

GAME ON!

QUEER DISRUPTIONS IN SPORT

*An educational resource
exploring lesbian, gay,
bisexual, transgender,
intersex and queer issues
within sport*



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Diverse Identities in Sport



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QUEER DISRUPTIONS IN SPORT

This resource and the film which has inspired it, were made as part of a Small Collaborative Partnership project in the field of sport, funded through the Erasmus+ programme. The project Diverse Identities in Sport was coordinated by LEAP Sports Scotland, who worked alongside partners Bilitis Resource Center, Civil Works Association, and Discover Football to deliver the project. Produced by Civil Works Association, Mária Takács edited and directed the film.

leapsports.org | discoverfootball.de | bilitis.org | civilmuvek.com



More information on the project can be found **here** and the film can be viewed **here**.

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Game on: *Queer Disruptions in Sport* is a 60min documentary film which shines a light on the experiences of those with diverse identities within grassroots sport. The film features the stories of gay runners Csaba and Benjamin from Hungary; Natalie, a Scottish lesbian boxer; Pol, an intersex rower from Bulgaria, and a German transwoman footballer called Jessi. Their stories are unique but bring up themes that are typical for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people in sport.

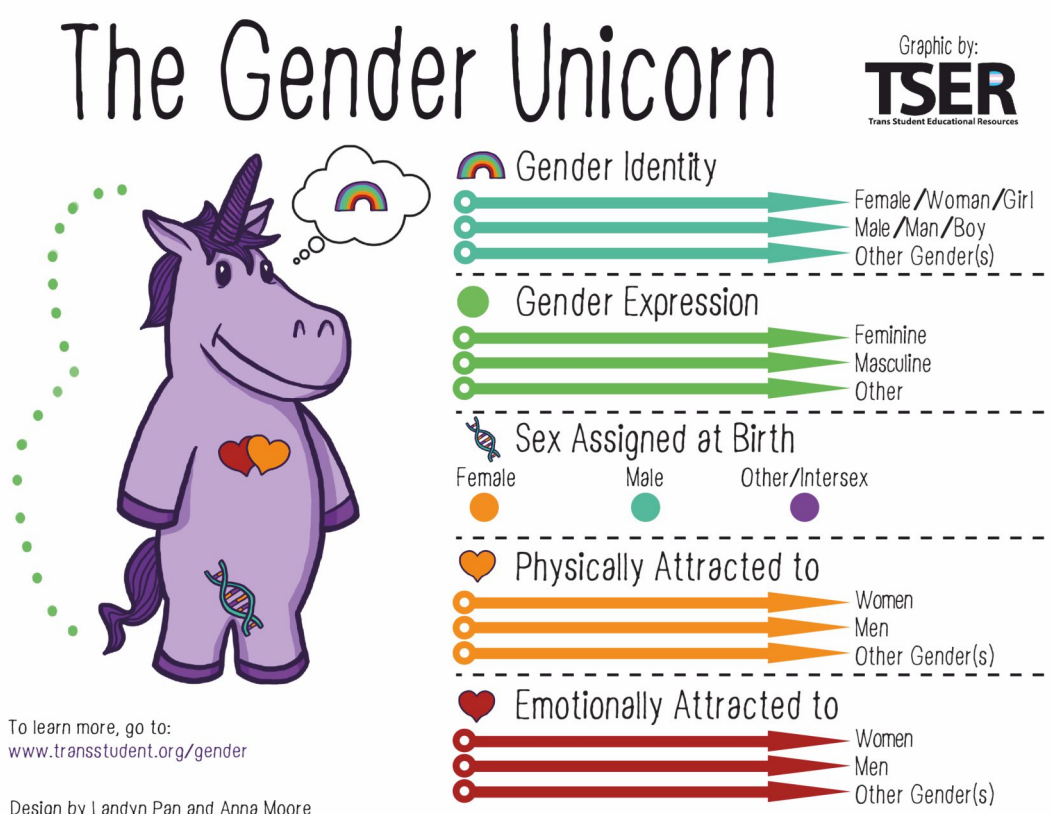
Using this resource can help you to:

- Increase your knowledge of the needs and experiences of LGBTIQ+ people
- Make sport an inclusive environment for LGBTIQ+ people

To help you to use the film as a learning resource, we have taken some of the key issues raised in the film and created some activities and focus questions, allowing you to explore the issues in more depth. The questions are mainly reflective, and your answers to these may differ. This resource can be used as a self-learning tool or in a group or team learning environment.

