**Spanish prosecutor to appeal ruling in ‘Wolf Pack’ rape case**

**Protests continue over ruling which cleared five men of gang rape of teenager in 2016**

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The state prosecutor for the Spanish regional government of [Navarra](https://www.irishtimes.com/topics/topics-7.1213540?article=true&tag_location=Navarra) said on Friday it would appeal a ruling that cleared five men of the gang rape of a teenager at the San Fermin bull-running festival in Pamplona two years ago.

The ruling, which handed out sentences for the lesser charge of sexual abuse, led thousands of people to join spontaneous protests across [Spain](https://www.irishtimes.com/topics/topics-7.1213540?article=true&tag_location=Spain) on Thursday evening, including outside the Justice Ministry in Madrid.

Protests continued on Friday outside the court in Pamplona where the trial took place. Hundreds of people chanted “We want justice” and waved signs that read “No means No” and “Justice!”

The prosecutor said it would appeal the ruling in coming days on the grounds of infringement of the law, arguing that the attack carried out by the five men on an 18-year-old teenager in the lobby of a residential building was rape, not sexual abuse.

Under Spanish law, to be charged with the more serious crime of sexual aggression or rape, there must be specific violence attached to the crime such as threatening with a knife or dealing physical blows to the victim.

The five men, who had recorded video of the attack on their mobile phones and laughed about the incident afterwards on a [Whatsapp](https://www.irishtimes.com/topics/topics-7.1213540?article=true&tag_company=Whatsapp) group, have been handed nine-year sentences. The state prosecutor had asked for jail sentences of more than 20 years.

The so-called “Wolf Pack” case had already sparked widespread anger around Spain following concern over increased reports of sex attacks at the annual festival and over the mistreatment of women in general.

It has also drawn international attention, coming at a time of heightened global concern over the sexual abuse of women in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

**‘Change in awareness’**

The scale of the protests shows how much Spanish society has changed in recent decades, said Chelo Hernandez, a spokeswoman for the 8M feminist group. 8M is named after the date of a massive nationwide march that took place across Spain in support of women’s rights on March 8th this year.

“There is a change in awareness in Spanish society,” she said. “The problem lies with the institutions, which continue to be patriarchal and sexist.”

Justice minister Rafael Catala said after the ruling that Spain should consider revising its criminal code if necessary.

The Running of the Bulls in San Fermin is one of Spain’s most popular summer fiestas, drawing thousands of tourists from around the world to the northern city of Pamplona.

Hundreds of people run down narrow streets in front of fighting bulls every morning of the nine-day event but the festival is just as famous for the revelry on the sidelines with huge wine-fuelled street parties, firework displays and processions.

# The fourth wave of feminism: meet the rebel women

[Kira Cochrane](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/kiracochrane) Tue 10 Dec 2013 18.55 GMT First published on Tue 10 Dec 2013 18.55 GMT

The women's movement may have been in hiding through the 'ladette' years, but in 2013 it has come back with a vengeance. Introducing the new feminists taking the struggle to the web – and the streets

The campaign for women's liberation never went away, but this year a new swell built up and broke through. Since the early summer, I've been talking to feminist activists and writers for a short book, All The Rebel Women, and as I tried to keep up with the protests, marches and talks, my diary became a mess of clashing dates. The rush was such that in a single weekend in October, you could have attended a feminist freshers' fair in London, the [North East Feminist Gathering](http://www.nefeministgathering.com) in Newcastle, a Reclaim the Night march in Edinburgh, or a discussion between different generations of feminist activists at the [British Library](http://historyfeminism.wordpress.com/tag/british-library/) (this sold out in 48 hours, was moved to a room four times bigger, and sold out again).

You could have joined one of the country's 149 local grassroots groups, or shared your experience of misogyny on the site Laura Bates, 27, started in April 2012. Her [Everyday Sexism Project](http://everydaysexism.com) has proved so successful that it was rolled out to 17 countries on its first anniversary this year, tens of thousands of women worldwide writing about the street harassment, sexual harassment, workplace discrimination and body-shaming they encounter. The project embodies that feminist phrase "the personal is political", a consciousness-raising exercise that encourages women to see how inequality affects them, proves these problems aren't individual but collective, and might therefore have political solutions. This year, 6,000 stories that have been sent to the project about harassment or assault on public transport – the majority never reported to authorities – were used to train 2,000 police officers in London, and create a public awareness campaign. In its first few weeks, says Bates, the reporting of harassment on public transport soared. Everyday Sexism currently has more than 108,000 followers on Twitter. Of course, following a social media account isn't the same as joining a political party, but to put this engagement in perspective, Tory membership is now at 134,000.

