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FOLHA DE TEXTO

From sexism to ageism, older women say Us Too

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The **#MeToo movement**, exposing harassment and abuse through personal stories, was no surprise to me. I couldn't be less surprised at the scale and depth of subjugation women still experience. But we must also recognise that women's disadvantage is a continuum where sexism meets ageism.

Women move through time in society experiencing unwanted, threatening attention because they're deemed sexually attractive, and then towards oblivion because they aren't. Our presence, like our bones, becomes more porous every year over 40. It's beyond time for sexual harassment to end, but it's also time to address the fact that women's disadvantage endures through all our life stages.

Even if nothing violent or especially humiliating has ever happened to us, we get the feeling through social osmosis that it might. And this feeling really doesn't leave us, even as we establish ourselves with credentials or experience.

Now, in my 50s, my sexuality is irrelevant to society, but this doesn't mean I'm safe, because the risk of poverty for my age group is increasing. Boomer divorces have doubled between 1990 and 2010. This 'grey divorce' trend means more women will work longer or be looking for work in a youth-focused economy with a shorter, disjointed CV, belatedly trying to boost their lower superannuation balance. Some will even find themselves homeless and couch surfing.

Discrimination against women doesn't stop when wrinkles start; it just changes. The gender gap in opportunities and respect doesn't narrow as women get older. There's no safety in ageing, although the threats may appear less explicit and receive less publicity. Moving from sexual object towards sexual oblivion is compounded by financial concerns, particularly if you're newly single. It's more challenging to age gracefully when you're poor.

So we need to widen the lens and look at women's experience over their lifetime to really see a fuller picture of women's cultural and structural disadvantage that isn't just a younger woman's tale. It's time older women say 'Us Too'.

Fonte: adaptado de <https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/from-sexism-to-ageism--older-women-say-us-too>