

MAYBE WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS NEXT TIME WE MEET?

*Stories about sex,
relationships
and consent*





He spoke about his own hesitation. He felt that all his friends were having sex, but he didn't feel ready yet. They pressured him by telling him stories. They'd say, "We did it like this, we bought her this gift, you can invite her, this is how it feels."



Do all boys want sex?

What if they want to take their relationship slow?

Does everyone know how to do it?

What if they are not ready for sex? Does this make them not boys?

The trainer shared that boys can take their time too. She said we may feel peer pressure, but we can decide when we want to do it. I was a little surprised; I didn't know boys thought about this.

Ohhhhh, but in movies and shows, boys are always ready for sex.

Yeah, I thought only girls felt the pressure to have sex. You know I've been thinking about Alex too. I told everyone in the group this story.



Alex and I have already had sex and it was great, but I think now they expect us to have sex all the time. The other day, they invited me over, got me a present, and offered to pay for my travel to their place. I felt like seeing them, but I knew if I went they would expect sex.



I do like sex but I don't always want to do it.

I don't know how to talk to them about this. It seems easier just not to visit them. I don't really know who to speak to about this - my mother, maybe? I feel my confusion will make Alex think I don't love them, or worse, that they will leave me.



Is it normal that I don't want to have sex even though I desire my partner?

How do I say that 'yes' to sex once doesn't mean 'yes' to sex always? Does the way I communicate consent matter?

Why do I find it easier to give hints than say directly what I feel? Does my partner do the same?

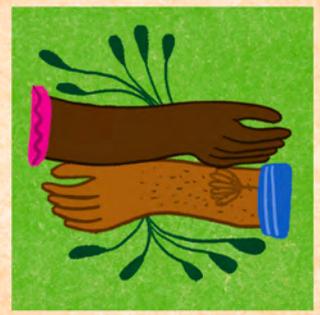
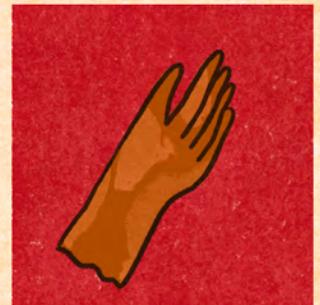


I asked the trainer, what is the best way of saying 'yes' or 'no' to sex?

She explained that sometimes we speak through words and other times through our body.

Maybe we get stiff? Or we feel excitement in our body? Maybe we lean into a kiss? Or we hold their hands first? She said, it's best to communicate openly with our partners, and make decisions we are both comfortable with.

She also told us that it's important to know our bodies, and that masturbation is normal and can help us to find out what we do and don't like sexually. She reminded us that information and services are important and that we should protect ourselves.



T

I wish I had learnt about relationships and consent before. When I first went out with someone, I was so confused!

OMG! I can relate.

T

Even now, I still find consent really complex. I really wanna learn more about it.

Well, Sofia's story might be interesting for you. It's quite different but in a really good way.



Sofia told us how she really enjoyed sex with her boyfriend. She likes it even more now that she is a bit older and more experienced. She shared how attracted and connected she felt to him. It really sounds like they have a great relationship.

She feels confident and safe with him and he makes her feel so good about herself.

We were all so curious about how she got to this place and had such a positive experience.





She told us about the comprehensive sexuality education she and her boyfriend had received.

They had learned about relationships, gender and sexual diversity, safe sex and female pleasure, and had even gone to get condoms together!

Sofia is also very close to her parents and is able to confide in them.

