Reviewer’s report:

Title: Gender differences and similarities in medical students' experiences of mistreatment by various groups of perpetrators

Version: 0 Date: 13 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Sarah Shepherd

Reviewer's report:

This is an important paper which discusses the mistreatment of medical students and its subsequent distress. It tackles the issues of an ingrained culture and as such it is important this work is carried out and published to promote change. The paper is very well written and the points made are relevant. I support this paper and hope the authors continue this line of work. I have only a few points of clarification below.

I really enjoyed reading the introduction. It provides a systematic description of the background to the present day of mistreatment in medical education and culture. This ensures the aims of the project are well situated.

I query why no ethics approval was gained as this is sensitive material, if there is support to suggest participants were informed about what would happen to their data that would be useful although not essential.

Results:

The average age of the medical students was 24.7 years - at which point/year in medical education has this survey been conducted? Why is the average so high? Similarly it would be useful to know if the recruitment lecture was compulsory? Are the 109 students the whole year group or is it only the group who are interested in Gender medicine - if so this might skew the data again and should be attended to in the limitations.

I am unclear how the top three perpetrator groups were calculated, perhaps it could be clarified/made more explicit (prevalence of mistreatment).

Clarity needed re gender difference: two sentences talk about sexual mistreatment and harassment (line 211-212 and line 217-218), clarity needed about which stats are correct or if they have two different messages, I anticipate the second sentence should reference distress from mistreatment.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

i declare I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal