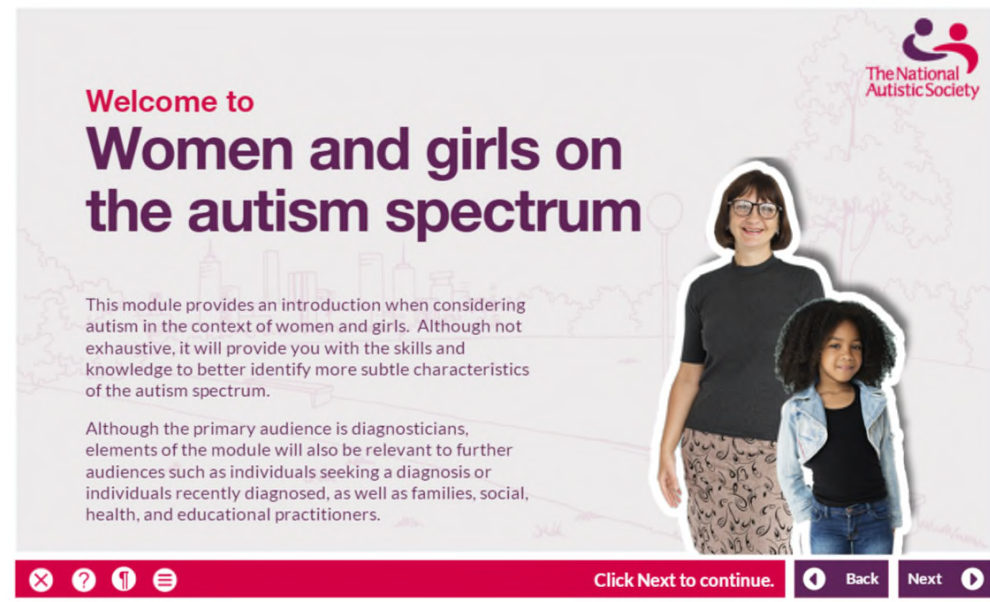


# Women and girls


## New online module from the National Autistic Society



**Welcome to**  
**Women and girls on  
the autism spectrum**

This module provides an introduction when considering autism in the context of women and girls. Although not exhaustive, it will provide you with the skills and knowledge to better identify more subtle characteristics of the autism spectrum.

Although the primary audience is diagnosticians, elements of the module will also be relevant to further audiences such as individuals seeking a diagnosis or individuals recently diagnosed, as well as families, social, health, and educational practitioners.

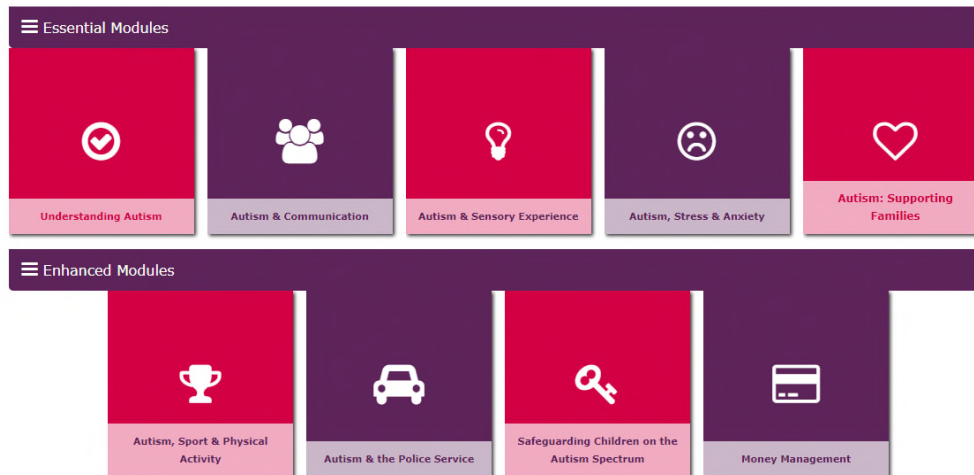


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# Women and girls module



- Aimed at diagnosticians
- Created with a strong autistic voice
- Joins our suite of online modules



**Women & girls  
online module**

# Why do we need this?



*“I had a therapist who told me that (I couldn’t be autistic) and said I’d basically tricked Dr Judith Gould into giving me a diagnosis because I idolised it”*

***Emily Swiatek, 2017***

# Why do we need this?



During her son's diagnostic appointment...