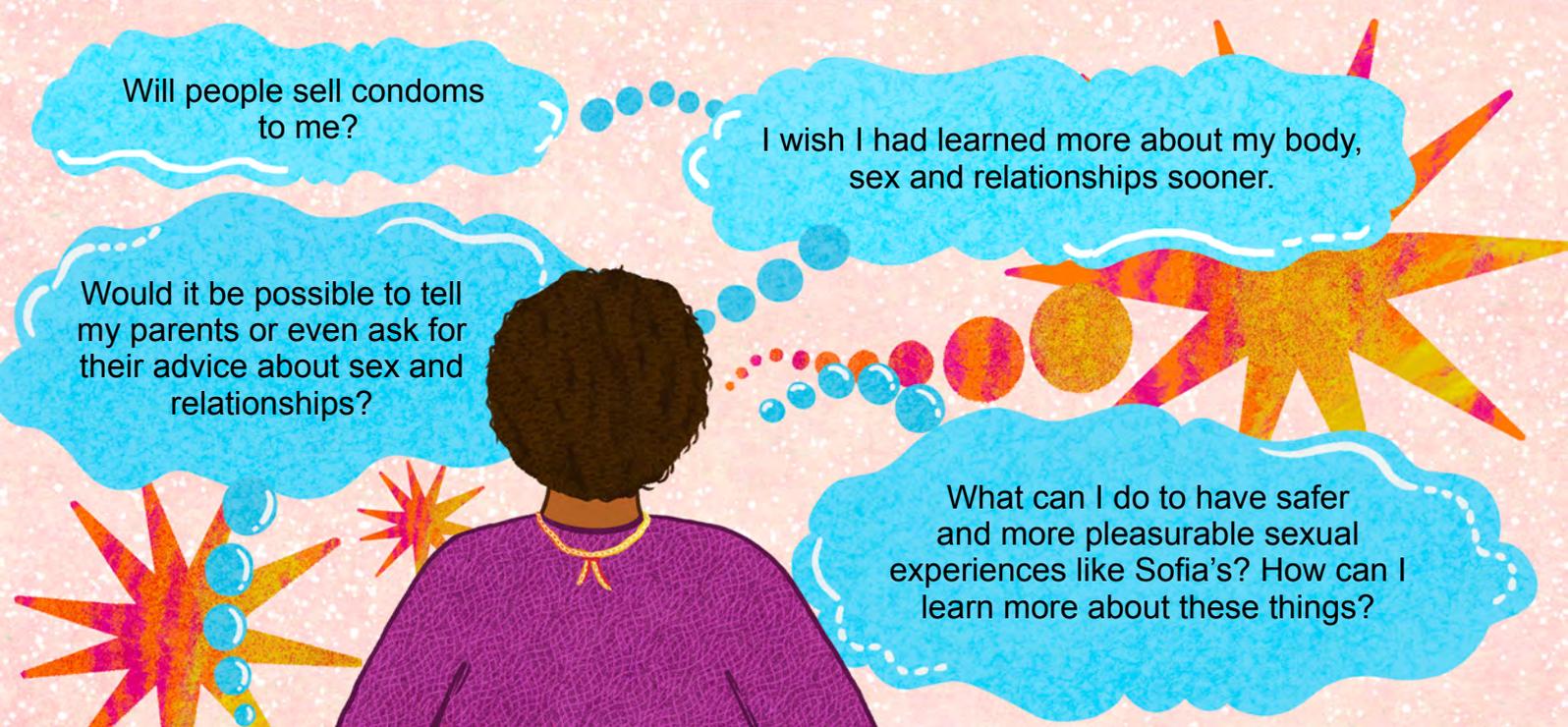


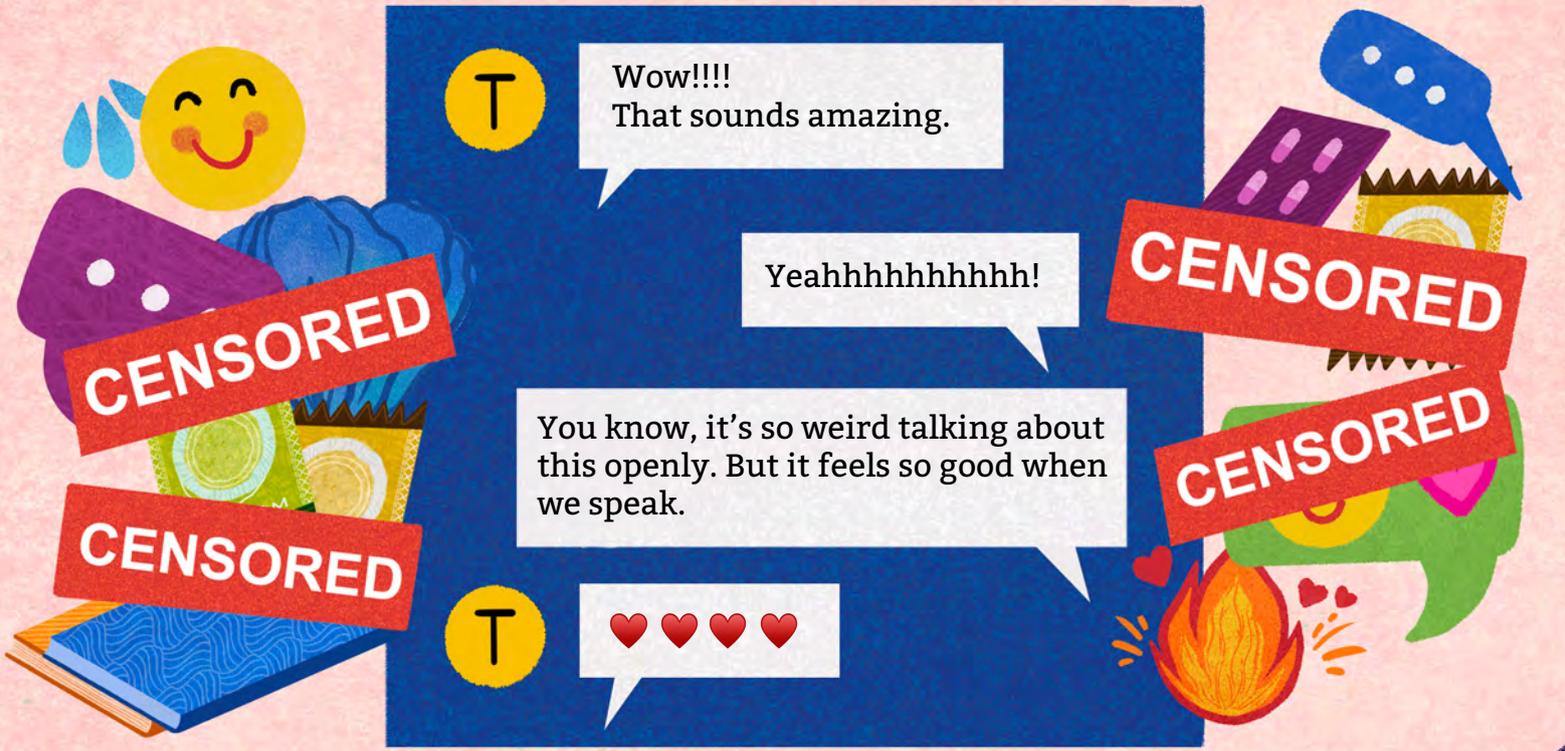
Will people sell condoms to me?

I wish I had learned more about my body, sex and relationships sooner.

Would it be possible to tell my parents or even ask for their advice about sex and relationships?

What can I do to have safer and more pleasurable sexual experiences like Sofia's? How can I learn more about these things?





T

Wow!!!!
That sounds amazing.

Yeahhhhhhhhhh!

You know, it's so weird talking about
this openly. But it feels so good when
we speak.

T

♥♥♥♥



←  ALEX   



Was just thinking about you.



My parents are away 🌍 visiting my grandparents. Do you wanna?



Maybe we can talk about this next time we meet?

I have learned lots of new things I want to share with you 😊

Of course! 😊

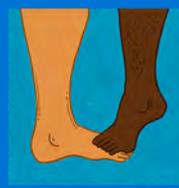


I can say 'no' even though I said 'yes' before. I want to tell Alex everything I have learned from the workshop.

Maybe we can even get more information together?

Will I enjoy sex more if we learn to communicate more openly? Will Alex?

We need more spaces to talk openly, freely and without worries and shame.



ABOUT THIS COMIC

