



UNOFFICIAL Left Unity Members, ... Members Events Photos

Brigitte Lechner April 16 at 8:36am I am very cross with him for the following reason: "Too many men, like Owen Jones, seem to think that men have a right to do whatever they want sexually, at any time, in any situation. His attitude throughout his piece is tiresomely familiar; a pathetically schoolboyish sneer at deluded prudes who clutch their pearls at the thought of a bit of wanking. Let's cut the bullshit: anybody who thinks it is acceptable to masturbate at work is not fit to be in decent society and needs therapeutic help."



We Need To Talk About Owen I used to really like the journalist Owen Jones, used to look forward to see him on TV, laying yet another devastating socialist smackdown on various hapless/repellent right-wingers or bigots. When...

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Maal Dauwa "deluded prudes who clutch their pearls at the thought of a bit of wanking". A pretty fair categorisation. April 16 at 9:09am Like 1

Lee Rock What a terrible article. April 16 at 9:15am Like 10

David Brand Masturbation is resistance. April 16 at 9:25am Like 1

Ellenor Hutson I haven't read the Owen Jones article or know much about Simon Danczuk but I'd agree- its not on to be watching porn and wanking at work. April 16 at 9:43am Like 2

Tim Halpin I was advised to masturbate at work by my union branch secretary. He said I would get a pension on mental health grounds. I never took up his suggestion. April 16 at 10:03am Like 1

Brigitte Lechner Thank you for proving the almothework case. April 16 at 10:04am Like

Ellenor Hutson Tim!!! There's a certain public building in Hamilton where the receptionist has been known to read 50 Shades at the front desk. I always thought it was pretty unprofessional but never said anything. April 16 at 10:08am Edited Like 2

Ruth Greenberg Wanking at work is not on. Neither is watching porn. Both should lead to dismissal. April 16 at 10:08am Like 4

Ellenor Hutson My union once had to represent someone who peed in the waste paper basket. I'd honestly put wanking in the same category as that. Just why would you? April 16 at 10:10am Like 1

Maal Dauwa I don't get it. You get randy at work. You go to the loo. You wank. Back at your desk in 5 minutes. What's the problem? I have been told by women that women do it too. This looks like the usual suspects to me. April 16 at 10:30am Like 3

Ruth Greenberg Maal I am aghast that you don't see any issue with wanking at work. April 16 at 10:31am Like

Maal Dauwa If you do it in private (ie in the loo) who knows and why should they care? This looks even more like the usual suspects, to me. April 16 at 10:38am Like 3

Lee Rock If the person next to me at work goes to the loo, I really don't care if they have a shit or a wank. April 16 at 12:20pm Like 15

Ruth Greenberg Having a poo is a basic biological need. Having a wank is not. They are not comparable. April 16 at 12:22pm Like

Lee Rock And why would you care about which they are doing Ruth? Do you actually need to know? April 16 at 12:23pm Like 3

Colin Chalmers When I joined Left Unity, I never thought it would lead to discussing wanking in toilets. I know the personal is the political and all that, but I think this might be an issue we don't need to take a collective position on. April 16 at 1:01pm Like 35

Lee Rock I agree Colin Chalmers. Unfortunately Ruth and others would be seeking the dismissal from work of anyone who has a quick wank in the toilet at work. April 16 at 1:03pm Like

Ellenor Hutson http://www.theguardian.com/.../simon-danczuk-mp-watched... April 16 at 2:08pm Like

Ruth Greenberg Yes we would. Are you looking at women in the workplace and having a wank about them? April 16 at 2:11pm Like

Ellenor Hutson ok- just read the actual article. TBC Simon Danczuk has not been caught wanking or watching porn at work. That dubious honour goes to a couple of judges who accessed porn on the work network and were fired. Its kind of a non story- most workplaces have rules about not accessing certain material on company computers. Its why we have the acronym nstlw (not safe for work). April 16 at 2:11pm Like 2

Ruth Greenberg We can use work computers for personal use when not working e.g. lunchtime. But accessing porn will get us fired. April 16 at 2:12pm Like

Georgina Moles Lets be thankful those who have the need to do it in the toilet. April 16 at 2:13pm Like

