

Angry young women: A new generation of activists is challenging *misogyny*

“My life is not your porn,” read one poster. “We should be able to live, not survive,” declared another. The women *brandishing* them in the centre of Seoul wore red clothes and large sunglasses. They had covered their heads with baseball caps or *broad-brimmed* hats. The *headgear* and glasses serve mainly to make the protesters unrecognisable to men who might be hostile to their *cause*: the fight against *molka*, videos which are filmed using cameras hidden in public toilets, school changing rooms or even women’s homes, and then posted on the Internet.

misogyny 厌女症

brandish 挥舞

broad-brimmed 宽沿的

headgear 帽子

cause 原因; 事业

clad 穿衣的

The red-*clad* women are the most visible part of a wave of activism against sexism in South Korea, which was ranked 118th out of 144 countries last year in the World Economic Forum’s measure of equality between the sexes.

In terms of appearance and behaviour, women and men are held to wildly different standards. A YouTube star who used her make-up tutorial channel to announce that she was giving up make-up to join the “*corset*-free” movement, which challenges unrealistic beauty standards, received a *torrent* of online threats.

corset 紧身衣

torrent 奔流; 迸发

“Misogyny is still common sense in South Korea,” says Yun Kim Ji-yeong of Konkuk University in Seoul. “People do not accept that women are worth the same as men.”

But women are increasingly challenging this conviction. Many are *cropping* their hair, crushing their eyeshadow and throwing away their lipstick—and posting videos of their rebellion online.

crop 修剪; 产量; 庄稼

Ms Yun Kim believes the individual focus of the movement is its strength. She thinks the anti-spycam protests have drawn such crowds because they speak directly to women's daily experience. "If you cannot even be safe from intrusion in the bathroom or in your own home, then where are you safe?" She says.