

Yes, sexual street harassment is a problem. No, that's not the fault of black men.

by Simone de Jonge
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Journalists make it very easy for Myrthe by suggesting that there is a specific kind of man who would harass her. She is asked in different interviews to describe the most common perpetrators. In one interview she says: "I am not racist, I am only looking at the facts. The facts for me are that it's men with darker skin tones, especially black men [who harass me]".

I find it frustrating that Myrthe, just like the majority of Dutch women, is harassed while out in public. I do not deny her experiences. But she presents a very skewed picture of this problem. Even if she – and those she represents – doesn't intend to be racist, it is. Unfortunately, this is hard to avoid if you grow up in a country where there is clearly discrimination in the labor market, where students of color are assessed lower than white children. And because you grow up in a system (perpetuated by the media) where black people are associated with crime, where representation of diverse people is hard to find.