Welcome to the fourth wave of feminism. This movement follows the first-wave campaign for votes for women, which reached its height 100 years ago, the second wave women's liberation movement that blazed through the 1970s and 80s, and the third wave declared by Rebecca Walker, Alice Walker's daughter, and others, in the early 1990s. That shift from second to third wave took many important forms, but often felt broadly generational, with women defining their work as distinct from their mothers'. What's happening now feels like something new again. It's defined by technology: tools that are allowing women to build a strong, popular, reactive movement online. Just how popular is sometimes slightly startling. [Girlguiding UK introduced a campaigning and activism badge this year](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/nov/04/girl-guides-sewing-activism-protests-sexism) and a summer survey of [Mumsnet users found 59% consider themselves feminists](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/aug/30/mumsnet-social-media-forums-feminism), double those who don't. Bates says that, for her, modern feminism is defined by pragmatism, inclusion and humour. "I feel like it is really down-to-earth, really open," she says, "and it's very much about people saying: 'Here is something that doesn't make sense to me, I thought women were equal, I'm going to do something about it.'"

As 2013 unfolded, it became impossible to ignore the rumble of feminist campaigners, up and down the country. They gathered outside the [Bank of England](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/jul/05/women-bank-notes-fancy-dress-protest) in early July, the first burst of a heatwave, dressed as aviators, suffragettes and warrior queens, organised by [Caroline Criado-Perez](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/caroline-criado-perez), 29, shouting for women's representation on bank notes and beyond.

They demonstrated outside the Sun headquarters, organised by Yas Necati, 17, in a protest against [Page 3](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2013/mar/10/anti-page-3-the-sun-campaigner), the biggest image of a woman that appears each day in the country's biggest-selling newspaper – a teenager or twentysomething smiling sunnily in her pants. Necati, a student at sixth-form college, laughed shyly as she told me about the mocked-up pages she has sent Sun editor David Dinsmore, suggesting feminist comedians, artists and writers to appear on the page instead. One of her favourites showed a woman flashing bright blue armpit hair. The the [No More Page 3](http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/david-dinsmore-take-the-bare-boobs-out-of-the-sun-nomorepage3) petition started by [Lucy-Anne Holmes](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/lucy-anne-holmes), 37, in [August 2012](https://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/shortcuts/2012/sep/11/campaign-stop-page-3-succeed),, has been signed by 128,000 people.

[Ikamara Larasi](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/ikamara-larasi), 24, started heading a [campaign](http://www.rewindreframe.org) to address racist and sexist stereotypes in music videos, just as students began [banning](https://www.theguardian.com/music/2013/nov/12/robin-thicke-blurred-lines-banned-another-university) summer hit [Blurred Lines](https://www.theguardian.com/music/2013/nov/13/blurred-lines-most-controversial-song-decade) on many UK campuses, in response to its sexist lyrics. [Jinan Younis](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/jinan-younis), 18, co-founded a feminist society at school, experienced online abuse from some boys in her peer group – "feminism and rape are both ridiculously tiring," they wrote – and wasn't deterred. Instead, she wrote an [article](https://www.theguardian.com/education/mortarboard/2013/jun/20/why-i-started-a-feminist-society) about it that went viral. When I spoke to her in September, she was juggling shifts in a call centre, babysitting for neighbours, preparing for university, while helping out with a [campaign](http://ukfeminista.org.uk/take-action/generation-f/schools-against-sexism-pledge/) to encourage [feminist societies](http://ukfeminista.org.uk/take-action/generation-f/) in schools countrywide. UK Feminista, an organisation set up in 2010 to support feminist activists, has had 100 people contact them this year, wanting to start their own school group. In late August, their national day of action against lads' mags included 19 protests across the UK.

Thousands more feminists raised their voices online. [Bates](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/laura-bates) and [Soraya Chemaly](https://www.theguardian.com/profile/soraya-chemaly), 47, were among those who set up a [campaign](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/the-womens-blog-with-jane-martinson/2013/may/21/fighting-hate-speech-women-facebook) against misogynist pages on Facebook, including groups with names such as "raping a pregnant bitch and telling your friends you had a threesome". Supporters sent more than 60,000 tweets in the course of a swift, week-long push, convincing the social media behemoth to change its moderation policies.

[Southall Black Sisters](http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk) protested outside the offices of the UK Border Agency against racist immigration laws and propaganda – including the notorious "Go Home" vans. They also marched in solidarity with protesters in Delhi, who began a wave of demonstrations following the death of a woman who was gang raped in the city last December, protests against rape culture that soon spread to Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. [The African LGBTI Out & Proud Diamond Group](http://www.petertatchellfoundation.org/asylum/protest-against-sex-abuse-asylum-detention-centres) demonstrated opposite Downing Street after [allegations emerged](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/sep/14/detainees-yarls-wood-sexual-abuse) of the sexual abuse of women held at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre.

