


Bolton Conservative club held 'gentlemen's evening' with strippers and waitresses

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Tom Embury-Dennis

January 25, 2018

A Conservative club held a “gentleman’s evening” featuring strippers and waitresses, leading some to compare it to the Presidents Club charity dinner where hostesses were allegedly groped.

A poster for the men only event stated the Horwich Conservative Club, in Bolton, was “proud” to present an evening featuring a “comedian, strippers, waitresses and food”.

The £15-a-head event held in October 2016 was an attempt to boost membership and raise funds. There is no suggestion that the attendees behaved badly towards the hostesses.

- Presidents Club 'hostesses' had no legal protection from harassment
- Minister given 'dressing down' after attending Presidents Club event
- Thousands sign petition to bring back repealed sexual harassment law

However, Liz McInnes, a Labour MP for the nearby constituency of Heywood and Middleton, accused the Tories of being “comfortable” with the event

She added that she had tweeted former Women and Equalities minister Justine Greening about it at the time, but she had failed to respond.

Although the poster featuring the official Conservative Party logo, spokesman claimed that the clubs were “independent of the party”.

Tweeted this in October 2016 to the then Minister for Women & Equalities. I received no response so can only conclude that the Tory Party is quite comfortable with “Gentlemens Evenings” with “waitresses & strippers”. #PresidentsClub <https://t.co/aK4CKwQm6V>

— Liz McInnes (@LizMcInnes_MP) January 25, 2018

A spokesperson for Horwich Conservative Club told *The Independent* the night also featured a separate ladies party with male strippers.

“There will never, ever be any more strippers here,” they added.

The revelation has regained attention in the wake of *The Financial Times*’ undercover investigation of an all-male President's Club charity dinner where hostesses were allegedly groped, propositioned and told to wear black underwear.

As a result, it was heavily criticised on social media.

Nadhim Zahawi acts like it was a one-off that a Tory like him would attend an event like the Presidents Club where women were treated so badly. Kind of bizarre then that in 2016, the Tory Party had events like this. pic.twitter.com/Zxou3NfvkE

— The Pileus (@thepileus) [January 25, 2018](#)

[@zelo_street](#)

I guess Horwich, near Bolton, might be reconsidering the wisdom of their themed evening last year . . . don't think the FT made it there . . . pic.twitter.com/G0LTiFNTrw

— Pete Garrard (@LiverpoolPeteG) [January 25, 2018](#)

At the forefront of stamping out this disgraceful behaviour [@theresa_may?](#)

Are you quite sure about that? Seems Horwich Conservatives didn't agree.
pic.twitter.com/lZCs1flgdb

— St Jean Sera 🌲👑👑👑👑👑 (@JamesWillby) [January 25, 2018](#)

Some drew comparisons with the President's Club black-tie event, which was held at London's Dorchester Hotel last week and attended by 360 leading figures from the worlds of business, politics and finance.

Auction prizes reportedly included a free lapdance at a Soho club and plastic surgery that could be used to "add spice to your wife".

The *FT* reported that by midnight an unnamed "society figure" was telling a hostess "I want you to down that glass [of champagne], rip off your knickers and dance on that table".


The Presidents Club Charitable Trust has since said it will disband in the wake of the allegations, while "disgusted" charities announced they will return donations received from the event.




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Presidents Club: Leading businessmen caught 'groping' and 'exposing themselves' to female hostesses at men-only charity gala

Women hostesses were allegedly required to be 'tall, thin and pretty', and told 'It's a Marmite job. Some girls love it, and for other girls it's the worst job of their life'.

[Adam Lusher](#) | Wednesday 24 January 2018 13:49 GMT |  [332 comments](#)

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Senior businessmen at an all-male charity dinner groped and propositioned women hostesses who were told to wear “black sexy shoes” and black underwear, it has been claimed.

Undercover *Financial Times* reporters said they witnessed the behaviour at the annual **Presidents Club** charity dinner in London’s **Dorchester Hotel** on Thursday night.

The black-tie event, attended by 360 leading figures from business, politics and finance, allegedly included auction lots involving a free lapdance at a Soho club and plastic surgery that could be used to “add spice to your wife”.



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The FT **reported** that by midnight an unnamed “society figure” was telling a hostess “I want you to down that glass [of champagne], rip off your knickers and dance on that table.”

The FT alleged: “Groping and similar abuse was seen across many of the tables in the room.

“Hostesses reported men repeatedly putting hands up their skirts; one said an attendee had exposed his penis to her during the evening.”

A 19-year-old was reportedly asked by a man in

his seventies whether she was a prostitute, which allegedly led to her admitting she found working at the dinner "f***ing scary".

The event was hosted by the comedian and children's author **David Walliams**, who is not the subject of any allegations and is understood to have behaved correctly throughout the night.

It allegedly began with another male compere – not Walliams - telling the men “Welcome to the most un-PC event of the year”.

More than 300 rich businessmen were perfectly happy to attend such an event, which shows what a rotten, sexist culture is still alive and kicking in parts of the business community. Time's up on this crap.
— Jo Swinson (@joswinson) **January 23, 2018**

The event has now been condemned by MPs including the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, **Jo Swinson** who reacted to the allegations by saying the FT's report showed that “a rotten, sexist culture is still alive and kicking in parts of the business community.”

The dinner came under further fire from Labour MP Jess Phillips and other critics who were upset that it had excluded women guests in the first place.

It's not just the harassment that's a problem. It's also unacceptable that organisers of this kind of charity event - where plenty of business will be done - still think it's ok to actively exclude successful women.

Perhaps the follow-up should mention that? **@miss_marriage**

— miroirdufou (@miroirdufou) **January 23, 2018**

Yeah because rich dudes who attend charity events never sexually abuse. Give me strength

pic.twitter.com/JehLcA2RmD

— Jess Phillips (@jessphillips) **January 23, 2018**

The President's Club charitable trust, which said the event raised millions of pounds for disadvantaged children, said it was “appalled by the allegations of bad behaviour” and pledged to investigate.

The fall-out from the dinner may also place pressure on the Conservative Party.

A co-chairman of the charitable trust was said on Wednesday afternoon to have "stepped down" from his position as a non-executive board member of the Department for Education, while the FT also reported that Conservative MP Nadhim Zahawi, the newly appointed undersecretary of state for children and families, had attended the dinner.

Mr Zahawi has, however, reportedly said he left early.

The Stratford-on-Avon MP told ITV news: "I didn't stay long enough to really comment on the occasion."

The FT said the 130 hostesses were hired by the agency Artista, which allegedly required that the women were “tall, thin and pretty”, and paid them £150 for the night, plus £25 for a taxi home.

The FT said that at their initial interviews, Caroline Dandridge, the founder of Artista, warned the women that the men at the dinner might be “annoying”.

Ms Dandridge was reported to have told one hostess: “It’s a Marmite job. Some girls love it, and for other girls it’s the worst job of their life and they will never do it again. You just have to put up with the annoying men and if you can do that it’s fine.”

