

# The S Word

## A feminist conversation about Sex and Relationship Education

Sunday 17 February, Whitmore Community Centre, 2-4 Phillip Street, London, N1 5NU

<b>11am</b>	<b>Registration and mingle activity</b>		
<b>11.15</b>	<b>The contemporary political context</b> facilitated by <b>Alice and Laura</b> Sex education is political – the target of government cuts and attacks on the working class. Feminist SRE must confront today's political agenda of conservatism, neo-liberalism and austerity. Find out more about recent attempts to introduce abstinence education for girls; attacks on abortion; and how increased privatisation in health and education has opened the door for religious organisations to run sex education and 'pregnancy crisis' services.		
<b>11.45</b>	<b>Body image and sexuality</b> facilitated by <b>Caroline</b> Our relationship with our body affects how we feel about sexuality, sexual intimacy and relationships. We live in a world where celebrities' bodies are under constant scrutiny, more people have eating disorders, people fear being fat, and the obesity epidemic rhetoric abounds. This workshop considers the lived impact of these contradictory messages and their impact on our sex lives and relationships. Drawing on feminist and Fat Activist strategies for body acceptance; how we can use these to imagine a more feminist approach to our relationships.	<b>Feminist SRE in more formal settings</b> facilitated by <b>Laura R and Anna W</b> What are the opportunities for and challenges to a feminist approach to Sex and Relationships Education in schools and other organisations? Explore some feminist SRE resources for use with young people and consider how the barriers to SRE as a source of empowerment can be overcome. We aim to discuss practical strategies for the here and now as well as the political response that is needed to transform the institutions we are involved with into spaces for positive relationships and liberatory learning.	<b>Queering the family</b> facilitated by <b>Claire and Nic</b> What does it mean to look at the way we organise sex and families in a different way? What would it take to truly engage a whole community in raising its kids? What would living collectively, non-monogamously as activists, lovers and queers look like? Can we do this in a way that doesn't seek to just live outside of capitalism, in a way that makes our praxis feel real; in a way that gives kids new ideas about love and sharing and a sustainable supportive future? Help us smash the nuclear family and atomised lives under capital, and have an excellent time in the process.
<b>12.45pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b> Cheap food available to buy at Whitmore CC, or cafes on Kingsland Rd or Hoxton St		
<b>1.30</b>	<b>Communication, consent and boundaries</b> facilitated by <b>Violet</b> Learning about consent is about the best safer sex message we can share, along with condom use, to help people have healthier, happier sex lives, so let's think about how culture and society influence why we consent to the things we do, how we can give and listen for explicit consent and how to go about identifying your personal boundaries.	<b>Dealing with difficult questions</b> facilitated by <b>Ester</b> How can we respond to 'difficult' questions about sex that make us feel uncomfortable, compromised, stupid or angry? In this workshop we will look at questions about sex and sexual pleasure that are 'difficult' to respond to, using examples from sex educators, young people and our own experiences. We will share practical strategies for responding to these questions and discuss the limits of what we feel comfortable talking about in different settings (i.e. at work, with a partner, with children or with friends). We will also discuss how our fears about being asking difficult questions impacts on the kinds of conversations and sex education we are able to take part in.	

More...



<p><b>2.30</b></p>	<p><b>Our sexual values facilitated by Amelia</b></p> <p>What are our sexual values? Where do they come from? And are they helpful in creating fulfilling sexual relationships or do they hold us back from the sex and relationships we really want through shame and fear? Discuss how to resist imposed sexual values that limit us and create your own sexual manifesto.</p>	<p><b>Sex at different ages facilitated by Cathy and Anna D</b></p> <p>Participatory discussion topics will include: How do negative ideas and social pressures affect our ability to explore and enjoy our sexuality at particular ages and any age? Is "Sex and Relationships", a question of "life-long" learning. How can we bridge the generation gap?!</p>
<p><b>3.30</b></p>	<p><b>Closing plenary: Where now? Moving forward</b> facilitated by Kiran and Harri</p>	
<p><b>4pm onwards</b></p>	<p><b>Drinks</b></p> <p><b>In The Fox, 372 Kingsland Road, near Haggerston Overground station (a few minutes walk from Whitmore CC)</b></p>	

**The Fox**

**Community Centre  
Phillip Street**