LGBTIQ+ TERMINOLOGY

Jessi found when coming out that people lacked an understanding of what it means to be transgender and this made things more difficult. We understand that the subject is complex, but we know that increasing our knowledge of these issues can make a huge difference and help people like Jessi feel welcomed and valued. We have used the Gender Unicorn to explain some of the key pieces of knowledge when understanding sex, sexuality and gender.



Below are a list of relevant terms and definitions. Can you match the term to its definition?

Discuss these in relation to the Gender Unicorn and where they may fit within the four headings.

TERM

GayA

LesbianB

BisexualC

AsexualD

Transgender Person (Trans)E

Gender ReassignmentF

Non-BinaryG

IntersexH

QueerI

DEFINITION

A woman who is attracted only to women1

A person who is attracted to people of more than one gender or regardless of gender2

A person who does not experience sexual attraction3

A person who is attracted only to people of the same gender as they are4

Any part of a process of transitioning to live in a different gender (regardless of whether any hormonal or surgical changes take place)5

A person who does not identify solely as a man or a woman. Instead they have a more complex or fluid gender identity or do not define their gender.6

A person born with their chromosomes, internal reproductive system and/or external genitals varying in some way from what would usually be considered clearly male or clearly female7

A person whose gender identity or gender expression is different from those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth. Used as an umbrella term8

An umbrella term used for diverse sexual orientations or gender identities that are not heterosexual and do not fit within a gender binary9

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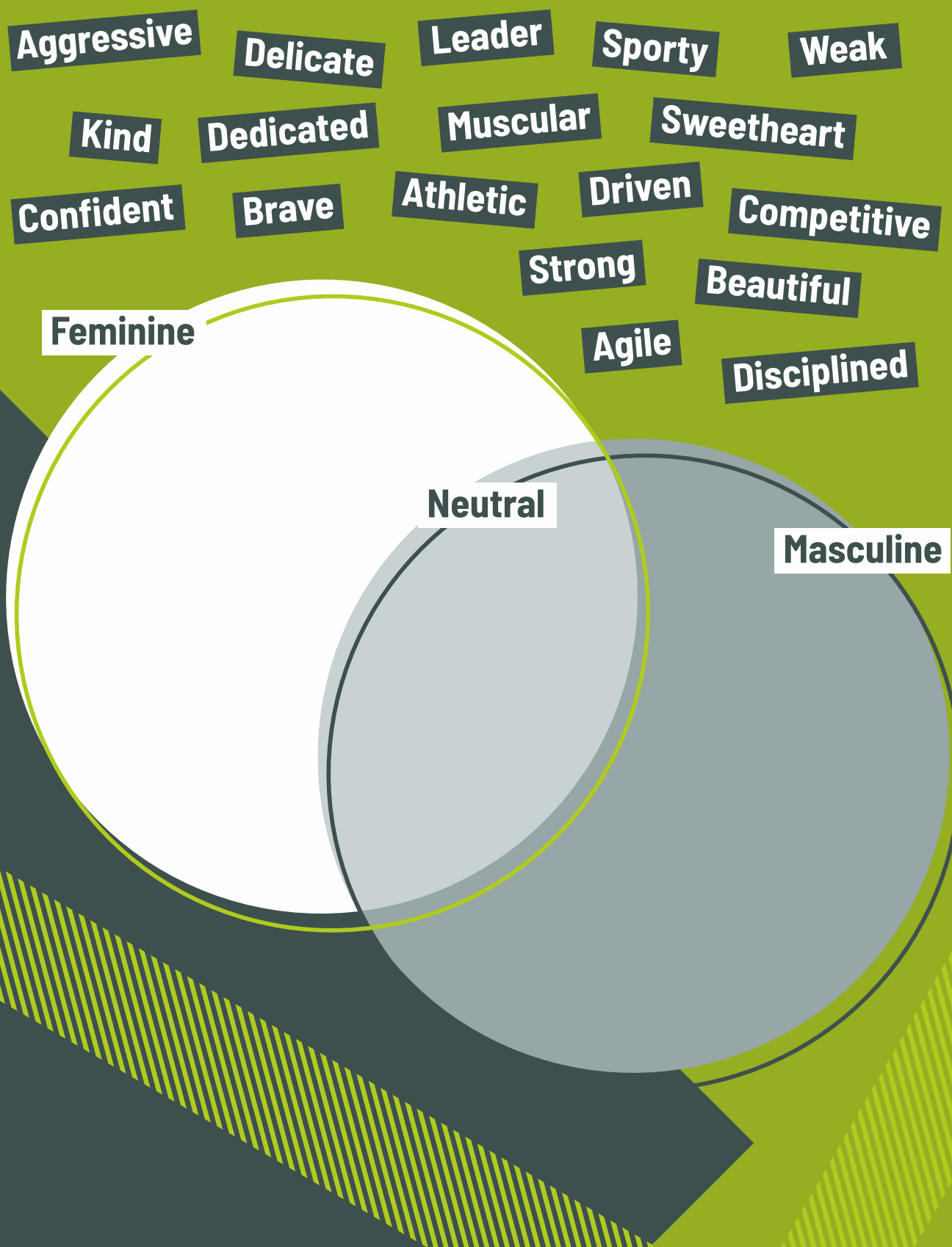
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GENDER STEREOTYPING