The [Fawcett Society](http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk) continued to show how [cuts to benefits](http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/the-triple-jeopardy-2/), services and public-sector jobs pose "triple jeopardy" to women (in 2013 women's unemployment reached a 26-year high). Rape Crisis South London spearheaded a successful campaign to criminalise the possession of pornography that depicts rape. And [40 Days of Choice](http://40daysforchoice.tumblr.com) challenged the anti-abortion campaigners who have become worryingly prominent in the UK recently.

The Edinburgh fringe hosted a surprising run of feminist comedians, including Mary Bourke, with her show Muffragette. Bourke memorably noted in a BBC interview this summer that the open-mic circuit has become a "rape circle" in recent years. Feminist standups were ready to respond. Nadia Kamil, 29, performed a set including a feminist burlesque, peeling off eight layers of clothing to reveal messages such as "pubes are normal" and "equal pay" picked out in sequins. She also explained the theory of intersectionality through a vocoder, and gave out badges with the slogan "Smash the Kyriarchy". (She hoped audience members would look up any words they were unfamiliar with later, such as "[kyriarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyriarchy)" and "[cis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cisgender)".)

Bridget Christie, 42, [won the Foster's Edinburgh comedy award with A Bic for Her](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2013/aug/28/bridget-christie-edinburgh-comedy-award), in which she railed against sexist comments by racing driver Stirling Moss, and talked about "ethical filing" – taking sexist magazines off shop shelves and dumping them straight in the bin. She wasn't encouraging other people to do this, she emphasised. She just wanted to point out that she had been doing it for months – months – with no problem at all.

Women marched through London for [Million Women Rise](http://www.millionwomenrise.com) and [Reclaim the Night](http://www.reclaimthenight.co.uk), and organised events in 207 countries for [One Billion Rising](https://www.theguardian.com/society/series/violence-against-women-1bn-rising), a day of demonstrations to highlight the UN statistic that one in three women will be raped or beaten in her lifetime. As part of this event, the UK parliament debated whether sex and relationship education should be on the national curriculum, and six months later, in her summer holidays, [Lili Evans](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/mar/07/teenage-twitter-feminist-comfortable-body), 16, started the [Campaign4Consent](http://campaign4consent.co.uk) with Necati, calling for consent education in schools.

A chorus rose against online misogyny. Criado-Perez highlighted the string of rape threats sent to her on Twitter, [writer Lindy West published the comments she received](http://jezebel.com/if-comedy-has-no-lady-problem-why-am-i-getting-so-many-511214385), ("There is a group of rapists with over 9,000 penises coming for this fat bitch," read one), and [the academic and broadcaster Mary Beard](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/jul/29/mary-beard-silences-twitter-troll), [Lauren Mayberry from the band Chvrches](https://www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2013/sep/30/chvrches-lauren-mayberry-online-misogyny), and [Ruby Tandoh from The Great British Bake Off](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/22/great-british-bake-off-ruby-dandoh), all spoke out on this issue. If you want to know how deeply some people resent the idea of women's advancement, the stream of online misogyny has been perhaps the most obvious, ugly backlash yet.

But bald attempts to silence women only made the movement larger and louder. They convinced those who had never thought about misogyny before that it was clearly still alive, and convinced those who were well aware of it to keep going.

When [Nimko Ali](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/jul/31/global-development-podcast-transcript-fgm), 29, spoke out against female genital mutilation, with her group, [Daughters of Eve](http://www.dofeve.org), she [received death threats](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/may/08/female-genital-mutilation-death-intimidation). She kept speaking strongly, wittily, discussing both her own experience of FGM and her "fanny forward" list of supporters, putting an issue long marginalised firmly on the political agenda. In November, Alison Saunders, the new Director of Public Prosecutions, suggested she expected the first prosecution for FGM to happen in the UK fairly soon.

Some of those leading the biggest campaigns, including Bates, only started calling themselves feminists in the last few years, which shows how nascent this wave is. Larasi bursts out laughing when I ask if she has always considered herself a feminist. "Definitely not," she says. She has been working at the black women's organisation [Imkaan](http://imkaan.org.uk/) for three or four years, and was raised by a feminist mother, but it was only last year that she started using the term to describe herself. She began identifying specifically as a black feminist in February 2013. This means she doesn't feel she has to "pick a side", she says, between the movements for women's rights and for racial equality, and she is now a member of the thriving [Black Feminists group in London](http://www.blackfeminists.org/) – there is [also one in Manchester](http://blackfeministsmanchester.wordpress.com/).

