



the free online publication  
for *disgraceful* women





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# We are *disgraceful*.

THE FREE ONLINE PUBLICATION

Disgraceful sets out to claim space in this world where women are expected to do the opposite; in a world where women are pushed to be thinner, talk less and smile more. Disgraceful is for every woman who sets out to build her own empire; the only expectations in sight, are the ones she sets for herself.

For our readers, our writers and the team who have worked extensively to bring this publication to life, Disgraceful is a place to be brave, expressive, inspired; a place to figure out exactly who you are without fear of societal pressures or constraints telling you to be otherwise.

We are powerful; we are loud; we are strong; we are entrepreneurs, business owners, leaders, mothers. We are confident; we are disgraceful. **And you can't repress a disgraceful woman.**



"Disgraceful has given me a space to *figure out who I am* without the fear of stepping out of place."

ALEX, CONTRIBUTOR





## the *free* publication

Disgraceful is a free and non-profit online publication that sets out to educate, inspire and empower young women. We publish bi-monthly issues that dive into topics concerning our readers whilst tackling new taboos and timely concerns all at once. From pieces exploring the world of female drag to the harsh realities of living with endometriosis, our publications feature fierce women fighting for change.





Sharon Gaffka for Issue Five  
of Disgraceful Magazine





## ***our mission***

Disgraceful Magazine supports its readers to live a life full of whatever it is that makes them happy. We do this by releasing free bi-monthly magazines containing a wealth of emboldening insight and educational material. To date, we have launched many wonderful issues in collaboration with brands, charities and creators who have incredible stories to share.

We also deliver workshops, virtually and in-person, to help student journalists find their feet within the industry and publish helpful resources in response to events and issues affecting women. Our most notable resources include our Unspoken publication, our anthology of lived experience, which was created in response to the tragic and heartbreaking death of Sarah Everard and the 'Reclaim the Streets' movement that followed.



In 2023, we are excited to launch our Disgraceful podcast, titled Disgraceful Diaries which we hope will help more students and young women or non-binary people find their voices, build their confidence and live a life free of societal pressures and gender bias. Alongside this, we look forward to delivering more workshops in schools, groups and workplaces within our local community and nationwide.



Victoria Rush for Issue Six of  
Disgraceful Magazine





# our *values*

## representation

Our articles are produced and submitted by our readers, offering students and graduates barrier-free opportunities to become published writers and we are proud to print these diverse stories told by a great variety of interesting and thoughtful voices with every issue launched.

## sustainability

We publish and distribute the majority of our content digitally to reduce our carbon footprint and to keep costs low. However, when we do occasionally provide printed resources, we only work with a carbon-negative print house and use recycled materials, including paper and packaging.

## accessibility

Our content, resources and workshops are distributed to our community free of charge. Even the smallest of price-points may be inaccessible for our readership so we wanted to ensure that those who need our advice and support are able to access it without trouble.

## authenticity

We are bold, opinionated and resilient. Our voices exist to be heard and we share our experiences with authenticity. It's this authenticity that has built the foundations which Disgraceful Magazine is built upon and inspires our content, workshops and the resources we provide to our community.



"Disgraceful is for every woman who has ever felt that she takes up too much space in a room."

AMY, CONTRIBUTOR





Caroline Dubois for Issue Seven  
of Disgraceful Magazine







## *Our founder*

MELISSA MAE HAWKINS

When I tell people Disgraceful was formed from an idea I had in a lockdown queue for Tesco, I wasn't kidding – yet the force behind the magazine manifested itself years prior.

At 18, I left college and started working at my local supermarket as a Duty Manager. The pay was good, I enjoyed the job and the long shifts were made up for by the people I worked with. However, despite my job role, it was clear that the majority of customers (often men) who came into the shop had a very hard time accepting I could be in charge when I was a woman.







GRACEFUL EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEWED BY  
MELISSA HAWKINS

# SHARON GAFFKA

STYLE

L... Island's Sharon Gaffka chats with *Disgraceful* magazine... on some of the key accomplishments and changes that she has experienced over her life. From the... as the head of a young... at the age of sixteen and... in a career within... to becoming... a woman, describing how... to be outspoken and standing... up for what she believes in... By continuing to support the... safety and lives of women... speaking of her experiences... from topical issues such as... speaking and even, particularly... in personal relation to herself... and providing advice for... others - she illustrates the... importance of finding the... confidence to assert her voice... personal experiences... confidence... see even... important... age...

PHOTOGRAPH BY CARYN CLAYTON AT RICH SUNDROM  
STYLING BY BARBARELLE WALKER





From derogative nicknames to old men who thought they had a right to 'do as they please' when around me, my experience in management was far from similar to those of my male colleagues. I left this job after a few years, but the small string of retail jobs I had following this role proved to be no different.

The expectation set out by my male counterparts at work was to shut up and put up, an attitude I soon came to realise is echoed throughout every corner of our society; a society made in the best interests of men. I knew this needed to change and in the summer of 2020, I founded Disgraceful Magazine.





"Disgraceful Magazine is an amazing space for us to celebrate and support women who are doing fantastic things."

BETH, CONTRIBUTOR







EVEN THOUGH IT IS REALLY HARD NOW, AND IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE THE WORST THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO YOU, AS LONG AS YOU'RE DETERMINED AND YOU PERSEVERE, THE GROWTH THAT YOU HAVE AFTER WILL BE INCREDIBLE.







## *Our writers*

We proudly offer young creatives, students and graduates a barrier-free pathway to becoming published writers; this magazine is your platform to tell your story in your very own way. It is your narrative. We celebrate women for being their authentic selves; for being powerful, loud, outspoken, entrepreneurs, leaders and mothers. For being Disgraceful.





Ayesha Perry-Iqbal for Issue  
Eight of Disgraceful Magazine











## *Our audience*

Our across-platform online audience continues to grow as we build more partnerships with educational institutions, brands and other organisations.

 3000 followers

 300 followers

 5500 followers

 2000 followers

Our free publications reach a global audience with an average of 20,000 downloads in the UK, US, UAE, Europe, Asia and Australia.







for more information or to download the latest  
issue of Disgraceful, visit [disgraceful.co.uk](http://disgraceful.co.uk)