Simply stomach-churning: sinister directions dictating what underwear women should wear; blurb suggesting cosmetic surgery would “add spice to your wife”; business demanding a woman rip off her knickers; multiple reports of sexual assault.

— Jo Swinson (@joswinson) **January 23, 2018**

Two days before the dinner, Artista allegedly emailed the hostesses to say they should bring “black sexy shoes”, black underwear and do their hair and make-up in a style suitable for a “smart sexy place”.

At the event, Ms Dandridge is said to have briefed the women that if any of the men became “too annoying” they should tell her.

The FT reported that some men among the “mix of British and foreign businessmen, the odd lord, politicians, oligarchs, property tycoons, film producers, financiers, and chief executives” were holding hostesses’ hands as the starters arrived.

During the night a 28-year-old woman claimed to have been repeatedly fondled on the bottom, hips, stomach and legs, with one man inviting her upstairs to his hotel room.

The 19-year-old who was reportedly asked if she was a prostitute was quoted by the FT as later admitting “I’ve never done this before, and I’m never doing it again. It’s f***ing scary.”

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The report of what happened at the dinner immediately prompted calls for David Meller, co-chairman of the Presidents Club charitable trust, to resign from his other position as a non-executive board member of the **Department for Education**.

Mr Meller, joint chairman of the luxury goods supplier the Meller Group, has **held his Department for Education position since June 2013**.

Organise a group event where women are offered up as meat all you like but if you do you don't get a say in my kids schools. <https://t.co/v4badljxVp>

— Jess Phillips (@jessphillips) **January 24, 2018**

I'm going to bed now but if this dude isn't gone by the time I awake, I'll have something else to focus on before lunch! <https://t.co/QO3ak3w5c9>

— Jess Phillips (@jessphillips) **January 24, 2018**

Calling for him to resign from his education role, the Labour MP Jess Phillips said: “Organise a group event where women are offered up as meat all you like but if you do you don't get a say in my kids schools.”

Asked to comment on Mr Zahawi and Mr Meller's involvement in the dinner, a Department for Education spokeswoman said: “This charity event was attended in a personal capacity. It was not

official departmental business and as such we are unable to comment further.”

Hours later, however, it was reported that Mr Meller had "stepped down" from his position on the Department for Education board.

The charity auction at the dinner included a lot offering a lunch for six co-hosted by Foreign Secretary **Boris Johnson**.

It is not thought that Mr Johnson attended the Presidents Club dinner itself and it was not immediately clear what – if anything – he knew about the event.

The Foreign Office has been asked for comment.

The Presidents Club told the FT: “The Presidents Club recently hosted its annual dinner, raising several million pounds for disadvantaged children.

“The organisers are appalled by the allegations of bad behaviour at the event asserted by the *Financial Times* reporters.

“Such behaviour is totally unacceptable. The allegations will be investigated fully and promptly and appropriate action taken.”

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Ms Dandridge, of Artista, was quoted by the FT as responding to the allegations by saying: “This is a really important charity fundraising event that has been running for 33 years and raises huge amounts of money for disadvantaged and underprivileged children’s charities.

“There is a code of conduct that we follow, I am not aware of any reports of sexual harassment and with the calibre of guest, I would be astonished.”

When contacted by *The Independent*, a spokesman for Artista provided the same statement as that provided by the Presidents Club.

The Dorchester Hotel told the FT it had a zero-tolerance policy regarding harassment of guests or employees.

In a statement, the hotel said: “We are unaware of any allegations and should we be contacted we will work with the relevant authorities as necessary.” ●

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carmel

17539165 days ago

These women had a choice. If they didn't like the dress code then they shouldn't have taken the job. I was once asked to go for an interview requesting I wear a short skirt. I had a choice so I made the decision not to attend.

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andyoldlabour

17539166 days ago

Is it acceptable for women to grope and indulge in oral sex with a male stripper at a hen party?
I would say no, but it goes on and women laugh and giggle at it, and enjoy telling people about it.

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+1 likes




vinhn1

17539165 days ago

to be fair, men don't complain. if men don't complain, does that mean women shouldn't complain either? We are not the same.

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0 likes




andyoldlabour

17539166 days ago

So, in these days of advanced technology, why has nobody been arrested?
Why do the women keep working there if it is that bad?
Why are the guys responsible for the assaults not being publicly named and shamed?

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+1 likes



vinhn1

17539165 days ago

Because it wasn't all women. Some women complained. some women were happy to do it.

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0 likes



googolplex

17539166 days ago

Another hysterical storm over nothing by the Permanently Offended.

If it was a women's only event you wouldn't hear a peep about it. Pathetic.

Reply · Share

-1 likes



SiMi

17539166 days ago

Where is anti-discrimination law when you need it? How can an employer legally dictate what underwear somebody wears or put young women in harms way?

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+1 likes



Ej21

17539166 days ago

It's called a dress code. It's perfectly reasonable, the uniform here was a black dress, a white bra strap showing would not look good.

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-2 likes



Paul

17539166 days ago

Put at least one Tory in a room with females and this is the result. In 2018 and after everything happened last year they really are taking the piss and pushing their luck.

3 weeks into a new year and the whole system has yet again been exposed and is falling apart.

May must of drank at least 5 strong whiskeys tonight after Corbyn slam dunked her in PMQs and then this.

Why does she bother ?

Reply · Share · 2 replies

-2 likes



googolplex

17539166 days ago

Go lie down, poor dear. There are no Tories in your closet, I promise... :D

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-2 likes



vinhn1

17539165 days ago

You do realise there were both Conservative and Labour MPs there?

And the only person to leave before this all happened was a Conservative MP? but you'd, of course, neglect to mention that.

This is a matter of gender politics, not government ones.

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Andy30

17539166 days ago

When young women go out at night, can they please cover up their legs and breasts ? Why is everything always 'on show' ? For heavens sake ladies, have a bit more class. Particularly on the red carpet for special occasions. It's like a cattle market.

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-1 likes



Paul

17539166 days ago

Are you the morality police ?

Reply · Share

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yaggiboom

17539166 days ago

Really? Since when do you or any other have the right to say what people should wear?

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SiMi

17539166 days ago

Why do women's bodies remind you of cattle? Is it because you are a misogynist?

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Ej21

17539166 days ago

There's a few countries you go where they do this. Saudi for starters.. try moving there.

Reply · Share

0 likes



Steve

17539166 days ago

For people saying this is no different to an air-hostess role, sorry but that is completely incorrect. A more correct analogy would be a role as a waitress at a Hooter's Restaurant. Hostesses at such events are told very clearly what they are signing up for, and there is an explicit dress code that involves some degree of revealing of body form, and appearance and sexual attractiveness does play a part in being hired for the role. This

certainly does not mean a customer can assault a waitress (which without question would be a crime), but the waitresses are clearly encouraged to engage in some 'flirtatious' behaviour. To pretend that is not the case in just being dishonest with ourselves.