The majority of activists I speak to define themselves as intersectional feminists – or say they try to live up to this decription – and when I mention this to [Kimberlé Crenshaw](http://www.blackfeminists.org/tag/kimberle-crenshaw/), the US law professor who coined the term intersectionality in 1989, she's genuinely surprised. The theory concerns the way multiple oppressions intersect, and although, as Crenshaw says, it can be interpreted in a wild variety of ways, today's feminists generally seem to see it as an attempt to elevate and make space for the voices and issues of those who are marginalised, and a framework for recognising how class, race, age, ability, sexuality, gender and other issues combine to affect women's experience of discrimination. Younis considers intersectionality the overriding principle for today's feminists, and Ali says she constantly tries to [check her privilege](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/jun/05/check-your-privilege-means), to recognise how hierarchies of power are constructed.

There are women and men of all ages involved in this movement – at a [Lose the Lads' mags](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/oct/13/lads-mags-problem-romola-garai) protest in York, for instance, I met an activist who had been at the [women's liberation conference in 1978](http://www.feministarchivenorth.org.uk/chronology/1978-1.htm). But many of those at the forefront are in their teens and 20s, and had their outlook formed during decades in which attitudes to women were particularly confusing.

They grew up being told the world was post-feminist, that sexism and misogyny were over, and feminists should pack up their placards. At the same time, women in the public eye were often either sidelined or sexualised, represented in exactly the same way as they had been in the 70s, albeit beneath a thin veil of irony. [Finn Mackay](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/studying/postgraduateprogrammes/postgradprofiles/mackay/) says when she started the London Feminist Network in 2004, the two main issues motivating those who joined were the massive growth of the beauty industry, and "pornification" – the infiltration of pornographic imagery into the mainstream via [Playboy-branded pencil cases](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2005/aug/22/shopping.gender), for instance, and the trend for pubic waxes. Those concerns have continued, and help explain the focus of many current feminist campaigns, which address the wallpaper of women's lives, the everyday sexism – lads' mags, Page 3, rape pages on Facebook, cosmetic surgery advertising – and calls for positive representation on bank notes and in broadcasting.

But the feminist consciousness of the fourth wave has also been forged through the years of the financial crash and the coalition government, and many activists have been politicised and influenced by other movements, particularly the [student campaign against fees](https://www.theguardian.com/education/2010/nov/10/students-streets-protest-tuition-fees), but also [the wider campaign against cuts](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2011/jan/04/anti-cuts-campaign-summit-next-move) and the [Occupy movement](https://www.theguardian.com/world/occupy-movement). The quick, reactive nature of many of the feminist campaigns cropping up today reflects the work of activists more generally in a biting world of unemployment and under-employment, workfare, zero-hours contracts, bedroom taxes, damaging rhetoric against immigrants, the disabled and those who need support from the state.

With so many pressing issues, feminists are fighting on several fronts, and the campaigns of the past few years have often been started by individuals or small groups, who have responded to issues they feel strongly about, and can usefully address. Holmes and Necati both grew up with the Sun at home, which has shaped their opposition to Page 3. Criado-Perez was outraged by all-male discussions of teenage pregnancy and breast cancer treatment on the Today programme, so set up a database of female experts, The Women's Room, with Catherine Smith in 2012. In the first three days of that year, seven women were killed by men, and Karen Ingala Smith, chief executive of the charity Nia, started counting the toll of misogynist murders. Her [Counting Dead Women project](http://kareningalasmith.com/counting-dead-women/) puts names and stories to the statistics we often hear, and is asking the government to take an integrated approach to understanding violence against women.

There are, of course, differences of opinion when it comes to which subjects feminism should be addressing. How could there not be, in a movement that represents half the population, and aims for liberation for all? But what's exciting about these individual campaigns is the way they're building a movement capable of taking on structural, systemic problems. As the philosopher Nina Power notes, there are teenage girls today, growing up with Twitter and Tumblr, who have a perfect grasp of feminist language and concepts, who are active on a huge range of issues – some of those I talk to are starting to work on economic analyses of women's predicament, the ways in which neo-liberal policies such as the rolling back of the state and low taxes for the rich, have shaped modern inequalities.

The movement's concerns are forever shifting, and will likely do so powerfully when some of today's young activists encounter the pay gap, childcare costs and pregnancy discrimination in their own lives. "What is it going to be like," says Power, "to have this generation of people who are totally attuned to all these terms and categories and thinking through all these issues from a very young age?" Brought up to know they are equal to men, fourth-wave feminists are pissed off when they're not treated as such, but have more than enough confidence to shout back. Misogynists, watch out.

# Peter Nunn jailed for abusive tweets to MP Stella Creasy

Court sentences man to 18 weeks’ jail for bombarding politician with abuse on Twitter over Jane Austen £10 note campaign

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A man has been jailed for 18 weeks for bombarding a Labour MP with abusive tweets after she supported a successful campaign to put the image of Jane Austen on the £10 note.

