

Anglais	BTS Comptabilité et Gestion	SESSION 2019
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Sujet n°7

The Issue of Women Being Forced to Wear High Heels at Work Reaches U.K. Parliament

British lawmakers discussed sexist workplace dress codes this week after more than 150,000 people signed a petition calling on the U.K. government to make it illegal for companies to require women to wear high heels at work.

5 The petition was created by Nicola Thorp, from London, after she was sent home for wearing flat shoes to work in December 2015. Thorp, then a temp worker, was employed by Portico, a company with a dress code policy that at that time required women to wear heels of between 2 to 4 inches. She refused.

10 “There needs to be a culture shift,” Thorp told *Motto* earlier this year. “Especially in the workplace. Asking a woman to dress in a certain way against her will is harassment. And when an employee is sexualized...it leads to bad practices.”

Because Thorp’s petition received more than 150,000 signatures, it was eligible to be debated by Members of Parliament (MPs), a discussion that took place Monday afternoon. Helen Jones, an MP who chairs the Petitions Committee, introduced the debate, calling sexist workplace dress codes a form of “indirect discrimination”.

15 The Labour Party lawmaker, who helped lead a parliamentary investigation into dress codes, said she and her colleagues were shocked by what they found. “We found attitudes that belonged more [to the] — I was going to say 1950s, but probably the 1850s might be more accurate, than in the 21st century,” she told the MPs at Westminster Hall at the beginning of the debate. “We found that women, especially
20 young women in vulnerable employment, were exploited at work.”

Adapted from *TIME*, March 7, 2017