Natalie talked about a patronising sexist remark from a man at her gym. Using the words below, decide which words are stereotypically masculine, feminine or neutral and put them into the venn diagram below.

Once you have done this, have a discussion on how we categorise these words. Do you see any patterns? What impact might this have in a sports environment? How might this affect LGBTQ+ people participating in sports?



POLITICAL CLIMATE

Benjamin talked about the political climate and how this impacted his coming out. ILGA-Europe compile an annual Rainbow Map reviewing the human rights situation for LGBTIQ+ citizens in countries across Europe.

Map 1 is the 2019 edition.

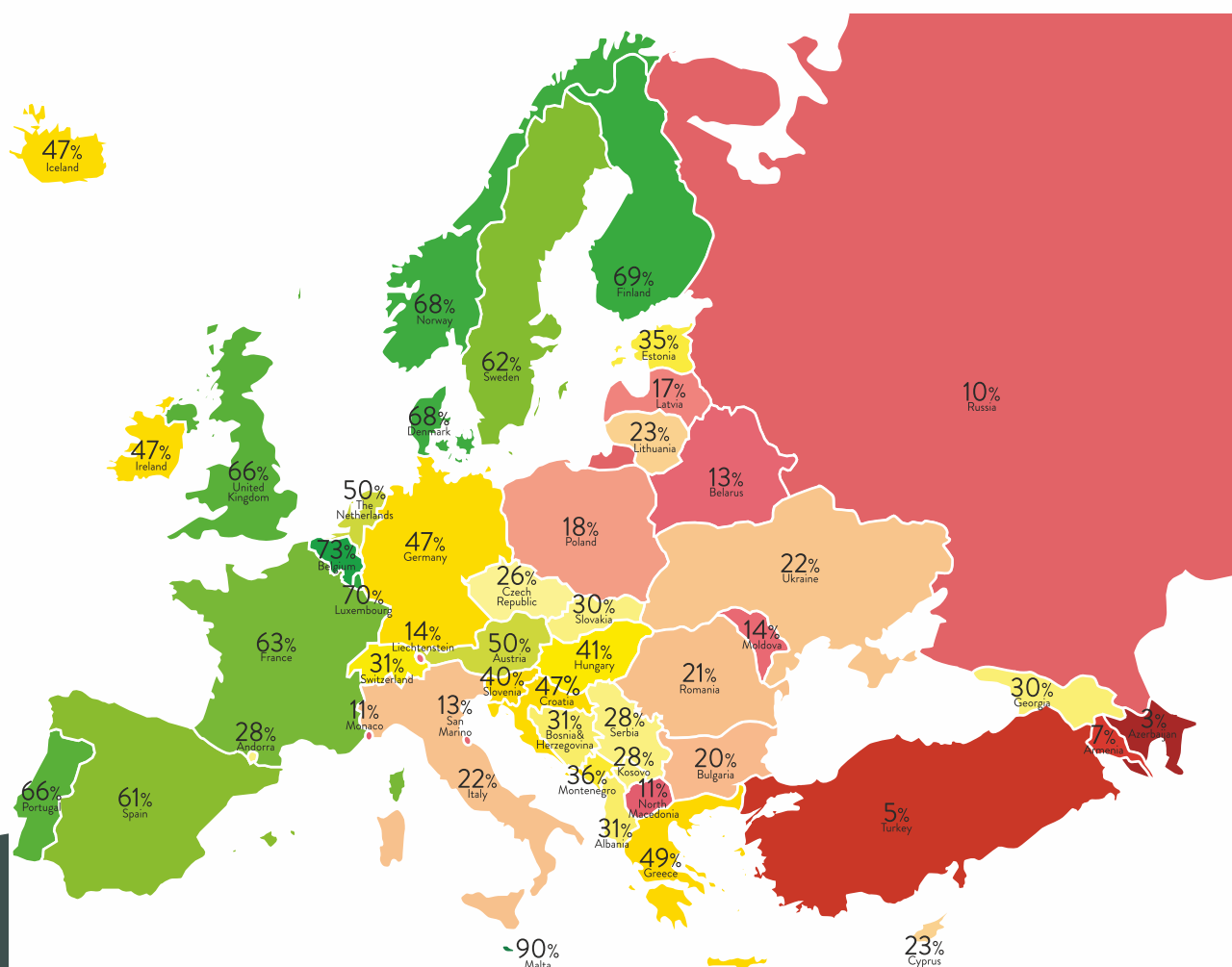
Csaba discussed the importance of having LGBTIQ+ role models in sport. **Map 2** shows a non-exhaustive view of some publicly out high profile LGBTIQ+ sportspeople from across Europe.

