

## **Letter to the Editor**

### **Send To Philadelphia Inquirer**

Dear Editor,

As a culture, we lack fundamental communication skills: setting boundaries, asking for permission, saying no. We live in a rape culture that teaches us, especially those raised as girls, that our bodies exist to please others, and we don't have the proper skills to do anything about it.

Bodily autonomy is sacred, and everyone deserves a right to have their bodies treated with respect. However, this is the opposite of the messages we receive: we are taught that violation is normal and that we should disregard our own feelings and accept it.

We are made to believe that when our boundaries get crossed, it is because WE did something wrong. A recent UN Women report, "Facts and figures: Ending violence against women," states that almost one in three women globally have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their life, while less than 40% seek help of any sort. Rape Prevention Education states that "women especially are made to feel as though it is their responsibility to avoid being sexually assaulted." This is what we're led to believe to be the norm, in the world we live in.

The basic lessons about consent are often not taught to kids. In a report by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, interviewing 3,000 young adults and high school students found that 76% of respondents never had a conversation with their parents about how to avoid sexually harassing others. Most of the respondents never spoke to their parents about assuring their partner's comfort and their own before engaging in sex and the importance of being a respectful sexual partner.

Consent is a fundamental concept that can be taught at any age, and even simple acts of normalizing conversations about it have a huge impact. For YES!, any small opportunity to teach kids about consent in a safe, interactive way is exciting! It's a step toward undoing the messages they get from our culture.

YES! has given more than 200 consent workshops to people of all ages throughout the country. Apart from that, our work extends to events, online resources and a podcast. Ask your school, workplace, or organization to partner with us and offer consent workshops regularly. Make sure your organization leaders and local government officials know how important this is to you.

We hope you join us to take action and help instill the values of consent in education.

Sincerely,

Isy Abraham-Raveson

Executive Director, YES! (Your Empowered Sexuality!)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 15, 2023

## YES! Answers Kids' Questions About Sex in the "What is Sex?" Podcast

**PHILADELPHIA** — YES!'s co-founders, Rebecca Klein and Isy Abraham-Raveson host a unique podcast featuring anonymous questions submitted by children in the organization's sexuality education classes. With the help of special guests, Abraham-Raveson and Klein discuss their own experiences with the featured topics and explore how to address them with young people.

"What is Sex?" takes a refreshing perspective and demonstrates what kids are already thinking and asking about, as well as builds comfort around sex-related topics and how to tackle them when having conversations with children.

"There is nothing else like it," said Abraham-Raveson, the executive director of YES! "The podcast helps people reflect on their experiences; it brings back memories of being children and influences that helped us answer those questions for ourselves."

The podcast is aimed at older teens and adults, especially those who work with children in any way. Having already done four seasons of the podcast, Isy and Rebecca discussed topics related to sex, sexuality, love, communication, puberty, body image and abortion.

*About: Founded in 2015, YES! (Your Empowered Sexuality) is a Philadelphia-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization seeking to provide anti-oppressive, consent-based, pleasure-focused sexuality education to people of all ages. Its main objective is to spread accurate information, skills and help connect people to their bodies. It offers a large selection of programs and resources, including workshops, events and a podcast.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2023

**\*MEDIA ALERT\***

## **“Don’t Tell Me To Love My Body: Anti-fatness and Body Liberation” Workshop Postponed**

PHILADELPHIA — The workshop “Don’t Tell Me To Love My Body: Anti-fatness and Body Liberation” hosted by YES! at The Lawn at UCity Square (3701 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104) on March 22, 2023 is postponed until further notice. The guest of honor, Isy Abraham-Raveson, is unable to attend the event due to unforeseen circumstances. Information is to be updated on the website once a new date is set.

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