Ruth Greenberg Nobody has a need to wank at work. NOBODY April 16 at 2:14pm Like

Paul Dennett 1. Any circumstance which results in Simon Danczuk being sacked is okay by me. 2. I categorically refuse to take a collective position on toilets with anybody. 3. Sexual activity involving masturbation in a public toilet is an offence. I'm not sure whether that includes all workplace toilets but it does include Tesco, apparently (Google if you must). 4. The world would be a slightly better place if people of all genders would refrain from making categorical statements about stuff they know nothing about. April 16 at 2:24pm Like 2

Beverly Keenan I cannot understand the need to police people's bodies like this, as long as it is private what is the issue? April 16 at 2:25pm Like 17

Lee Rock Ruth Greenberg: Seriously, if someone is in a toilet cubicle at work and wants to masturbate what exactly is your problem? No-one knows and nobody is put in an unsafe position. April 16 at 2:30pm Like 4

Colin Chalmers Well you say that Ruth, but a Brazilian court has ruled otherwise in a landmark human rights case... Right, enough! I'm off to watch Nicola demolish Nigel http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../jana-catarian-bezerra... April 16 at 2:30pm Like

Brazilian Woman Legally Entitled To Masturbate At Work In a decision that can only be described as touchy, a... HUFFINGTONPOST.COM April 16 at 4:50pm Edited Like 6

Tim Mist I get very bored at work April 16 at 3:42pm Like 6

Lee Rock 'bored'? April 16 at 3:43pm Like 1

Tom Mycock I have no problem with people masturbating at work as long as it's in the privacy of a toilet cubicle. However, people who piss on the seat and don't wipe it up need to be shot. April 16 at 3:45pm Like 13

Tim Mist I think we need a motion put into Conference about this. I can't wait for the Steve Freeman amendment linking the issue to the Putney Debates April 16 at 3:48pm Like 8

Lee Rock Masturbation, toilets, Mycock, motions ... this thread has gone too far. April 16 at 4:08pm Like

Tim Mist When we said we were going to do politics differently did anyone think it would head in this direction? April 16 at 4:09pm Like 8

Maal Dauwa Seriously - one needs to take a position whether sex is good unless coercive or exploitative - or whether it is bad and needs to be justified. Most organised adoptions of the latter (particularly about the sexuality of women) are driven by phallicocratic religious beliefs. April 16 at 4:12pm Like 1

Jo FacingrealityBlogs what about professional sperm donors? April 16 at 4:16pm Like 2

Jo FacingrealityBlogs http://www.carolineucas.com/.../caroline-consolidating... April 16 at 4:19pm Like

Caroline consolidating lead in Pavilion | Caroline Lucas Press release CAROLINEUCAS.COM April 16 at 4:19pm Like

Edward Clem Can we guarantee all women don't look at porn? Is looking at Gay porn as bad as gawking at straight porn (men looking at men, versus men looking at women). Are there absolutely no lesbians who have looked at porn? Is there any idea of the variegated nature of male sexuality and the different conditions/contexts within which it exists. I don't like porn, by the way, but I am not sure that Brigitte Lechner fairly reflects reality - treating it as a solid mass in order to not have to deal with it. April 16 at 4:25pm Like 1

Phil Pope whoever wrote the original article seems to have a very narrow understanding of female sexuality which is actually quite repressive against some women - not to mention the misandrist view of men. April 16 at 5:46pm Like

Tae Ateh make love not work April 16 at 6:16pm Like 6

Leeroy-Halloween Caxon What the actual fuck is that article? It reads like the ravings of a mad person! April 16 at 8:11pm Like 2

Lee Rock It's 'radical feminism' linking up with the 'moral majority'. Yesterday at 2:03am Like 2

Heather Downs "Lewis's law Lewis's law is an eponymous law taken from her observation that "the comments on any article about feminism justify feminism". Yesterday at 7:13am Like 1

Tae Ateh Its a good article, owen should be taken to task for defending those wankers Yesterday at 7:19am Like 1

Heather Downs I know I speak for many socialist women when I say this is exactly the kind of discussion that led me to decline the invitation to be a tucLU candidate. If you want to alienate 50% of potential supporters, this is the way to go. solidarity, comrades Yesterday at 7:28am Like 4

