



Rapists are not "sex pests"

The [dictionary definition](#) of pest is "an annoying or troublesome person" and yet [The Metro](#) has used the term sex pest to refer to a 68 year old man who has been arrested in France for what appears to be multiple counts of rape (as ever, The Metro is low on details and big on ridiculous language).

There is no situation in which the term "sex pest" is ever acceptable term to use. Rape is not 'annoying' behaviour. It is a criminal act. 'Annoying' someone into a sexual act is an invalidation of their consent. It is a form of coercion, which renders it a criminal act.

In using the term 'sex pest', The Metro has made it clear that they do not believe that the reported rapes occurred. Considering the case involves the suspect, who is not named and who used false information about his age and appearance, using dating sites to find women to 'have sex' with them - and [references](#) to [50 Shades of Grey](#) - the insinuation that it cannot be rape is particularly troubling. There are similarities with the charges brought against Julian Assange whose rape accusations involve the women's consent being negated because his lies about wearing a condom. Rape culture insists that women's consent cannot be ungiven or that consenting to sex with one person within a specific set of circumstances means that the consent can never be undone if those circumstances changed.

The women who reported this man believed they were having sex with a completely different man. Their consent was given for one specific man - the fact that the man was much older than claimed does invalidate their consent. This does not make the man a 'sex pest', it makes a man a rapist.