

Why are airlines so keen on the fantasy of the Mile-High Barbie

How did it come to this—women required to produce a sick note because they've been struck down by... unsexiness? It seems that **Norwegian** Air requires female flight attendants to wear heels, or have a note from the doctor—other rules cover everything from makeup to false eyelashes.

Norwegian 挪威的

How **mortifying** for Norway: in 2018, the country was rated second for equality, after Iceland, in the Global Gender Gap report. Norwegian politician Anette Trettebergstuen said: “1950 rang, and it wants its rulebook back.” Norwegian Air responded that flat shoes are worn in the cabin, there are also dress guidelines for male stewards, and other airlines have similar rules—but it must be aware that last month, Virgin **ditched** requirements for heels and makeup, with others following suit.

mortify 抑制；禁欲；约束

ditch 丢弃；逃课；旷工

It seems that we're finally starting to see off the oversexualised “air hostess” cliché, but how has it taken so long? Air travel isn't alone when it comes to chauvinistic **grooming diktats**. Officially or unofficially, illegally or otherwise, women have routinely been pressured to dress **quasi**-sexually for work.

grooming 梳妆；美容

diktat 命令

quasi 准的；类似的

It's a kind of chauvinistic laziness—an easy (and **gratuitous**) way to keep sex in the mix. Never mind that the flight attendants may have preferred comfort, elegance and dignity to styling that came **perilously** close over the years to Mile-High Barbie. On and off ground, airline staff have a big job to do—safeguarding the wellbeing and security of passengers. As with all work environments, if men aren't required to **totter** about in heels, why on earth are women?

gratuitous 无理由的；免费的

perilously 充满危险地

totter 蹒跚；踉跄