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SiMi

17539166 days ago

Can you point to the part of UK law which allows employers to ask their employees to sign up for groping and solicitations of paid sex?

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googolplex

17539166 days ago

Oh grow up.

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Ej21

17539166 days ago

They weren't. The girls were told if any of these things happened to inform management immediately. None of them did. You have the word of a journalist who set out with an agenda, no other girls have commented, it's one persons word.

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vinhn1

17539165 days ago

Groping is illegal.

Soliciting for paid sex is not. As far as I know anyhow.

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Steve

17539166 days ago

We need to be careful while distinguishing between 'bad behaviour' and genuine sexual crime. While bad behaviour is by no means acceptable, media's sensationalisation of bad behaviour and conflation of it with real sexual crime, could mean there is a risk that real criminals will not get the attention that is required. If there was an actual crime committed at the above event, then it would good to see a police complaint and some prosecutions. Otherwise, some could say it is mere journalistic sensationalisation. Most people across the world have an intuitive understanding of what a hostess role is. To take an example from an

altogether different context, when a male stripper signs on to perform, by no means does that allow a female audience to assault the stripper, but there is a general understanding that there will be some light play, and it is mostly par for the course (as long as it does not transgress boundaries). These lines are not always easy to define, and it is good they are being debated, but we do need to be careful in distinguishing between real crime and borderline unacceptable behaviour.

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 **Sibthorpe** 17539166 days ago

'Unacceptable' = a weak work for 'loutish lechery'.

Reply · Share  +2 likes  

 **SiMi** 17539166 days ago

Groping is sexual assault and it's illegal.

Reply · Share · 1 reply  0 likes  

 **andyoldlabour** 17539166 days ago

Which is exactly what Steve said.

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 **florere** 17539166 days ago

Black underwear and sexy shoes should have rung alarm bells.

Reply · Share · 1 reply  +4 likes  

 **SiMi** 17539166 days ago

For whom?

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Voices

Because of a law the Tories repealed in 2013, the Presidents Club had no legal responsibility to protect their 'hostesses' from harassment

What I find incredible is that so many business leaders felt what went on at the Presidents Club was OK. This is what Section 40 was designed to protect against

James Moore | [@JimMooreJourn](#) | Thursday 25 January 2018 12:30 GMT | [8 comments](#)

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The Presidents Club charitable dinner has come under significant scrutiny *PA*

The most discomfoting part of the *FT*'s investigation into the behaviour of the businessmen invited to the recent Presidents Club charity dinner at the Dorchester Hotel was that while it was shocking, it

wasn't really all that surprising.

The report's value comes in the harsh light it casts on what, worryingly, we already know to be true and have perhaps been tacitly accepting of: that if you put together a men-only group of business "leaders" and hire young women to serve them booze they'll behave as if the progress of half a century or more never happened.

We're all part of the problem here, which is why the conversation now underway is so important.

What went on that night is unacceptable. That shouldn't even need stating. The blind eye we so often turn towards the behaviour of boorish businessmen is in urgent need of some laser surgery, up to and including legal laser surgery.

One of the more troubling takeaways from this scandal is that there is nothing apparently in law that prevents an organisation from setting up women to be grouped and abused in the way they reportedly were that evening (and reports from the hospitality industry suggest that what undercover reporter Madison Marriage experienced is not at all unusual).

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Section 40 of the 2010 Equality Act used to require employers to take “reasonable steps” to ensure staff were not made subject to third party harassment, such as that from guests, or customers, although only after two separate incidences had occurred.

But it was greeted by a storm of controversy. Many business leaders took a similar view to that of *Dragon's Den's* Duncan Bannatyne – two of whose fellow panellists were on the Presidents Club guest list. He claimed in the *Daily Mail* that it could lead to shop owners could facing lawsuits from staff offended by customers’ “jokes”.

Bannatyne kicked off his article by saying that he found it incredible that women workers had to strike to secure equal pay in the late 1960s. But he then said that he found it “equally incredible” that “the very fairness for which they fought so hard has been entirely traduced with the Equality Act 2010”.

In October 2013, the Government repealed Section 40, which made employers liable in certain circumstances for acts of harassment of an employee carried out by a third party.

What I find incredible is that so many business leaders felt what went on at the Presidents Club was ok. This is what Section 40 was designed to protect against.

Far from going too far, a review by the Fawcett Society, fortuitously released this week, justifiably argues that the legislation doesn’t go far enough.

Despite the Equal Pay act lauded by Bannatyne, it still doesn’t exist in the real world, as the recent scandals concerning the BBC make very clear. Some 54,000 pregnant women and working mothers are pressured to leave their jobs early each year. We have among the lowest maternity and paternity pay in Europe. If someone is discriminated against because of more than one aspect of their identity they are not protected by the law. The number of legal centres around the country has halved in 10 years. And so it goes on.

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Theresa May 'appalled' over Presidents Club revelations

With egg all over its face from a minister having attended the Dorchester dinner, one way for the Government to repair some of the damage to its reputation would be to take the issues raised by the Fawcett Society on board and to reinstate Section 40 while it's at it.

A petition on [Change.org](#) calling for that had, at the time of writing, attracted more than 65,000 signatures. So it would be a popular move.

But it's not just the Government that has work to do here.

Whenever attempts are made to reform employment law the business community moans and wails and gnashes its teeth. "It'll cost us money! It'll swamp us in red tape! It'll damage Britain's wonderful job creating 'flexible' labour market that lets us fire people!"

There are an army of Duncan Bannatynes out there.

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In the wake of the Presidents Club scandal it's time for them, and the organisations that represent them, to sing a different tune.

Section 40 is about common decency and



hard

dragging the workplace out of the 1970s.

Sensible companies ought to see that. A study by McKinsey, the management company, that I

wrote about last week, found those that hire more women and minority ethnic workers, and foster workplaces conducive to them succeeding, are significantly more profitable than those that remain stuck in the past. Reform is in the business community's interests if it would but recognise that fact.

Oh, and by the way, for those trolls who'll start whining about all this being anti-men, Section 40 would protect them too. As the behaviour of Kevin Spacey exposed by *Star Trek* actor Anthony Rapp made clear, men too can be the victims here.

This is about protection from harassment for all because no one should be put into the position that the women who worked at Presidents Club that evening were. ●

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Stephen C

17539165 days ago

I confess I had not realised that Mary Whitehouse was alive and well and living in 2018.

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elder2

17539165 days ago

So far we have had the report from the journalist about the alleged 'activities' at the function. 129 other 'hostesses' have yet to speak out.

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Bill545

17539165 days ago

They signed non-disclosure agreements. Nice use of inverted commas. You really are a piece of filth.

