

## Sports clubs must take a stand in challenging male cultures that can lead to abuse and violence and speak out.

Monday 31 January, 2022

Following the arrest of Mason Greenwood on suspicion of rape and assault following allegations on social media<sup>[1]</sup>, Anthea Sully, Chief Executive of White Ribbon UK has made the following statement;

'Along with so many people White Ribbon UK is dismayed by the images shared on social media on 30 January and stand in solidarity with the woman who posted them. Domestic abuse, and violence is always the responsibility of the perpetrator and there is never any excuse for abuse'

'Whilst Manchester United have now suspended this player, sports clubs must take a stand in challenging male cultures that can lead to abuse and violence and speak out on a day-to-day basis. This is the only way that violence can be prevented before it starts. Attitudes that are sexist and demeaning towards women that are unchecked create an environment when violence can become normalised. This has to stop.'

'Leading sportsmen have a wider responsibility than how they perform on the pitch – they are held up as role models, if their behaviour is in anyway abusive towards women, they should face the consequences from their club.'

Ends

Editorial note: please include the following helplines or similar when covering stories such as this. **If you need help: Domestic Abuse helpline 0808 2000 247, Rape Crisis helpline 0808 802 9999. Always dial 999 if it is an emergency or if you are unsure.**

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60192303>

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