Tony Collins I don't think for a second that "50% of potential supporters" would say "I was going to be going to vote for you, but when a toilet opened up about whether men should be allowed to wank in the toilet at work in private, some people felt the whole issue was absurd and others felt it was no one else's business, so now I can't support you". I think far more socialist women and men will be alienated by the idea that people deserve to be sacked for doing this. It is speaks to the worst instincts of the left. It doesn't speak to ideas of emancipation and freedom, it smacks of control and intensely bad priorities. Yesterday at 7:32am Like 13

Tae Ateh could u expand on what is damaging about the discussion to educate comrades here please Yesterday at 7:32am Like

Tae Ateh I think men should learn to keep quiet sometimes Yesterday at 7:33am Like 1

Heather Downs good luck with that, Tae Yesterday at 7:34am Like 2

Tae Ateh but I am very interested in Comrade Heathers views on this discussion and in Comrade Brigitte's article. I think the debate should be centred more on sex work and the situation for the workers in the industry rather than the rights of consumers in privileged positions such as MPs and judges. Yesterday at 7:35am Like 2

Tae Ateh I do think this is a feminist issue and as such yes womens voices are more important than mens Yesterday at 7:35am Like 2

Lee Rock The article is appallingly bad. It is full of bold unsubstantiated statements and in some places simply nonsense. My favourite line from it is this: 'He says that all men watch porn. This is clearly not true - for a start, I'd be childless, single and celibate if it were.' The author actually believes that if men watch porn then they do not also have sexual intercourse! 3y Like 5

Ellenor Hutson Having had my mind boggled by this thread I have gone away and done a bit of a straw poll of my male friends and it appears that quite a lot of them wank at work. Not at their desks obviously- in toilet cubicles. I am now ready to concede that IF you are reasonably quick about it and IF you do it discreetly in a toilet cubicle and IF you are certain that noone else will be inconvenienced or embarrassed by it THEN yes, I suppose its OK to wank at work. If you must. Thank you Left Unity- you are forever aiding my political development. 3y Like

Heather Downs with her, Lee. with her. 3y Like

Heather Downs were the judges in toilet cubicles with their laptops (as it were)? 3y Like 2

Lee Rock How would she know Heather, how would she know? 3y Like 1

Ellenor Hutson Also to point out though: Owen Jones wasn't talking about a discreet wank in the toilets- he was defending accessing porn on work computers and phones. Which is still wrong. I do think its interesting with LU that whenever we have to talk about sexual exploitation or misconduct- the conversation is moved very quickly to the mildest possible form of the behaviour and that mild form will be defended. So accessing porn at work is conflated with discreet wanking in a cubicle. Peadophilia becomes about 17 year old boys and their 15 year old girlfriends and so on. We might want to consider why our conversations on these topics are so consistently minimising 3y Like

Ellenor Hutson Heather Downs: Cross post! I reckon they probably weren't. 3y Like 1

Ruth Greenberg So lots of men are wanking at work when they should be working? 3y Like

Lee Rock Another favourite line here Heather: People who access porn at work are 'unstable perverts who are so incapable of caring about basic social decency and the rights of others that they should be removed from society to protect the rest of us (women).' Do you agree Heather that they should be locked up away from society? 3y Like 2

Ruth Greenberg And Heather Downs I personally am totally unsurprised so few women wanted to be LU candidates. And a lot of the lefty men fail to see the issues at all. 3y Like 2

Ellenor Hutson Yes it would appear so. Although to be fair- it probably takes about the same amount of time to smoke a fag. 3y Like 1

Ruth Greenberg Lee I can tell you it is common in Britain for it to be a sackable offence to access porn at work. 3y Like

Ruth Greenberg And lots of workplaces that you clock in and out, make smokers take time out for smoking. 3y Like 2

Lee Rock Ruth, are you their boss or something 'they should be working' ffs. If someone is in a toilet cubicle at work and wants to masturbate what exactly is your problem? 3y Like 1

Phil Pope so long as they are doing their job why does it matter to anyone else if someone views porn on a work phone or computer? 3y Like

Ruth Greenberg It is totally inappropriate behaviour 3y Like

Lee Rock Ruth, indeed it is a sackable offence. A private wank in a toilet cubicle is just that though ... private. And none of your business. 3y Like 1

