

NZ PM in ponytail-pulling problem

25th April, 2015



New Zealand Prime Minister John Key could be in trouble after he pulled the ponytail of a waitress in a café. Mr Key apologised after waitress Amanda Bailey posted online that the PM had pulled her hair many times when he visited the café. Ms Bailey said Mr Key started the hair-pulling last year during his election campaign.

She said she repeatedly told him to stop and to not do it again, but he didn't listen to her. She could now take New Zealand's leader to court. He could be investigated for the crime of "hostile touching" if Ms Bailey goes to the police. A New Zealand legal expert said: "You have to remember this is an older white male with a lot of power." He said Ms Bailey was in a powerless position.

Mr Key has apologised for his actions and said he was just "horsing around" (joking) with the waitress. However, many people in New Zealand think the apology is not enough. Women's rights campaigner Marilyn Waring told Radio New Zealand that she believed Mr Key had broken the law. She said: "I'm getting tired of it being called anything but illegal." New Zealand's deputy leader Tracey Martin said it was unacceptable behaviour for a leader of any country. She added: "If he doesn't understand where people's personal boundaries lie, we've got some rather serious problems." The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, said: "It's never OK to touch someone without their permission."

Sources: NZ Herald / CNN

Writing

New Zealand's Prime Minister should resign. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

be in trouble / ponytail / online / election / campaign / repeatedly / hostile / powerless / apologized / joking / women's rights / break the law / illegal / unacceptable / touch

True / False

- New Zealand's leader pulled the ponytail of a waitress. T / F
- The waitress has asked the leader many times to stop pulling her hair. T / F
- It's possible for the waitress to take the leader to court. T / F
- The leader could face a charge of hostile touching in court. T / F
- Everyone in New Zealand thinks the leader's apology is enough. T / F
- New Zealand's deputy leader said the behaviour wasn't unacceptable. T / F
- The deputy leader said the leader knew where personal boundaries lay. T / F
- An equal rights group said you don't need permission to touch people. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. pulled | a. specialist |
| 2. apologised | b. tugged |
| 3. repeatedly | c. thought |
| 4. investigated | d. quite |
| 5. expert | e. constantly |
| 6. horsing around | f. consent |
| 7. believed | g. joking |
| 8. called | h. said sorry |
| 9. rather | i. named |
| 10. permission | j. looked into |

Discussion – Student A

- Is continually pulling someone's ponytail "horsing around"?
- Do you think Mr Key has broken the law?
- How should leaders behave in public?
- What would you have done in Ms Martin's situation?
- What should the restaurant owner have done?
- What are personal boundaries?
- What advice do you have for Ms Martin?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Key?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. John Key could be
 2. during his election
 3. He could be investigated for the crime
 4. an older white male
 5. Ms Bailey was in a powerless
 6. Mr Key has apologised
 7. broken the
 8. unacceptable behaviour
 9. where people's personal
 10. without their
- a. of "hostile touching"
 - b. for a leader
 - c. position
 - d. boundaries lie
 - e. for his actions
 - f. law
 - g. in trouble
 - h. permission
 - i. with a lot of power
 - j. campaign

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What should happen to New Zealand's leader?
- c) How bad is what he did?
- d) What more could the waitress have done to stop Mr Key?
- e) Do you think an apology is enough?
- f) What do you think of the term "hostile touching"?
- g) Is what Mr Key did an abuse of power?
- h) How powerless do you think Ms Bailey was?

Spelling

1. a awisestr in a café
2. during his ceeilnto
3. He could be adtetgsviine
4. the crime of "tioeshl touching"
5. A New Zealand legal etpxer
6. Ms Bailey was in a powerless oinsopit
7. loagoipsed (UK) / apdoloigze (USA) for his actions
8. Women's rights maipecran
9. anything but glallei
10. unacceptable vrbaheui (UK) / raevbiho (USA)
11. people's eprosna boundaries
12. without their snesmiorpi

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. h	3. e	4. j	5. a
6. g	7. c	8. i	9. d	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Domestic violence

You think domestic violence is the biggest problem that needs fixing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the gender gap in salaries, maternity leave or the lack of women CEOs.

Role B – Gender gap in salaries

You think the gender gap in salaries is the biggest problem that needs fixing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): domestic violence, maternity leave or the lack of women CEOs.

Role C – Maternity leave

You think maternity leave is the biggest problem that needs fixing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the gender gap in salaries, domestic violence or the lack of women CEOs.

Role D – Lack of women CEOs

You think the lack of women CEOs is the biggest problem that needs fixing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the gender gap in salaries, maternity leave or domestic violence.

Speaking – Women's Rights

Rank these with your partner. Put the ones need solving most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- poverty
- violence against women
- maternity leave
- "job work" and housework
- sex slavery
- lack of women CEOs
- same salary as men
- lack of women politicians

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.