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Stephen C

17539165 days ago

Surely we all know by now that non-disclosure agreements do not apply for breaches of the law. Groping is indecent assault and by definition a breach of the law. No one has come forward except the FT journalist who has lost GOST over £500,000, very clever. So Elder2 is right we only have the allegation of an FT journalist hungry for a spicy story.

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Dan Dare

17539165 days ago

So do tell what went on, with verifiable evidence. If it was illegal then the police will act.

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0 likes  



Jamp

17539165 days ago

Read the article again. The point is that the actions will not be deemed illegal because the clause which protected people from this kind of harassment was removed.

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Dan Dare

17539165 days ago

If some was sexually harassed or assaulted then involve the law. So far no one has made an official complaint to the police. Till then its all hear say.

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Stephen C

17539165 days ago

You read the article again, it is only the Presidents Club which has no liability for harassment and why should they, they were not doing the harassment if indeed any harassment was taking place.

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Government minister given ‘dressing down’ after attending men-only Presidents Club event

'I do unequivocally condemn this behaviour. The report is truly shocking. I will never attend a men only function ever' the newly-appointed minister said

Ashley Cowburn Political Correspondent | @ashcowburn | Thursday 25 January 2018 09:46 GMT | 10 comments

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Mr Zahawi was appointed as children and families minister during Theresa May's reshuffle *PA*

A Government minister was ordered to Downing Street last night to provide an explanation over his attendance at a controversial men-only dinner after reports emerged of hostesses being groped and harassed by guests.

Nadhim Zahawi, who was appointed as children and families minister during Theresa May's new years reshuffle, was said to have found the Presidents Club fundraiser "extremely uncomfortable" and left early.

In response to a demand that he condemn any inappropriate behaviour of those in attendance at the event, Mr Zahawi wrote on his social media account: "I do unequivocally condemn this behaviour. The report is truly shocking. I will never attend a men only function ever."

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- The alleged behaviour at the Presidents Club doesn't surprise me

But he was given a "dressing down" and asked to explain his attendance after being called to a meeting with Tory chief whip Julian Smith on Wednesday, a Government source told the Press Association.

The allegations were a result of an undercover investigation from the Financial Times and have since led to the closure of the Presidents Club, with trustees vowing to donate remaining funds in an "efficient manner" to children's charities.

The reports also prompted the resignation of businessman David Meller from his senior role at the Department for Education. He had been a trustee of the Presidents Club and co-chairman of the annual dinner at London's Dorchester Hotel.



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'I was regularly molested as a London

Matt Hancock, the newly-appointed Culture Secretary, also told Radio 4's Today programme that Mr Zahawi had been to see the chief whip over his attendance, adding that his explanation for being there – and leaving early – was "reasonable".

Mr Hancock also said he was "absolutely certain" he had not been to any events similar to the Presidents Club dinner during his time in public office. "I'm glad it's closed," he added. "Goodbye to that rubbish. There's got to be a

hostess. This is what it's like'

bigger change - I'd comfortably describe myself as a feminist.”

“I understand he left early because he [Mr Zahawi] didn’t feel comfortable. I understand the chief whip has spoken to him but as I say I think it’s good that it’s closed.”

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“I think that his explanation that he went because it was a charity event and he left early is a reasonable explanation.”

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister’s spokesman said she had felt “uncomfortable” reading about the dinner, while Mr Corbyn’s branded it “a gross example of sexual harassment”.

On Mr Zahawi, the spokesman added: “My understanding is that Mr Zahawi clearly did attend the

event. He has himself said that he felt uncomfortable at it and left at the point at which the hostesses were introduced by the host.”

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OK

'I was groped': Journalist Madison Marriage talks about hostessing at the Presidents Club Charity Dinner

He explained that the PM had not spoken with Mr Zahawi and was “not aware” of any plans for them to talk, but added: “It is safe to say that Mr Zahawi will not be attending the event in the future.”

Asked whether it had been a “mistake” for the Conservative minister to attend, Ms May’s spokesman said: “He probably regrets it.”

It also comes after the former Cabinet minister, Maria Miller, who now chairs the Women and Equalities Committee, said it could be time to toughen equality laws by giving them “some real teeth” in the wake of the scandal.

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OK

David Mellor steps down from Department of Education following Presidents Club scandal

She also criticised her colleague Mr Zahawi for attending the dinner and said she had written to party officials to review how they decide whether ministers should attend a particular event.

“I don’t believe he should have gone to an event that was all men networking for business at a time when the Government is doing so much to encourage women to take senior roles in business,” she added.

Financial Times reporter Madison Marriage, who went undercover as part of the paper's investigation into the event, told BBC Newsnight on Tuesday: “I was groped several times and I know that there are numerous other hostesses who said the same thing had happened to them.

“It's hands up skirts, hands on bums but also hands on hips, hands on stomachs, arms going round your waist unexpectedly.”

She added: “I can't believe that it still goes on in 2018, I think it's quite shocking.” ●

More about: | [Nadhim Zahawi](#) | [Presidents Club](#) | [presidents club charity dinner](#)

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StillGame

17539165 days ago

If he went in a personal capacity...he should resign.

If he went as a government representative.....What the F*** was expected to be achieved?

It wasn't his first attendance at the event ...so...what WAS he DOING there??

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park 226

17539165 days ago

He went there to bid for a lunch with Boris Johnson, which goes on to ask why was Johnson involved in such a boy's night out

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choille

17539165 days ago

'given a dressing down' - So he had to wear a tight, short little black number and high heels?

It appears that the event had quite a reputation and should have been avoided like the plague by anyone with any sense.

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user100589

17539165 days ago

Are you saying that those women who took the job had no sense then?

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-2 likes



choille

17539165 days ago

eh? Where did I say that?

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+2 likes



nickalcock

17539165 days ago

How long did he stay before he left?

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+1 likes



Paul

17539165 days ago

His family have said he was home by 9.30pm and tucked up in bed after cookies and cocoa.

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0 likes



park 226

17539165 days ago

I would expect my wife to say that,

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0 likes



CommonSense

17539165 days ago



So is this about "Oh God, I really regret going" or "Oh God, I've been found out"?