Take a look at the two maps.

10th Rainbow Map, May 2019 – [link HERE](#)

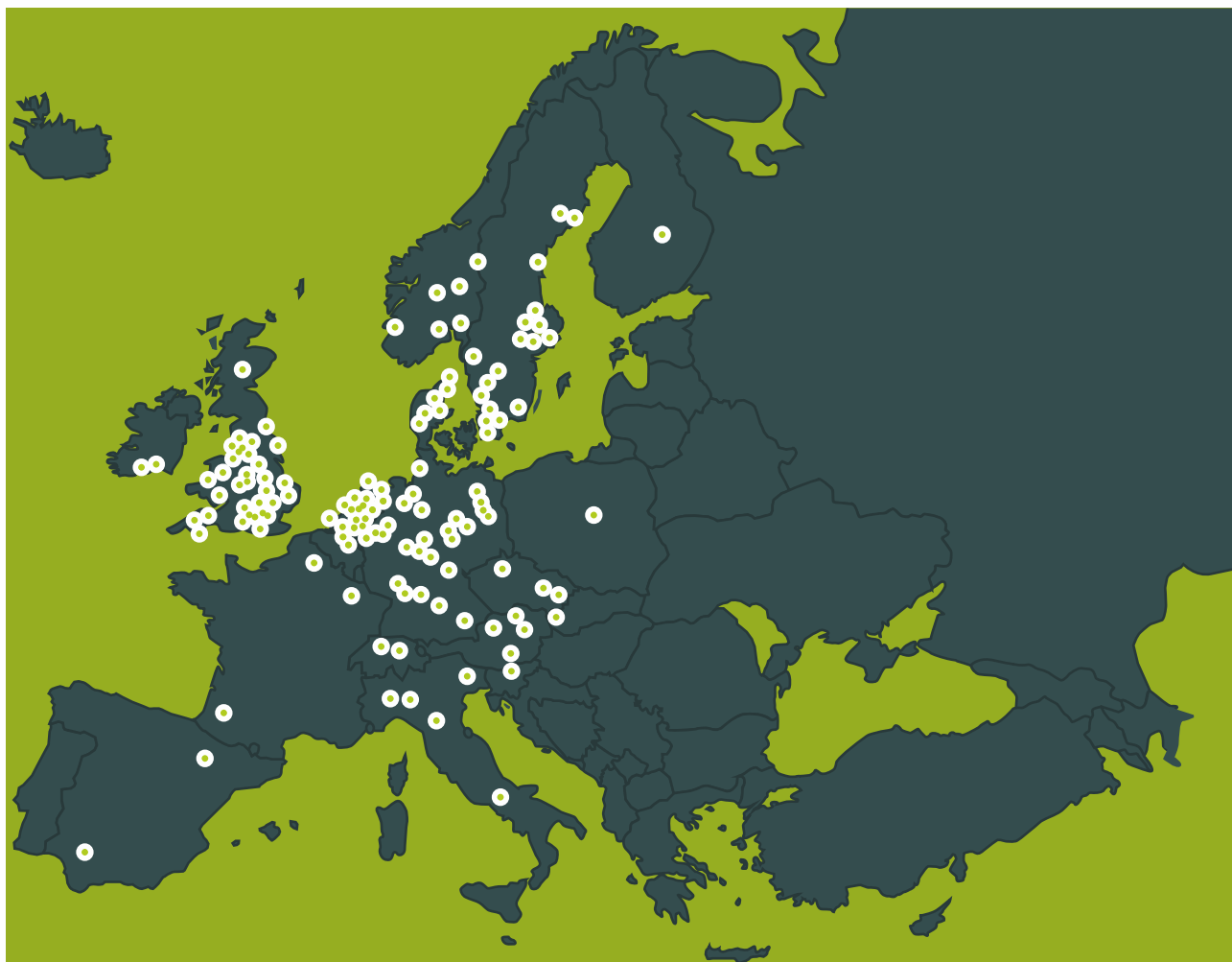
100% = Respect of human rights, full equality