Peter Nunn, 33, from Bristol, retweeted menacing posts threatening to rape [Stella Creasy](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/stella-creasy), the MP for Walthamstow, and branding her a witch.

He launched [what the prosecution called his “campaign of hatred”](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/19/twitter-labour-mp-stella-creasy-court) last summer after the Labour politician backed a high-profile drive by the feminist activist Caroline Criado-Perez to keep a woman on a British banknote.

The district judge Elizabeth Roscoe found Nunn guilty of sending indecent, obscene or menacing messages following a trial at City of London magistrates court this month, and jailed him on Monday.

She also imposed a restraining order banning him from any contact with Creasy or Criado-Perez. Nunn showed no emotion as the sentence was passed.

Victim impact statements were read out to the court on behalf of both women, who spoke of the “terrifying” threats made against them.

The prosecutor Alison Morgan said the messages had a “substantial” effect on Creasy, who felt “increasing concern that individuals were seeking not only to cause her distress but also to cause her real harm which led her to fear for her own safety”.

She said Creasy had felt the need to install a panic button in her home, and the incident had altered the way the MP interacted with people and made her more cautious.

Morgan said Criado-Perez’s statement described the “fear and horror” she had felt, which led to physical symptoms such as dizzy spells.

Nunn, who the court heard has ambitions to study for a law degree, claimed he sent the messages to exercise his right to freedom of speech and to “satirise” the issue of online trolling.

During mitigation his defence lawyer, Helen Jones, told the court he felt great remorse for the stress and anxiety he had caused.. But the judge said she had not seen this during his trial when she had found him “evasive”.

Describing his behaviour as “egocentric”, Roscoe added: “It was really all about you and your opinions and what you wanted to do. Although we’re only talking about six tweets, it was persistent. You moved account when one was blocked.”

The judge said she had taken the defendant’s good character and clean record into account along with the impact that a custodial sentence would have on his long-term partner and their three-year-old daughter.

She added: “However, it has to be an immediate sentence. There is no reason to suspend it. I’m not convinced that that would give the message that this is entirely unacceptable.”

Nunn’s one-day trial heard how he began leaving offensive posts on 29 July last year, five days after the Bank of England revealed Austen would be the new face of the £10 note. He retweeted a threat to rape Creasy, and over the next day he sent a barrage of offensive messages using the Twitter account @protectys.

Later that evening he wrote: “If you can’t threaten to rape a celebrity, what is the point in having them?”

Nunn also posted six increasingly manic videos online in which he mocked campaigners.

Nunn, who declared himself a “feminist” during his own evidence, denied using Twitter to advocate violence or rape. He was found guilty of sending a message that was grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character by a public electronic network between 28 July and 5 August last year.

Neither Creasy nor Criado-Perez attended court to see him sentenced.

Creasy said: “Today’s sentence for Peter Nunn is a step forward in recognising the distress and fear online harassment can cause. We now need to ensure our police and criminal justice services are better trained to identify the risks anyone receiving threats faces, whether these are made on or offline so that we can protect those being stalked.

“Above all, we need to send a clear message that it isn’t for anyone to put up with being harassed via any medium- this is an old crime taking a new form online and should be treated as such.”

Criado-Perez said Nunn “made me fear for my life – as no one ever has before”. But she said she felt the charge against him had been the wrong one, and said of the Crown Prosecution Service: “I don’t feel they understood what happened to me.”

She wrote on her [blog](http://weekwoman.wordpress.com/2014/09/29/a-brief-comment-on-peter-nunn/): “While what Nunn did was extremely menacing, I do not think that sending messages describes the essence of his campaign against me and Stella. I think that is better described with the term stalking … I felt he was a clear and present threat to me. He made me scared to go outside, to appear in public. He seemed obsessed enough to carry out his threats.”

# Protests in Spain after 5 men are cleared of rape in 'wolf pack' case

By [Laura Smith-Spark](https://edition.cnn.com/profiles/laura-smith-spark), Laura Perez Maestro and Gianluca Mezzofiore, CNN

Updated 1348 GMT (2148 HKT) April 27, 2018

(CNN)Protests were held across Spain after five men were convicted of sexual abuse but cleared of the gang rape of a teenage girl during the Running of the Bulls festival in Pamplona two years ago.

Large crowds marched in cities, including Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Pamplona and Alicante, after a court decision Thursday afternoon in Pamplona.

Many protesters held placards declaring: "It is not abuse, it is rape." Some added the hashtag "patriarchal justice."