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+4 likes



park 226

17539165 days ago

Which God

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Presidents Club: Thousands sign petition to reinstate workplace sexual harassment law repealed in 2013

Section 40 of the Equality Act, which made employers liable for an employee being harassed by a third party - such as a customer if the employer did not take reasonable steps to prevent it

Ellie Cullen | Thursday 25 January 2018 09:45 GMT |  1 comment

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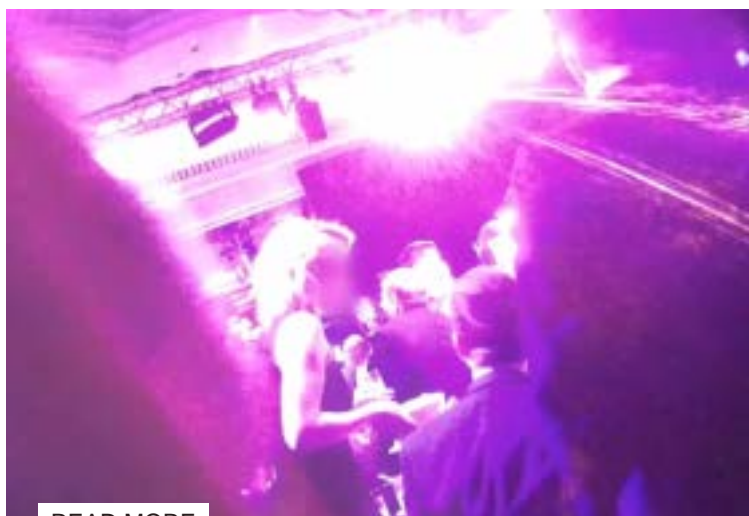


**Virginia Woolf's poetic
advice on life,
womanhood and the
world**

More than 50,000 people have signed a petition set up in the wake of the Presidents Club scandal calling for more protection from sexual harassment in the workplace.

The [Change.org](#) campaign was started on Wednesday after allegations surfaced that hostesses were groped at the [Presidents Club's men-only annual fundraiser](#).

The petition calls for the reinstatement of Section 40 of the Equality Act, which made employers liable for an employee being harassed by a third party - such as a customer - if the employer did not take reasonable steps to prevent it. The section was repealed in 2013.



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**Presidents Club proves how sexist
business habits die hard**

The woman who set up the petition claimed to have been a victim of inappropriate behaviour at work, and said she wanted to stop organisations “turning a blind eye” to the issue.

She wrote on the Change.org website: “The #MeToo and #TimesUp movement shows that those who commit sexual harassment can be held accountable by the people who work for or with them.

“But we need to improve the steps that are put in place to make sure perpetrators are held

accountable not just by their workplace and society, but by law.

“It's time that Amber Rudd - Minister for Women and Equalities, Baroness Williams - Minister for Equalities, and the government started protecting women from sexual harassment from customers and clients, by re-introducing section 40 of the Equality Act and making sure that employees are protected.”

The **Presidents Club**, which said it was “appalled” by the allegations surrounding the **event at London's Dorchester Hotel** last week, has announced it will distribute remaining funds to children's charities before shutting down in the wake of the scandal.

Theresa May is set to target gagging orders that prevent women reporting sexual harassment, according to The Times, following reports that hostesses at the event had to sign confidentiality agreements.

☐ **Business picture of the day**



☐ 14

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Financial Times reporter Madison Marriage, who went undercover as part of the paper's investigation into the event, told BBC Newsnight: “I was groped several times and I know that there are numerous other hostesses who said the same thing had happened to them.

“It's hands up skirts, hands on bums but also hands on hips, hands on stomachs, arms going round your waist unexpectedly.”

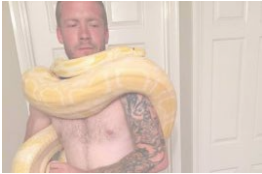
She added: “I can't believe that it still goes on in 2018, I think it's quite shocking.”

PA ●

More about: | [Presidents Club](#) | [Sexual Harrassment](#)

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moonraker29

17539165 days ago

Contracts/ confidentiality orders/ gagging orders , should never be above the criminal law. If the law has been broken then they should never be able to be applied. That goes for anything, not just this type of harassment/offence. The equalities act needs strengthening, not watering down.

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Presidents Club to shut down after shocking report details rampant sexual harassment

Remaining funds will be distributed to children’s charities

[Tom Batchelor](#) | [@_tombatchelor](#) | Wednesday 24 January 2018 17:51 GMT | [15 comments](#)

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Thousands sign petition to bring back repealed sexual harassment law



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The Presidents Club Charitable Trust has said it will disband in the wake of **sexual harassment allegations** following an exclusive dinner it hosted last week.

Trustees of the club said the remaining funds would be distributed to children's charities and no future fundraising events would be arranged.

In a statement, the Presidents Club said: "The trustees have decided that the Presidents Club will not host any further fundraising events. Remaining funds will be distributed in an efficient manner to children's charities and it will then be closed."



[READ MORE](#)

What happened at men-only charity event where hostesses were 'groped'?

The Independent has approached the trust for comment.

Alleged groping and harassment of hostesses were exposed after an undercover reporter for the *Financial Times* attended the men-only gala at the Dorchester Hotel.

Leading figures in business, politics and finance attended the event hosted by comedian and children's author David Walliams, who is not the subject of any allegations.

The report triggered resignations including **businessman David Meller**, a trustee and co-

chairman of the annual dinner, who quit his role at the Mayor's Fund for London and the Department

for Education.

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OK

David Mellor steps down from Department of Education following Presidents Club scandal

It comes as three charities said they were returning donations from the trust in the wake of the allegations.

London's Royal Academy of Music said it will refund a £10,000 donation made in 2017 as a scholarship to a violin student.



Undercover footage recorded by an FT reporter showed hostesses mingling among high-paying male guests (FT/BBC)

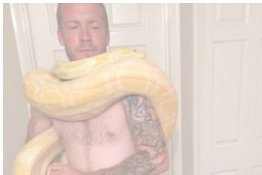
A spokeswoman for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity described reports about the event as shocking and said: "We would never knowingly accept donations raised in this way.

"Due to the wholly unacceptable nature of the event we are returning previous donations and will no longer accept gifts from the Presidents Club Charitable Trust." ●

More about: | [Presidents Club Charitable Trust](#) | [Presidents Club](#)

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Mr Slugg

Its all for charity.

17539166 days ago

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Joseph Joestar

17539166 days ago

This is quite the indicment as to why can't have nice things...

I thought we were the enlightened part of the world..."charitable donations and you can do what you like to the fillies - they are only serving wenches after all"

I have zero confidence that any of the offenders that evening see what they did was wrong or have any intention of changing their ways.

Reply · Share 

+1 likes  



samegame

17539166 days ago

But what will the NEW club be called? Kings club? Chairmen's Club? Or what?

Clearly these guys aren't just going to fade into the sunset. Maybe future events will be confined to funny handshake territory, and not officially exist. But it is very hard indeed to believe these guys are just going to pack their bags and throw the towel in.

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0 likes  



zen419

17539165 days ago

"But what will the NEW club be called?"

Trump's Club. Thereby signalling to members of the President's Club that nothing will change except the name.

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+1 likes  



True Irish History

17539166 days ago



This is utterly disgraceful.
£10,000 for a violin scholarship?
Shocking.

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0 likes  



Igbo Queen

17539166 days ago

There are tweets about boycotting Ocado because of Tim Steiner's attending the President's Club event.

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Astari

17539166 days ago

Yet another example of the elite abusing their positions and thinking they can, and probably will, get away with it.

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+5 likes



CommonSense

17539165 days ago



Yes, it's all about power and control I think.