Ruth Greenberg Yes a wank should be private. Do it at home 3y Like

Heather Downs if it was private, how was it discovered? 3y Like 2

Ruth Greenberg And you still havent answered my question if you think about women you work with when you wank at work 3y Like

Lee Rock Heather Downs, the discussion has moved on to be a bit wider. 3y Like

Lee Rock Ruth, how the fuck would you prove what someone was fantasising over. Your issue is that people should only wank at home - not in a toilet cubicle at work. Even in their break? 3y Like 1

Heather Downs also, the 'private', 'personal' as outside political analysis is a bourgeois concept which conceals and protects male privilege and women's oppression of Engels 3y Like 2

Lee Rock Heather Downs, is it okay for people to masturbate? 3y Like

Lee Rock Heather Downs/Ruth Greenberg: do either of you agree with this part of the article: People who access porn at work are 'unstable perverts who are so incapable of caring about basic social decency and the rights of others that they should be removed from society to protect the rest of us (women).' 3y Like

Heather Downs smh - do try harder, Lee 3y Like 2

Heather Downs X post 3y Like

Lee Rock Do try and answer Heather Downs. 3y Like

Ruth Greenberg Lee, you don't answer my questions, so a bit rich that you demand Heather answers yours. 3y Like 1

Thelma MacKinnon I cant believe that men boast about wanking at work as if it is something that should go unexamined. Which women are you wanking over? do you know them? What are you imagining doing with them. If its all so innocent and if no issue. Tell us all. I acty know men who have been sacked for this. Bottom line is. The workplace is a public space. I think men whi need you urgentlywank in that way are constantly fantasising about women in their presence. 3y Like 3

Heather Downs refer Lee to previous comment : the 'private', 'personal' as outside political analysis is a bourgeois concept which conceals and protects male privilege and women's oppression of Engels 3y Like 2

Lee Rock Which men on this thread Thelma MacKinnon are boasting 'about wanking at work'? 3y Like

Heather Downs must go - later? 3y Like

Thelma MacKinnon Im Not getting into a semantic argument about what boasting means. Who is he wanking over is the main question. 3y Like 2

Phil Pope no one is boasting about it just saying that it is wrong to sack someone and destroy their career over something that doesn't necessarily cause anyone harm, and women masturbate at work too but they would probably be even less likely to say so because of shaming of highly sexual women by the prude police. 3y Like 5

Phil Pope Thelma MacKinnon many would think your interest in others wank fantasies intensely perverted LOL 3y Like 4

Lee Rock Ruth Greenberg, which questions do you want me to answer? In the meantime, do you agree with the author when she writes in relation to people who access porn at work are 'unstable perverts who are so incapable of caring about basic social decency and the rights of others that they should be removed from society to protect the rest of us (women).' 3y Like

Ruth Greenberg Old old tactic. Calling women prudes. 3y Like 1

Ruth Greenberg Do you think of women at work when you are masturbating at work? 3y Like

Tony Collins I was just gonna ask exactly the same thing. Thelma MacKinnon, which men are boasting about it? Which men "need to urgently wank"? Who are you talking about? Don't cop out by saying you don't want a "semantic argument" - YOU said "I cant believe that men boast about wanking at work as if it is something that should go unexamined". Nothing of the sort has happened in this thread. Instead, we've got Ruth telling people about how they "should be working", as if it's her role to police things for the bosses - and then we've got Ruth demanding to know what someone thinks about when he masturbates. If anyone thinks this is how the left should behave, it's not a left that deserves any support. 3y Like 10

Lee Rock If that question is to me Ruth Greenberg, then the answer is 'no'. Now, what business is it going to vote for? 3y Like

Heather Downs and again the 'private', 'personal' as outside political analysis is a bourgeois concept which conceals and protects male privilege and women's oppression of Engels, now I must go 3y Like 3

Lee Rock Heather Downs, as you seem to be still posting: Do you agree with the author when she writes in relation to people who access porn at work are 'unstable perverts who are so incapable of caring about basic social decency and the rights of others that they should be removed from society to protect the rest of us (women).' A quick 'yes' or 'no' will do. 3y Like

