

Submission 141

Incident 1

I was in a meeting with my Mngr (MB) and his boss also male (Boss A) considering the people in his team that could be promoted to the MA role. Five women, one much younger man with the least experience. One woman was discounted as she worked part time and was a single mum. THE most experience and admitted by Boss A as the best candidate was "pregnant so couldn't take the role". I was stunned. I reported the conversation to HR and to the candidate. I was told by HR 'not to be a feminist'. A woman was not promoted to the role.

Incident 2

I took a secondment to another team (C). At staff Xmas party, male Boss C had male Manager D dress up as Santa. Presents were given out and all female staff (but not the men) were offered a place on Santas lap. All were early in their careers and junior and obviously felt pressure to acquiesce. When my turn came, I made a joke about 1950 and shook hands instead. All women after me did the same. ALthough I barely knew the women in Team D, a number came up to me during the day and said how thankful they were I broke the lap thing. They said they found it creepy but didn't know how to stop it. A few days later I ran into Boss D. I pointed out that the whole Santa lap thing was a) creepy, b) does not belong in a modern workplace and c) in my opinion could be considered sexual harassment. I asked if he was creating a workplace where he would want his daughters to work and left it at that.

My confidential complaints to HR were reported to the Bosses and my Manager as those of an "angry woman" in the words of HR. I was informed as my Manager thought it wrong my confidentiality had been breached. I left the company shortly thereafter. Both bosses were promoted.