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+2 likes



Darian

17539166 days ago

Those women had no choice, they didn't know what was happening to them and now they are tainted. This is why you should not mix vulnerable women with men. They should have been safe in their homes guarded for their own good. Now children will die because the hospital has returned all the money.

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alithea

17539166 days ago

Of COURSE they had a choice.Are you crazy?They were told that they should wear black underwear.Is there a woman on earth so utterly STUPID that she doesn't understand that she is then expected to make a spectacle of herself.....for money?Stop this crass hypocrisy.Selling one's assets by putting them on show is NOT being a victim.....it is business.....of a sort.

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Eroteme

17539166 days ago

Not quite true. They were only told the dress 'code', and that they would have to put up with 'some pestering by men' 48hrs before the event. Most have no regular work and keep body and should together from temping at service gigs like this. To pull out at such short notice would mean that they had no time to look for an alternative, and secondly they probably would have been put in a blacklist of 'unreliable' workers.

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antipode

17539166 days ago

Oh dear perhaps you don't understand the law. It's not a case of 'vulnerable' women. It's a case of breaking the law and the

harassment in these terms equates to physical assault. If people break the law

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-1 likes



samegame

17539166 days ago

How will the hospital managers justify their decision with the clearly predictable outcome of children dying from the deprivation of funds? Is this not (only slightly indirect) culpable homicide?

Reply · Share



0 likes



antipode

17539166 days ago

Oh dear perhaps you don't understand the law. It's not a case of 'vulnerable' women. It's a case of breaking the law and the harassment in these terms equates to physical assault. If people break the law

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-1 likes



mcbutler

17539166 days ago

I am sure there was a door marked EXIT..

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Presidents Club: Great Ormond Street to return cash from all-male charity gala where guests 'groped' hostesses

Disgusted charities vow to refuse any donations from Presidents Club Trust

[May Bulman](#) Social Affairs Correspondent | [@maybulman](#) | Wednesday 24 January 2018 16:19 GMT | [Like](#) [Click to follow](#) [comments](#)
The Independent Online

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Great Ormond Street Hospital has said it will go as far as returning previous donations from the Trust, following allegations that senior businessmen at an all-male charity dinner organised by the Trust groped and propositioned women hostesses

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We are as close to apocalypse as ever, thanks to Trump's tweets

Charities have said they will return donations they received from the President Club Charitable Trust after allegations of sexual harassment at a fundraising event, saying they are "disgusted" by the reports.

Senior businessmen at an all-male charity dinner organised by the Trust **groped and propositioned women hostesses** who were told to wear “black sexy shoes” and black underwear, it was claimed.

Undercover *Financial Times* reporters said they witnessed the behaviour at the annual President’s Club event in London’s Dorchester Hotel Thursday night.

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- Women say parties not doing enough to end abuse in Westminster
- Top businessmen seen 'groping' women hostesses at charity dinner

The black-tie event, attended by 360 figures from business, politics and finance, allegedly included auction lots involving a free lapdance at a Soho club and plastic surgery that could be used to “add spice to your wife”.

The FT alleged: “According to the accounts of multiple women working that night, groping and similar abuse was seen across many of the tables in the room.

“Hostesses reported men repeatedly putting hands up their skirts; one said an attendee had exposed his

penis to her during the evening.”

The Presidents Club Charitable Trust was founded 32 years ago to raise money for underprivileged children, and has made donations to numerous children's charities over the last 10 years, including Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

Following the reports, a spokesperson for Great Ormond Street Hospital said: “We are shocked to hear of the behaviour reported at the Presidents Club Charitable Trust fundraising dinner. We would never knowingly accept donations raised in this way.

“We have had no involvement in the organisation of this event, nor did we attend and we were never due to receive any money from it.

“All monies raised in our name go to support vital work. However, due to the wholly unacceptable nature of the event we are returning previous donations and will no longer accept gifts from the Presidents Club Charitable Trust.”

A UCLH Charity spokesperson meanwhile said: “University College Hospital Cancer Fund (a discretionary fund within UCLH Charity) received a one-off donation of £5,000 from the Presidents Club Charitable Trust in 2015.

"We have decided to return this money, as we do not wish to be associated with the kind of behaviour which reportedly took place at their annual fundraising dinner last week, and we will no longer accept gifts from this charity in future.”



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Tom Dixon, head of Philanthropy at disability charity Scope, which has accepted a £500 donation from the trust in 2015, said: “We are appalled and disgusted by the behaviour uncovered at this event.

“As an organisation one of our guiding principles is everyday equality, and we apply that to all areas of our work. The Presidents Club made a single donation to us of £500 in 2015, towards one of our special schools.

Top businessmen seen 'groping' women

hostesses at charity dinner

“We will not apply for or accept any further donations from the Presidents Club.”

A Barnardo’s spokesperson said: “This reported appalling behaviour is unacceptable and totally at odds with the highest ethical standards and values championed by Barnardo’s in treating all people equally and with respect.

“We welcome a full and prompt investigation into what happened and look forward to seeing appropriate action taken.”

Other high-profile charities that have received donations from the trust include the NSPCC and the Sick Children's Trust. *The Independent* has requested a response from these charities as to whether they intend to continue accepting donations.

Responding to the allegations, Unite the Union, Britain and Ireland's biggest trade union, called for the Government to "immediately reinstate" the third party harassment provision that were scrapped from the Equality Act in 2013.

Unite's national officer for the not for profit sector Siobhan Endean said: “The sleazy and disgraceful events that occurred at the Presidents Club charity dinner at the Dorchester Hotel will be all too familiar to people working throughout the hospitality industry.

“Everyone involved in this event including the hotel, the agency that recruited the hostesses, the companies who purchased tables and the men who attended the event need to take a long hard look at themselves and ask is this behaviour acceptable in the 21st Century?



Senior businessmen at an all-male charity dinner organised by the Trust reportedly groped and propositioned women hostesses who were told to wear “black sexy shoes” and black underwear (screen grab/FT)

“The events at the Dorchester once again underline why it is imperative that the third party harassment provisions which were axed by the Conservatives from the Equality Act must be immediately reinstated.

Ms Endean said the axing of the third party provisions had allowed employers to "ignore" harassment on employees by customers, saying it effectively gave customers a free pass to sexually harass hospitality workers.

She also called on the Charity Commission to launch an urgent investigation into the Presidents Club, adding: "Unite has members at some of the charities which have received grants from the Presidents Club and who are horrified by the circumstances through which the money was raised.”

The charity dinner has been condemned by MPs including the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, Jo Swinson who reacted to the allegations by saying the FT’s report showed that “a rotten, sexist culture is still alive and kicking in parts of the business community.”

The President’s Club charitable trust, which said the event raised millions of pounds for disadvantaged children, said it was “appalled by the allegations of bad behaviour” and pledged to investigate.

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When contacted by *The Independent*, a spokesman for Artista provided the same statement as that provided by the Presidents Club.