Ellenor Hutson "if it was private, how was it discovered?" Exactly! Heather. If its obvious enough to come to another persons attention then its a problem. If this was a story about an employer installing CCTV in the toilets to catch people wanking on company time then I'd think about it differently! 3y Like 2

Lee Rock Thelma MacKinnon, why do you want to know? What difference to your argument does such information make? Are you okay with someone wanking at work if they don't know the person they are fantasising about? Please do tell. 3y Like

Tae Ateh I am saying that the issue needs to be looked at in context of the workplace as an exploitation as well as organisation, which is what I think the women are also pointing out. tge men here are all arguing for their liberty in a veevy bourgeois and restrictive way 3y Like 2

Thelma MacKinnon Lee- Answer it and we can discuss. If its so innocent and great I wonder why you wont say. Its irrelevant what I think. You clearly think not an issue so who're they?? 3y Like 3

Ellenor Hutson "and women masturbate at work too but they would probably be even less likely to say so because of shaming of highly sexual women by the prude police" Phil Pope: I don't think women are masturbating at work tbh. I also think there might be a qualitative difference between wanking in the womens loo and wanking in the mens. Women in our culture are objectified and sexually exploited. So part of the reason I would personally not wank in the womens toilet is because I would be worried that if another woman noticed what I was doing she would feel dirty and uncomfortable. i.e; there might be an interpretation on events that I was getting off on being in the womens toilet in the presence of women. The reason I changed my position on this is that it does appear to me mainly taking place in the mens toilet. And men don't seem to be concerned about it. It doesnt have the same cultural meaning to them. 3y Edited - Like 2

Lee Rock Thelma MacKinnon, I don't masturbate at work. Now, what would the difference to your argument be? 3y Like

Lee Rock Tae Ateh: 'men here are all arguing for their liberty in a veevy bourgeois and restrictive way'. I think men and women should have the liberty to masturbate in private if they so wish. Don't you? 3y Like 1

Tae Ateh exactly right. the types of workplaces this article is about are particularly patriarchal 3y Like 1

Tae Ateh lee youre a wanker. i dont believe in liberty 3y Like

Lee Rock Ellenor Hutson, an ex-partner (female) of mine did occasionally masturbate at work. In her locked office where no-one could see or enter. According to some on this thread that would make her a 'disgusting' 'pervert' that needs to be 'removed from society'. 3y Like 5

Tae Ateh I am for a dictatorship of the proletariat 3y Like

Lee Rock Do people on this thread actual think that when someone, male or female, has a wank in a toilet cubicle that they are making a din when peole are around? FFS, get real people. 3y Like 3

Thelma MacKinnon So I'm interested in which women you do wank to and if you know them. Im interested in your rich inner sexual Life. I think the private/public divide is a red herring when it comes to objectification of women. How the mechanisms if that work. How women would view you if they knew what you thought about doing to them. All that. Although you have gone up slightly in my estimation that you can actually hold it together in work. And do. 3y Like 1

Lee Rock Thelma MacKinnon, you were clear in that you would answer my questions only after I answered yours. So, once again to you: Are you okay with someone wanking at work if they don't know the person they are fantasising about? Or are you simply opposed to all and any masturbation? 3y Like 1

Margaret Corvid Smh 3y Like

Thelma MacKinnon Lee Rock. I am not opposed to all Wanking. Ti be clear. The idea that any critique of humans sexuality/fantasies = prude is as boring as kale soup and as liberal as Gary Barlow. I hope we are not going there? To you. Which women do you wank over in private? 3y Like 3

Lee Rock Thelma MacKinnon: Third time: Are you okay with someone wanking at work if they don't know the person they are fantasising about? 3y Like

Lee Rock As for my masturbation fantasies, they are private to me. And yours? 3y Like

