part of the problem. It’s a pejorative term coined by sociologists to describe keyboard activists who react to an online movement so they can feel good about themselves, but these social “slackards” are thought to stop short of taking offline action.

*Saturday Night Live* poked fun at armchair activism this year with a skit called “Thank you, Scott,” starring comedian Louis C.K. as a well-meaning man who shares a few articles with his Facebook friends.

But it’s no laughing matter. A University of British Columbia study found that public displays of support, such as “liking” a charity online or wearing a lapel pin, hurt that charity’s fundraising efforts, as people failed to follow through with their wallets or volunteer their time. Private displays of activism, such as signing a door-to-door petition, fared better.

Keyboard apathy is such a problem in fundraising that in 2013, UNICEF Sweden tackled it with a hard-hitting poster and video campaign: “Like us on Facebook and we will vaccinate zero children against polio. We have nothing against likes, but vaccines cost money.”
There have been successes, most notably the 2014 ALS #IceBucketChallenge, which raised more than $115 million for causes related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. According to the ALS Association, more than $77 million of that went to research, which recently scored by uncovering a key gene, NEK1, that contributes to more than 3% of ALS cases.

Another hashtag to make the leap from online social activism to the street was #BlackLivesMatter. It burst onto the scene after the 2012 killing of African-American teenager Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman, a white Hispanic man. #BlackLivesMatter gained national prominence during violent protests in Ferguson, Missouri, following the killing of 18-year-old African-American Michael Brown by a white police officer and has since grown to 40 chapters, including Canada and Britain. This summer, the group won the 2017 Sydney Peace Prize.

Though much has been written on the demise of the hashtag and what that means for the movement, co-founder Patrisse Cullors disagrees, “It’s not a hashtag that built the movement,” she said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. “It was organizers, activists, educators, artists -- people who built an actual infrastructure so that a movement can exist and have life.”

From meme to movement

That’s exactly what is needed to solidify #MeToo’s viral legacy, according to sociologist Jan Schradie, who studies digital activism for the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, France.

*Based on my research, the movements that are most successful are those who have an organizational infrastructure in place: a network, a coalition, a united front of a group of celebrities or established organizations,” she said.

She points to the civil rights movement as the ultimate example of success.

“The energy we see in the #MeToo movement is very similar to that of the civil rights movement,” Schradie said, “but the
difference is, the civil rights movement was able to connect people who just heard about it with actual organizations who were coordinating resistance.

"I’ve found that the groups that can sustain high levels of online participation are those which are more structured and have volunteers and staff dedicated to keeping that online effort in place."

"People want concrete ways to be part of a solution, and that’s where the #MeToo movement needs to go," said Kristen Houser, chief public affairs officer at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

"Talking about victimization doesn’t end victimization," she said. "We need people to intervene. We need whistle-blowers. Parents need to be great role models. Ask your school, church, civic organizations and youth sports clubs to be proactive. Walk the walk in your own home."

Many of these men’s and women’s rights organizations say that all anyone has to do to get involved is reach out to the many local, state and national organizations that have been fighting for equality for women for decades. Volunteer. Donate time and money. Do more than lift your finger to "like."

"Funding for prevention work is hard to get, yet investment in this space is critical," Burch said. "We are trying to go upstream and prevent things before they start. It’s not in a man’s DNA. It’s not who we are. We are socialized to behave this way. That has to stop."

"This could be a watershed moment if this connects the dots."

Van Peit said. "Connect the dots from a culture of male authority and patriarchy to the fact that women do not get equal pay; connect the dots to birth control and abortion that is being kept from women.

"Because if women are in position of authority, they will help stop the submission of other women," she continued. "So that men can’t corners them, can’t force them into sexual acts, because women won’t need the financial stability. The economic security."