The Dorchester Hotel told the FT it had a zero-tolerance policy regarding harassment of guests or employees.

In a statement, the hotel said: “We are unaware of any allegations and should we be contacted we will work with the relevant authorities as necessary.” ●

More about: | [Great Ormond Street Hospital](#)

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Philip Henderson

17539166 days ago

Keep the money and dont be idiots..

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uxinox

17539166 days ago

There is a simple way around this. Replace the hostesses with prostitutes. Then the businessmen, bankers and politicians (the great and the good) can raise huge quantities of cash for charity and everyone's a winner!

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+1 likes



TigerTale

17539166 days ago

It's sad that the terminally ill children upon whom that £530k would have been spent will never know of the sacrifice they made in the fight for social justice.

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samegame

17539166 days ago

Indeed, that is why it is a SIN to return the money. If one child suffers health-wise due to the "moral stance" of GOSH then GOSH managers have that guilt upon their consciences, if they have one.

Of course the alleged exploitative actions at the President's Club were not good, but the clear and present needs of hospital children outweigh the limited effect that can be achieved by the gesture of returning the money.

If I received money from someone whose morals I find repugnant I would never return it. I might make a statement expressing my disgust, but then I would do what I would do with ANY money, spend it according to my own sincerely held moral beliefs, possibly spending some upon campaigning against the donor's wrongs.

Someone who has such low self-worth that they think they should give money (back) to a bad cause rather than be guided by their own conscience in the spending of the money, is not fit to manage anything in my (not so humble) opinion.

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0 likes



indyuser12

17539166 days ago

For god's sake, keep the money and give two fingers to the donors. Why cut your nose off to spite your own cause. Say you won't be accepting any more, but keep it if they're stupid enough to donate it.

Reply · Share · 1 reply

+2 likes

Steveun

17539166 days ago



I totally agree. The hospital wasn't aware of what went on so took it in good faith. The children are the most important thing here.

Reply · Share

+3 likes



alowe

17539166 days ago

I call for an investigation into why men are attracted to women and find a way to make it stop.

Reply · Share

0 likes



Peter Ormonde

17539166 days ago

Never been so glad that my side of the family kept the "E".

Reply · Share · 1 reply

-1 likes



alowe

17539166 days ago

Elitist?

Reply · Share

0 likes



Loiseau

17539166 days ago

What are these all male gatherings? It seems a throwback to the male groups of chimpanzees- it would seem that for all our vaunted intellectualism we still have not shaken the biological animal in us. As a male these all male groupings are the environment of dullards and braggarts. Give me female groupings any day - the conversation is of a higher standard.

Reply · Share · 3 replies

+2 likes



BogeyMan

17539166 days ago

"... As a male... Give me female groupings any day..."

Lolz, right?!

Reply · Share

-2 likes



KeepTheRedFlagFlying

17539166 days ago

The point of these gathering is they all get stories on each other that they can blackmail any that step out of line with.

Reply · Share

0 likes

alowe

17539166 days ago



People have always gathered. No need to sexually discriminate by saying only men gather.

Reply · Share

+1 likes



McGoose

17539166 days ago

This is madness a hospital has given back 2 million because a reporter got her hand held. TBH if anyone dies due to lack of funding there death is on her head screw the sick to sell papers disgusting I truly hope she realizes the problems she's caused to sell a paper makes my sick

Reply · Share · 11 replies

-1 likes



yav

17539166 days ago

It wasn't just hands that got held.

Reply · Share · 5 replies

+4 likes



BogeyMan

17539166 days ago

You'd think if "the accounts" were so true, the police would be all over the men (pun intended), yet there's not a noise but for the reporter?

And the reporters have shown what their "anonymous sources" are really worth...

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-4 likes



McGoose

17539166 days ago

So what happened then? This is some much needed NHS money gone just like that.

Share

0 likes

17539166 days ago



TheName'sJohnsonAndI'mEconomicalWithTheTruth

Not according to those who were there. See other Indy article of today, also report in the FT.

Share

+3 likes

17539166 days ago



TheName'sJohnsonAndI'mEconomicalWithTheTruth

Bogeyman: "anonymous sources" = Financial Times reporters (read above article); undercover at the time, but still "there" to witness it all, and although not individually named, hardly anonymous in terms of who they work for, I'd have thought.

Share 

+5 likes  



BogeyMan

17539166 days ago

@TheName'sJohnsonAndI'mEconomicalWithTheTruth

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McGoose

17539166 days ago

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Korrigan

17539166 days ago

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Steve Hill

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"I got pi\$\$ed and groped a 19 year old, and tried to take her to my room

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And that, M'Lud, is the case for the defence. In its entirety.

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Presidents Club: Great Ormond Street to return cash from all-male charity gala where guests 'groped' hostesses

Disgusted charities vow to refuse any donations from Presidents Club Trust

[May Bulman](#) Social Affairs Correspondent | [@maybulman](#) | Wednesday 24 January 2018 16:19 GMT | [Like](#) [Click to follow](#) [comments](#)
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OK

Great Ormond Street Hospital has said it will go as far as returning previous donations from the Trust, following allegations that senior businessmen at an all-male charity dinner organised by the Trust groped and propositioned women hostesses

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Charities have said they will return donations they received from the President Club Charitable Trust after allegations of sexual harassment at a fundraising event, saying they are "disgusted" by the reports.

Senior businessmen at an all-male charity dinner organised by the Trust **groped and propositioned women hostesses** who were told to wear “black sexy shoes” and black underwear, it was claimed.

Undercover *Financial Times* reporters said they witnessed the behaviour at the annual President’s Club event in London’s Dorchester Hotel Thursday night.

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- Top businessmen seen 'groping' women hostesses at charity dinner

The black-tie event, attended by 360 figures from business, politics and finance, allegedly included auction lots involving a free lapdance at a Soho club and plastic surgery that could be used to “add spice to your wife”.

The FT alleged: “According to the accounts of multiple women working that night, groping and similar abuse was seen across many of the tables in the room.

“Hostesses reported men repeatedly putting hands up their skirts; one said an attendee had exposed his

penis to her during the evening.”

The Presidents Club Charitable Trust was founded 32 years ago to raise money for underprivileged children, and has made donations to numerous children's charities over the last 10 years, including Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

Following the reports, a spokesperson for Great Ormond Street Hospital said: “We are shocked to hear of the behaviour reported at the Presidents Club Charitable Trust fundraising dinner. We would never knowingly accept donations raised in this way.

“We have had no involvement in the organisation of this event, nor did we attend and we were never due to receive any money from it.

“All monies raised in our name go to support vital work. However, due to the wholly unacceptable nature of the event we are returning previous donations and will no longer accept gifts from the Presidents Club Charitable Trust.”

A UCLH Charity spokesperson meanwhile said: “University College Hospital Cancer Fund (a discretionary fund within UCLH Charity) received a one-off donation of £5,000 from the Presidents Club Charitable Trust in 2015.