The court in northern Spain's Navarre region said the five men had been sentenced to nine years for "a continued crime of sexual abuse," a lesser offense under Spanish law than the gang rape of which they were accused.

Amid the furor, the official spokesman for Spain's government said Friday that it would "revise whether the law regarding these crimes (sexual crimes) needs to be updated."

Prosecutors had sought 22 years for each defendant on the more serious charge, according to Spain's El Mundo newspaper. The case became known as "la manada," or "the wolf pack," after the name of a WhatsApp group on which the defendants and other friends chatted.

Women take part in a demonstration Thursday in Málaga, Spain, against the sexual abuse of women.

The men -- José Ángel Prenda, Antonio Manuel Guerrero, Ángel Boza, Alfonso Jesús Cabezuelo and Jesús Escudero -- recorded cell phone video of their encounter in July 2016 with the girl, then 18, during Pamplona's famous San Fermín festival.

According to court documents, WhatsApp messages circulated to the group by one of the defendants included "us five are \*\*\*\*ing one girl," "there is more than what I'm telling you," "a \*\*\*ing amazing trip" and "there is video."

The court heard that the men, who denied wrongdoing, "pushed" the girl into a deserted hallway and told her to "shut up" before all engaging in sexual activity with her. She "adopted a passive, submissive stance" because she felt trapped and afraid, according to the sentencing document. One of the men took her phone from her bag before they left her there.

The case has shone a spotlight on Spanish law, under which the lesser offense of sexual abuse differs from rape in that it does not involve violence or intimidation.

Navarre's state prosecutor said Thursday's ruling by a three-judge panel would be appealed. Defense attorney Agustin Martinez Becerra, who represents four of the accused, said Friday they would also appeal the sentence.

The verdict has outraged many in Spain.

Announcing that authorities would look again at the country's laws on sexual crimes, spokesman Inigo Mendez de Vigo insisted that "the government has been, is and always will be with the victims."

Defense Minister Maria Dolores de Cospedal earlier said she thought the sentence was "too little" and that legislation in this area "might have to be looked at."

"As a person, as a citizen, as a woman, it's hard to come to terms with the content of the sentencing. What happened at the San Fermín was barbaric and a situation no woman is comfortable in," she said.

A woman holds a placard reading, "Sister, I believe you," as large crowds demonstrate in Málaga.

Susana Díaz, Andalusia's regional president, tweeted: "I always respect judicial sentences but this is one I neither understand nor agree with. We must have zero tolerance for sexual violence throughout society."

Pedro Sánchez, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, tweeted: "She said NO. We believed you then and we still believe you. If what the 'wolf pack' did wasn't group violence against a defenseless woman, then what do we understand by rape?"

Iria Grandal, 27, was one of those who protested in Madrid. "I was inspired to join the protest by the injustice of an absurd sentence," she told CNN. "Five men pushing you inside the entrance of a house is enough intimidation to be considered rape and not sexual abuse."

She said the crowd gathered in front of the Ministry of Justice in Madrid and then marched to Spain's Congress, where there was a sit-in. Another sit-in was held in front of the Ministry of Equality. Everything finished around 11 p.m. Thursday when the crowd held a moment of silence, she said.

In the videos that Grandal shared on social media, the crowd could be heard shouting, "Yo te creo" -- "I believe you" -- in reference to the victim of the assault.

"In Spain, there is still a lot of machismo and misogyny. In jobs, salaries, and including young people," Grandal said. "But I think things are changing now. You could see it in the massive demonstration on March 8 -- for International Women's Day -- and you could see it now. Women will no longer remain silent, and the youngest among us are also taking to the streets to protest.

"We want to stop feeling afraid when going out, and we want to be treated for what we are: people."

José Antonio Martín Acosta, who belongs to the Gafas Moradas (Purple Glasses) feminist group fighting for gender equality, joined protests in the city of Bilbao.

"The 'manada' sentence made us hit the streets because the judges had sentenced it as an abuse, while it's nothing else but rape," he told CNN. The group demonstrated, he said, "to fight the patriarchy and against an obsolete justice in which many people are still linked to the rules of (the) Franco regime."

# Bodyform advert replaces blue liquid with red 'blood'

* 18 October 2017



Image copyright Bodyform Image caption Bodyform's advertising campaign also shows a man buying sanitary towels

Bodyform has become the first brand in the UK to feature sanitary pads stained with red liquid, rather than blue, in its adverts.

Parent company Essity said it wanted to confront taboos surrounding periods.

The firm says [research](https://www.bodyform.co.uk/bloodnormal) found 74% of people wanted to see more honest representation in adverts.

Bodyform's [video campaign](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=QdW6IRsuXaQ), #bloodnormal, shows a woman in the shower with blood running down her thigh and a man buying sanitary towels.