Anna Djinn Guys, please can everyone READ THE ARTICLE in full before commenting any further. Because you know what? You are just proving how sharp is her analysis. Take this for a start: "Jones' lack of analysis of male privilege and male socialisation stinks, and is disingenuous. Men are trained from childhood to bond, assert and affirm their masculinity through treating women disgustingly. The sexuality of the adult they will become does not enter into this equation. Yet this article, like so many like it, focuses solely on the supposed problem of anyone who takes offence or questions the behaviour. The focus is always on how to make people understand why it is okay, however torturous, illogical or downright stupid the reasoning. Yet the fact is, it is NOT okay. Ever. There is never any question that the male behaviour might be at fault. That men might not have a right to do or behave or speak in such and such a way. It is always about the expectation and demand that women and children adapt to whatever men want or permit themselves." Does that not exactly sum up what all you men have been doing in this thread. 3y Like 3

Anna Djinn And let's be clear. Porn is not about sex per se. Porn is about eroticising imbalances of power, thus perpetuating the rule of the men over women and children. So the arguments that we are prudes is so TOTALLY MISSING THE POINT. 3y Like 3

Ruth Greenberg No masturbation fantasies are not divorced from the real world. If you were having fantasies where you are an SS officer in a concentration camp, is that okay? Do you really think it would not reflect some of your actual views of what is and is not okay? 3y Like

Thelma MacKinnon Lee: your turn. This is a conversation not you proving you could get into the CIA. Why are they private to you? Why defend them in the private realm? Whats your thinking? 3y Like 2

Ruth Greenberg Yes you are right Paul. It is an absolute disgrace that some men are defending their right to wank at work. 3y Like 2

Thelma MacKinnon Totally! 3y Like

Nick Fozzie Foster I still don't see what's wrong with it as long as its done privately on a break, in a toilet cubicle, as opposed to in front of a colleague. Of course women masturbate as well, if no one else knows what they are doing who cares? 3y Like 8

Thelma MacKinnon Maal Dauwa. Are you blatantly missing the point and taking us round in a perfect circle? 3y Like 2

Mhairi Mcalpine This is a bizarre thread. At the very least, wanking at work is anti-social. ...and...kindof...weird. Yes, they should be working, but its not exactly the same thing as reading "take a break" under your desk, is it? I suppose if people have an urgent need and they go to the toilet and are quiet and hygienic about it, then there is probably no harm done, although I'd question what prompted a need that was so urgent that it couldn't wait until sometime. But to actually defend it as a "right"? Where does the right stop? Can you bring in porn mags to assist you if the urge takes you? Do you have a right to masturbate with sex toys at work? And why just masturbation, do you have the right to have sex at work? What about full blown orgies, so long as you are considerate to non-participating work colleagues? 3y Like 5

Nick Fozzie Foster Its not something I've ever considered doing. I think context is all important though. If someone goes on his break and has a wank and no one else knows then no harm is done. If/he goes up to a colleague and tells him/her he has just done this then that's clearly a case of sexual harassment. 3y Like 6

Thelma MacKinnon Ive answered some of these above 3y Like

Thelma MacKinnon Im questioning what is the quality if that interaction between co workers if a man is wanking over a female colleague. What in earth does that say about what she is symbolic if and how on earth can we have men of the left reverting to simplistic liberal defences of this when we talk about no harm. 3y Like 5

Charlotte Bence This thread is the best thing ever. SOLID GOLD. 3y Like 32

Ruth Greenberg Oh yes Tome, how amusing to have a "joke" over what would clearly be a situation of a sexual harassment. What next? Rape jokes? 3y Edited - Like

Charlotte Bence Why is having a wank at work sexual harassment? 3y Like 9

Charlotte Bence Answer: IT IS NOT. 3y Like 18

Ruth Greenberg Have you watched the video posted? Wanking in the office in front of colleagues is clearly sexual harassment 3y Like 1

Margaret Corvid I'll be in my bunk. 3y Like 7

Thelma MacKinnon Its making light of rather. Normalising. 3y Like 2

Ruth Greenberg Never a truer word said than in jest 3y Like

Friday, 17 April 2015 at 16:34 UNOUNCEMENT: We have decided to close this thread. The manner in which it is being discussed on one side is designed mainly to bait the other side. This is not leading to a productive and comradely debate but rather divisive sniping. Any further comments will be deleted. 3y Like 5

Anna Djinn MODERATOR WARNING: If anyone else comments on this thread, they will be suspended from this group 3y Like 3

Robert Brechley MODERATOR ANNOUNCEMENT: I've just removed four members for continuing to post silly messages here. 3y Edited - Like 3