Ways to pay your respects on Memorial Day
Donald Trump's #metoo moment is here

Analysis by Chris Cillizza, CNN Editor-at-large
Updated 12:27 GMT (2027 HKT) December 12, 2017

Trump accuser: President has escaped unscathed 01:21

[CNN] — On Monday morning, a trio of women — Rachel Crooks, Samantha Holley and Jessica Leeds — went on Megyn Kelly's NBC show to reiterate allegations of sexual misconduct against President Donald Trump that they first aired during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"We're private citizens and for us to put ourselves out there to try to show America who this man is and especially how he views women and for them to say, we don't care ... It hurt," Holley told Kelly about how the allegations against Trump were handled during the 2016 campaign. "It's just like, all right, let's try round two. The environment's different. Let's try again."
Kelly read a statement from the White House responding to the allegations.

“These false claims, totally disputed in most cases by eyewitness accounts, were addressed at length during last year’s campaign, and the American people voiced their judgment by delivering a decisive victory,” according to the White House. The statement dismissed the allegations as part of a “publicity tour” and said they were driven by “political motives.”

The environment today is very different from even a year ago. Beginning with movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and continuing along the way through this morning’s revelations regarding celebrity chef Mario Batali, the culture has been rocked by a seemingly unending series of allegations -- and, in many cases, admissions -- of boorish and potentially criminal behavior by men toward women.

The #MeToo movement forced the resignations of three members of Congress -- Reps. Trent Franks, the Arizona Republican and John Conyers, the Michigan Democrat, as well as Sen. Al Franken, the Minnesota Democrat -- in the last week alone. And on Tuesday, Roy Moore, the Alabama Republican Senate nominee, will face voters after more than a month of coverage of allegations regarding his pursuit of teenage girls when he was in his 30s. Moore has denied all of the allegations.

Into this maelstrom comes this re-examination of the allegations against Trump -- and the President's response to them.

Remember that in the wake of the “Access Hollywood” tape -- in which Trump tells host Billy Bush that when you are rich, you can do whatever you want to women -- more than a dozen women came forward alleging that Trump had sexually harassed them or behaved inappropriately toward them. (At least 13 women have come forward with accusations about Trump. The Washington Post details who they are, and what they are alleging, here.)

During the campaign, Trump was broadly dismissive of all the allegations -- and the women making them.

“As you have seen, I am a victim of one of the great political smear campaigns in the history of our country,” Trump said at a North Carolina rally in mid-October 2016. “They are coming after me to try and destroy what is considered by even them the greatest movement in the history of our country.”

Since winning the White House, Trump has largely avoided the topic. But, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders has, on several occasions, made clear that the official administration position is that all of the women who have accused Trump of sexual harassment are lying.
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Just last month, Sanders said this under questioning about the allegations: “Look, I think that this was covered pretty extensively during the campaign. We addressed that then. The American people, I think, spoke very loud and clear when they elected this President.” (Sidebar: The election was not and is not an affirmation of Trump's innocence.)

That rhetoric may not suffice in the current political and cultural environment.

Not only have several of Trump’s accusers re-emerged to make the same claims they did before the election, but there are increasing signs that the President won’t be able to simply dismiss the claims this time around.

“Women who accuse anyone should be heard,” said US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley on CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday. “They should be heard and they should be dealt with. And I think we heard from them prior to the election. And I think any woman who has felt violated or felt mistreated in any way, they have every right to speak up.”
Nikki Haley: Trump’s accusers should be heard 00:45

Those comments by Haley represent a major chink in the Trump defense on these allegations. If one of the most prominent women in Trump’s orbit thinks these allegations should be given a hearing, it makes it very difficult for Trump (or Sanders) to cast this all as a some sort of partisan witch hunt by Democrats bitter about having lost the election.

Then there are the calls by Democratic Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Jeff Merkley of Oregon for Trump to resign from office due to these accusations. My guess is more Democratic senators sign onto that movement in the coming days — seeing no downside to being identified as vehemently anti-Trump by the party base.

Here’s the thing: Trump isn’t going to resign. And the idea he is on the verge of impeachment is also far-fetched.

But what the reemergence of Trump’s accusers, the Haley comments and the overall culture at the moment seem likely to do is force Trump’s hand to go beyond his original statements on his accusers.

Maybe.