It follows a 2016 advert where sportswomen were [shown muddy and bloodied](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q1GVOYIcKc) while doing activities like bike riding, boxing and running.

With the slogan "no blood should hold us back", it featured a sanitary towel on a TV advert for the first time.

Sanitary brands and adverts have traditionally opted to use blue liquid in order to represent how much moisture their pads can hold.

The new campaign has been mostly well received.

Essity, the company which makes Bodyform, said it wanted to "challenge the stigma around periods".

Tanja Grubna said: "We believe that like any other taboo, the more people see it, the more normal the subject becomes."

# The people fighting pollution with plastic-free periods

By Kelly-Leigh Cooper BBC News, 1st May 2018

**Talking about periods openly can be difficult, and discussing menstrual waste can be even harder. While the fight against single-use plastics like straws and shopping bags has become a mainstream issue, activists and environmental groups say disposable menstrual products are part of the problem too.**

How many women actually know their tampons and pads may have plastic in them? Unlike food products, there is no legal compulsion to list ingredients on their packaging, although most of this information is available online.

Pads, the product favoured around the world, can in some cases be made up of about 90% plastic - containing as much as four supermarket bags. Tampons are predominantly cotton and rayon but have components made up of polyester materials. Many come individually wrapped with plastic applicators.

The average woman is estimated to use, and throw away, in excess of 10,000 of these in her menstrual lifetime.

During its annual clean-up weekend in 2017, the Marine Conservation Society found a large increase in sewage-related debris on British beaches - including hundreds of menstrual pads, tampons and applicators. The problem inspired City to Sea, a group fighting ocean pollution, to start a #PlasticFreePeriod campaign.

Despite warnings on packaging that products like wipes and tampons aren't flushable, women continue to dispose of them this way, forcing water companies to spend huge amounts of money clearing blockages.

In countries without stringent disposal systems in place, these products can be found in the streets or on rubbish dumps being hand-sorted, leaving poor workers at huge health risk.

But through woman-to-woman advocacy and word of mouth, reusable products like cups, sponges and absorbable pants are growing in popularity around the world. Once a fringe choice, these environmentally friendlier options are being popularised by the internet.

## How do cups work?

Two women helping to push the movement online are Kim Rosas and Amanda Hearn from YouTube channel Put A Cup In It. Based in the US, they aim to break down taboos with frank and open discussion about reusable products.

Menstrual cups, typically made of medical-grade silicone, are inserted into the vagina and collect, not absorb, menstrual blood. Their contents are periodically dumped, the cup cleaned, and the product reused. They may cost $30-40 (£20-30) but can be used for 10 years.

The idea of being that close with your own menstrual blood may make some women feel squeamish.

Activists believe a large part of this comes from exposure to marketing which characterises periods as a sanitary issue.

It can be seen in adverts that focus on a product's discretion, where [menstrual blood is typically depicted as a mysterious blue liquid](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41666280).

## What are the cultural challenges?

The devices can be a life-changing solution in developing countries where deep cultural taboos and lack of sanitation access remains a major obstacle to women's education.

Ruby Cup, one brand, has spearheaded a "buy one, give one" programme that has provided sustainable options to more than 50,000 women in 10 countries with high levels of poverty.

"Initially when people see the cup you get some very surprised faces - like is this going to go inside of me?" brand co-founder Julie Weigaard Kjaer says.

"But you'll get a few brave girls try it. They'll have a good experience and tell their peers."

Kenyan actress and model Ebby Weyime has developed a cup of her own which she now produces and sells locally.

"The majority of us live below the poverty line, so basic things like sanitary napkins are looked at as a luxury for most people," she says.

"Yes I can help a girl for January and February but what happens in March or April? After I found the cup I knew it was a long-time solution that could help girls for years."

She has found the lack of female sexual health awareness and enduring cultural taboos big hurdles to cup popularity in Africa.

"It's amazing how many women have no idea about their anatomy," she says.

"They've never seen how their vagina looks. Insertion is the main problem, so you just need girls to get past the worry and fear of that."

Similar barriers exist all around the world. While tampons are preferred in the US and Western Europe, they're actually culturally niche and menstrual pads overwhelmingly dominate the global market.

In India, Komal Khulbe, known online as the Delhi Fashion Blogger, has been praised by her fan base for breaking taboos by making a YouTube video about menstrual cups.

"Most of the comments I get on the video are 'I'm not sexually active', 'does it mess up the hymen or not?'

"It's the same with tampons not being pushed in the media because they're worn in the body. It's a lot of word-of-mouth negative impression."

But environmentally friendly and culturally sensitive options are being developed there too - one brand, Saathi, has developed pads made from fully biodegradable plant-based fibres.