0% = Gross violations of human rights, discrimination



What can you learn from the human rights review about your own country?
Are there any surprises?

High Profile European Sportspeople – *link HERE*



What is the pattern between the two maps?

Why do you think it's important to have LGBTQ+role models in sport?

Can you think of any high profile athletes from your country missing from the list?

DISCUSSION TOPICS



Benjamin

Benjamin expressed how there is the need for more LGBTIQ+ spaces in sport and more queer representation in sport overall.

- **What are the barriers preventing LGBTIQ+ people from participating in sport?**
- **What are some ways we can make sport more welcoming for LGBTIQ+ people?**
- **Considering the definition of 'queer' in the earlier exercise, why do you think queer representation in sport is important?**
- **Where can you already see LGBTIQ+ representations in sport?**



Jessi

Jessi mentioned the benefits of being included in a team that is not exclusively LGBTIQ+. The gender segregation of sport can also make inclusion difficult for trans and non-binary people.

- **Can you think of any sports, or versions of sport, which are gender segregated at times when they don't need to be?**
- **What other ways do sports categorise participants apart from gender?**
- **What are the advantages and potential disadvantages to having sporting spaces exclusively for LGBTIQ+ people?**

Jessi also talked about testosterone levels as this is what eligibility rules for trans women in some competitions in some sports are currently built around.

- **What other factors affect sporting achievement and performance? Are some more influential than others?**



Natalie

Natalie explained that to be and feel like a woman you don't need to fit into the stereotypical view of what femininity looks like. These stereotypes are typically manifested in sport, with some sports being deemed more masculine and others more feminine.

- **What sports do you think are described as being masculine or feminine and why?**
- **What problems might there be with assigning gender norms to certain sports?**
- **Are there any geographic variations in such stereotypes?**

Natalie discussed how the thought of coming out was often worse than actually coming out.

- **Why do you think this is? What are some of the things LGBTQ+ people worry about when thinking about coming out?**



Pol

Pol had surgery at age 14 which he was not informed about or consented to. This destroyed his rowing career. There are more recent examples of athletes undergoing surgery without informed consent.

- **Look up the more recent story of the athlete Annet Negesa on the internet. What are the parallels with Pol's experience?**
- **What do these situations teach us about intersex athletes in sport and the importance of informed consent?**

Pol explained that the spread of stigma, myths and prejudice surrounding intersex bodies and identities is perpetuated and amplified through a lack of knowledge and education around such issues.

- **Do you think there is enough knowledge and education of intersex people in sport?**
- **What challenges do intersex people face when wanting to participate in sport?**
- **What role do you think stigma, myths and prejudice play?**



Csaba

Csaba talked about toxic masculinity from a young age. Toxic masculinity is a term used to describe certain masculine cultural norms that may cause harm to men and society as a whole. Toxic masculinity can often be exemplified in statements like “You play (sport) like a girl”, “man up” and “that’s so gay”.

- ***Have you heard statements like these before?
In what contexts are these used?***
- ***How do you think these may impact negatively
on children, adults and wider society?***

These questions are not exhaustive and merely provided as a starting point for your discussion. If the film or questions raise issues for you, your club or your sport which you would like to discuss further, or if you would like to talk about further training or support in relation to these issues, please get in touch with us at info@leapsports.org

GAME ON!

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YOUR NOTES

Handwriting practice lines for the words 'GAME' and 'ON!'.

**GAME
ON!**

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