"We have decided to return this money, as we do not wish to be associated with the kind of behaviour which reportedly took place at their annual fundraising dinner last week, and we will no longer accept gifts from this charity in future.”



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Tom Dixon, head of Philanthropy at disability charity Scope, which has accepted a £500 donation from the trust in 2015, said: “We are appalled and disgusted by the behaviour uncovered at this event.

“As an organisation one of our guiding principles is everyday equality, and we apply that to all areas of our work. The Presidents Club made a single donation to us of £500 in 2015, towards one of our special schools.

Top businessmen seen 'groping' women

hostesses at charity dinner

“We will not apply for or accept any further donations from the Presidents Club.”

A Barnardo’s spokesperson said: “This reported appalling behaviour is unacceptable and totally at odds with the highest ethical standards and values championed by Barnardo’s in treating all people equally and with respect.

“We welcome a full and prompt investigation into what happened and look forward to seeing appropriate action taken.”

Other high-profile charities that have received donations from the trust include the NSPCC and the Sick Children's Trust. *The Independent* has requested a response from these charities as to whether they intend to continue accepting donations.

Responding to the allegations, Unite the Union, Britain and Ireland's biggest trade union, called for the Government to "immediately reinstate" the third party harassment provision that were scrapped from the Equality Act in 2013.

Unite's national officer for the not for profit sector Siobhan Endean said: “The sleazy and disgraceful events that occurred at the Presidents Club charity dinner at the Dorchester Hotel will be all too familiar to people working throughout the hospitality industry.

“Everyone involved in this event including the hotel, the agency that recruited the hostesses, the companies who purchased tables and the men who attended the event need to take a long hard look at themselves and ask is this behaviour acceptable in the 21st Century?



Senior businessmen at an all-male charity dinner organised by the Trust reportedly groped and propositioned women hostesses who were told to wear “black sexy shoes” and black underwear (screen grab/FT)

“The events at the Dorchester once again underline why it is imperative that the third party harassment provisions which were axed by the Conservatives from the Equality Act must be immediately reinstated.

Ms Endean said the axing of the third party provisions had allowed employers to “ignore” harassment on employees by customers, saying it effectively gave customers a free pass to sexually harass hospitality workers.

She also called on the Charity Commission to launch an urgent investigation into the Presidents Club, adding: “Unite has members at some of the charities which have received grants from the Presidents Club and who are horrified by the circumstances through which the money was raised.”

The charity dinner has been condemned by MPs including the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, Jo Swinson who reacted to the allegations by saying the FT’s report showed that “a rotten, sexist culture is still alive and kicking in parts of the business community.”

The President’s Club charitable trust, which said the event raised millions of pounds for disadvantaged children, said it was “appalled by the allegations of bad behaviour” and pledged to investigate.

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When contacted by *The Independent*, a spokesman for Artista provided the same statement as that provided by the Presidents Club.

The Dorchester Hotel told the FT it had a zero-tolerance policy regarding harassment of guests or employees.

In a statement, the hotel said: “We are unaware of any allegations and should we be contacted we will work with the relevant authorities as necessary.” ●

More about: | [Great Ormond Street Hospital](#)

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Philip Henderson

17539166 days ago

Keep the money and dont be idiots..

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uxinox

17539166 days ago



There is a simple way around this. Replace the hostesses with prostitutes. Then the businessmen, bankers and politicians (the great and the good) can raise huge quantities of cash for charity and everyone's a winner!

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TigerTale

17539166 days ago

It's sad that the terminally ill children upon whom that £530k would have been spent will never know of the sacrifice they made in the fight for social justice.

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0 likes



samegame

17539166 days ago

Indeed, that is why it is a SIN to return the money. If one child suffers health-wise due to the "moral stance" of GOSH then GOSH managers have that guilt upon their consciences, if they have one.

Of course the alleged exploitative actions at the President's Club were not good, but the clear and present needs of hospital children outweigh the limited effect that can be achieved by the gesture of returning the money.

If I received money from someone whose morals I find repugnant I would never return it. I might make a statement expressing my disgust, but then I would do what I would do with ANY money, spend it according to my own sincerely held moral beliefs, possibly spending some upon campaigning against the donor's wrongs.

Someone who has such low self-worth that they think they should give money (back) to a bad cause rather than be guided by their own conscience in the spending of the money, is not fit to manage anything in my (not so humble) opinion.

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indyuser12

17539166 days ago

For god's sake, keep the money and give two fingers to the donors. Why cut your nose off to spite your own cause. Say you won't be accepting any more, but keep it if they're stupid enough to donate it.

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+2 likes

Steveun

17539166 days ago



I totally agree. The hospital wasn't aware of what went on so took it in good faith. The children are the most important thing here.

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+3 likes



alowe

17539166 days ago

I call for an investigation into why men are attracted to women and find a way to make it stop.

Reply · Share

0 likes



Peter Ormonde

17539166 days ago

Never been so glad that my side of the family kept the "E".

Reply · Share · 1 reply

-1 likes



alowe

17539166 days ago

Elitist?

Reply · Share

0 likes



Loiseau

17539166 days ago

What are these all male gatherings? It seems a throwback to the male groups of chimpanzees- it would seem that for all our vaunted intellectualism we still have not shaken the biological animal in us. As a male these all male groupings are the environment of dullards and braggarts. Give me female groupings any day - the conversation is of a higher standard.

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BogeyMan

17539166 days ago

"... As a male... Give me female groupings any day..."

Lolz, right?!

Reply · Share

-2 likes



KeepTheRedFlagFlying

17539166 days ago

The point of these gathering is they all get stories on each other that they can blackmail any that step out of line with.

Reply · Share

0 likes

alowe

17539166 days ago



People have always gathered. No need to sexually discriminate by saying only men gather.

Reply · Share

+1 likes



McGoose

17539166 days ago

This is madness a hospital has given back 2 million because a reporter got her hand held. TBH if anyone dies due to lack of funding there death is on her head screw the sick to sell papers disgusting I truly hope she realizes the problems she's caused to sell a paper makes my sick

Reply · Share · 11 replies

-1 likes



yav

17539166 days ago

It wasn't just hands that got held.

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+4 likes



BogeyMan

17539166 days ago

You'd think if "the accounts" were so true, the police would be all over the men (pun intended), yet there's not a noise but for the reporter?

And the reporters have shown what their "anonymous sources" are really worth...

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-4 likes



McGoose

17539166 days ago

So what happened then? This is some much needed NHS money gone just like that.

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0 likes

17539166 days ago



TheName'sJohnsonAndI'mEconomicalWithTheTruth

Not according to those who were there. See other Indy article of today, also report in the FT.

Share

+3 likes

17539166 days ago



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Bogeyman: "anonymous sources" = Financial Times reporters (read above article); undercover at the time, but still "there" to witness it all, and although not individually named, hardly anonymous in terms of who they work for, I'd have thought.

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