This [comic](#) is based on research on young people's perspectives of sexual wellbeing and consent conducted with young people in Ecuador and Uganda. The research report will be published early 2022 on the [Plan International website](#).

CREDITS

Research: Sara De Meyer (*Ghent University*), Dr Elizabeth Kemigisha (*Mbarara University of Science and Technology*), Ana Cevallos Neira (*Cuenca University, Ecuador*), Dr Miranda Van Reeuwijk (*Rutgers*), Dr Lucia Rost (*Plan International*), Katie Lau (*Plan International*), Dr Anna Kågesten (*Karolinska Institutet*) and Dr Kristien Michielsen (*Ghent University*)

Script: Srinidhi Raghavan

Illustration and Art Direction:
Sonaksha (www.sonaksha.com)

With inputs from Dr Lucia Rost, Katie Lau, (*Plan International*), Sara de Meyer (*Ghent University*), Emily Bajaanã, Dorah Muhanuuzi (*youth experts*), Jessie Freeman, Dr Jacqueline Gallinetti, Rachael Chilton, Sara Anderson (*Plan International*), Anna Liwander (*Plan International Sweden*), Henry Salas (*Plan International Finland*) and David Aziku (*Plan International Uganda*).



This comic is financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). MFA Finland and Sida do not necessarily share the opinions expressed herein. The sole responsibility for content belongs to Plan International.

