

# Association of Teachers and Lecturers Press Release



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**Wednesday 19 January 2005**

**Embargoed until 00.01hrs Friday 21 January 2005**

FOR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENTS/ NEWS

## **ATL publishes ground-breaking research on gender in education**

Ground-breaking research, which aims to challenge the damaging consequences of well over a decade of neglect of equalities issues, has been published by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL).

*Gender in education 3-19: A fresh approach*, looks at the gender stereotyping that still goes on in education, both within the curriculum and through teaching practices. It includes discussions on how subject choice is still determined by gender, and how this has a strong effect on the gender balance of the working population.

The research, edited by Hilary Claire of London Metropolitan University, and featuring contributions from nine renowned and respected authors, highlights the high number of black girls being excluded from school and looks at the way language is used in education. There is a strong call for greater integration for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered pupils in education, in relation to bullying and inclusion in school life and in wider education. The research demonstrates that although progress has been made in gender equality in the classroom, the overriding conclusion is that there is still a long way to go.

Commenting on the research, ATL general secretary, Dr Mary Bousted, said:

"This book could not have come at a better time. The past two decades have witnessed the imposition of a curriculum straitjacket, centrally determined directives about teaching and learning, the persistence of a patriarchal education power structure, and a hostile political climate in which equality issues have been ignored and differences denied.

"The time is therefore right for schools to look once again at a whole range of equality issues, including gender equality. If every child really is to matter, and if the Government's 'personalisation' agenda is to mean anything to children and young people in schools, what is now important is that every individual is equally advantaged in sharing the benefits of learning.

"The education system has enormous potential to challenge gender inequalities in a way that may have a lasting impact on all children and young people and the communities of which they are a part. I believe that individual teachers and schools have vital roles to play. If the teaching profession is genuinely to become re-engaged in the debate about gender inequalities, it must find a voice and speak loudly and clearly."

ATL will launch this publication at a reception on Thursday 27 January 2005 at the Institute of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, Westminster, London, between 6-8pm.