## A solution for period poverty?

In Asian countries like South Korea, where prices of products have soared in recent years, menstruation can put incredible financial strain on women.

In 2016 a news story about a 16-year-old girl living with her disabled father shocked the country. She had been forced to fashion pads from shoe insoles.

A scandal about toxic pads last year exacerbated the price problem there further.

Ease & More, a social venture group, successfully helped in an effort to push South Korea's ministry of food and drug safety to approve the first cup for sale in December.

## What other solutions are there?

Historically, a lot of women have used washable cloths to absorb blood.

Refined versions of this, in the form of reusable pads, have actually taken off as a plastic-free solution and are now being sold by retailers online.

Technological development has meant absorbable underwear has emerged as a solution. [Thinx is the best known brand, partly due to a row over its provocative adverts on the New York subway system](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-trending-34609345).

Their products are designed to absorb menstrual flow on light to medium days or act as a back-up method.

Maria Molland Selby, the company's CEO, said the idea had been born out of the developmental stagnation of disposable retail giants.

"They haven't innovated in decades. They're big, corporate. They've been around a while and have never had to have it at the top of their minds to figure out better products for women and as a result you have products that aren't best for the body."

For those who want to help reduce their period's environmental impact but still feel squeamish about washable options, there are alternatives.

Dame, a British organic menstrual product company, received an overwhelming response to an online Kickstarter campaign they launched earlier this year to develop their reusable tampon applicator.

"We love cups, we love washable pads but sadly they're not being used a lot," says one of brand's founders, Celia Pool.

"We saw an opportunity to allow women to use a product they feel comfortable with but in a much more sustainable way."

"Every month, like clockwork, women come back. They may not even know the product's name, they just know if it's blue or green.

"You can understand why they [big brands] are not changing - so it's up to small businesses to offer people another option."

The company ended up overfunding their online campaign by almost 300% as videos about their product went viral.

Alec Mills, co-founder, says the pair were blown away by the online reaction - especially for an "unsexy tampon" product.

"It's a really good yardstick for the progression on our ability to talk about periods," he says.

"Now talking about the environment and their impact - it's been a big double step."

10/07/2017 15:27 BST | **Updated** 11/07/2017 09:01 BST [By Rachel Moss](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/author/rachel-moss)

# The Sunday Times Called Olympic Gold Medallist Laura Kenny ‘Jason’s Pregnant Wife’ And People Are Fuming

## ‘You spelt "four-time Olympic champion" wrong.’

Being referred to as “the missus”, whether you’re in a long-term relationship or actually married, is annoying as hell.

Among friends, it ignores that fact that you have an identity separate from your partner, but in a professional context, it completely undermines your achievements, suggesting that becoming “a wife” is the be-all and end-all for women.

So when The Sunday Times referred to four-time Olympic gold medallist Laura Kenny as Jason Kenny’s “pregnant wife”, broadcast journalist [Libby Dawes](https://twitter.com/Libbydawes89) called the paper out on it.

The Sunday Times captioned an image of the two cyclists at Wimbledon, saying: “Cyclist Jason Kenny was with his pregnant wife Laura.”

In response, Dawes tweeted the photo saying: “Hey, @thetimes you spelt ‘four-time Olympic champion’ wrong.”

Her tweet soon went viral and has been liked more than 8,000 times, with many calling the caption “insulting” and “sexist”.

In the full story later in the paper, Laura was referred to as an Olympic cyclist with full acknowledgement of her achievements. But many have still questioned the paper’s choice of photo caption.

On Twitter, some have pointed out that the The Telegraph referred to Jason as Laura’s “husband”, sparking debate about whether the reverse is just as bad.

But as The Telegraph’s caption begins “Olympic cycling gold medallists”, [others have argued](https://twitter.com/CantSwingACat/status/884318083162267648) it paints the pair as equals.

Laura, who is the most successful British female Olympian, has long proved she isn’t one to conform to gender expectations.

As an [ambassador for Always #LikeAGirl](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/laura-trott-rio-olympics-always-like-a-girl_uk_579739b8e4b06d7c426d93d1), the 25-year-old has used her platform to end period taboos and encourage more girls to take up sport.

In a [recent interview](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/laura-kenny-interview-ambition-after-pregnancy_uk_594a7c50e4b0db570d380bdd) with HuffPost UK, she also showed that her becoming a wife and mother has had no impact on her career ambition.

“Although I’m the most successful female Olympian, I want to go higher up than that, I want to be on the all-time list, not just the female list,” she said.

In response to Dawes’ tweet, people on Twitter have been suggesting alternative captions for The Sunday Times photo.

If space was an issue for the paper, “Cyclists and parents-to-be Jason and Laura Kenny”, has fewer characters than their original caption. Just saying.