*“I gave our family history...including details of my own autism diagnosis...the psychiatrist questioned my diagnosis, asking who had diagnosed me. He asked how I could have autism because I didn't look like I had autism and I was having a two-way conversation with him.”*

*“I replied that maybe it's because I'm an adult and a woman. He looked at me incredulously and said, with obvious contempt: 'Are you trying to tell me that being a woman makes a difference?' ...he shook his head in disbelief”*

**Sarah Hendrickx, 2015**

**Women & girls  
online module**

# Module development



- Focus group of autistic women
- Autistic content writers
- Module developers
- Module reviewers
- Autism and Girls Forum
- Module launch – March 2018



# Why are autistic women and girls missed



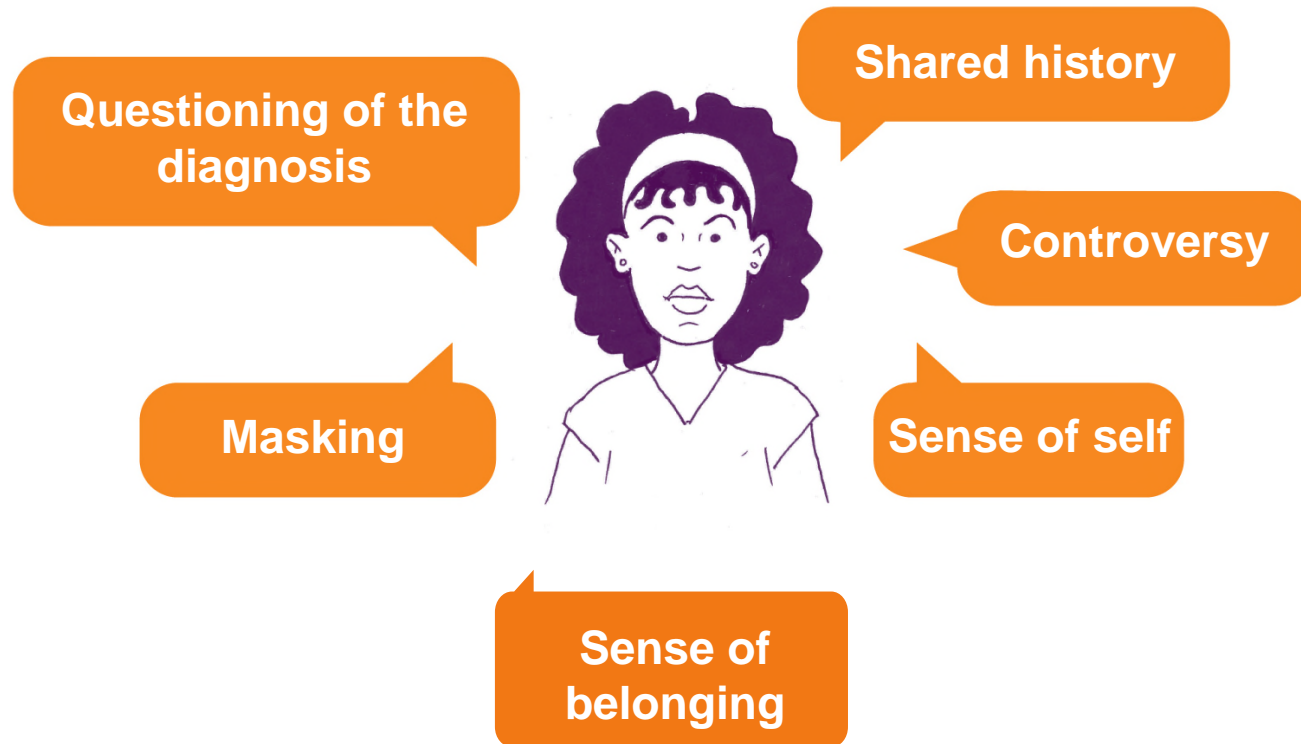
- May show less traditionally obvious traits
- Diagnostic bias

*“Because our diagnostic systems and stereotypes of (autism) are based on males, we just don’t know how many girls with very high autistic traits are out there, unrecognised.*

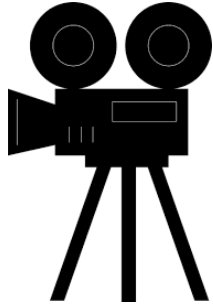
Francesca Happé, in NASEN Flying under the radar, 2016

- Gendered stereotypes
- Good social integration skills from years of observation

# What we have learnt



# Little taster!



Why do women and girls  
need a diagnosis?

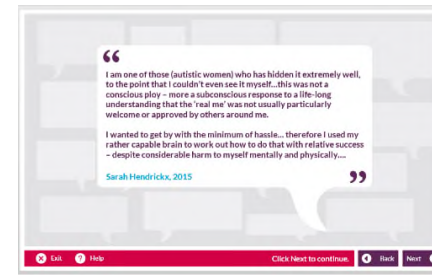
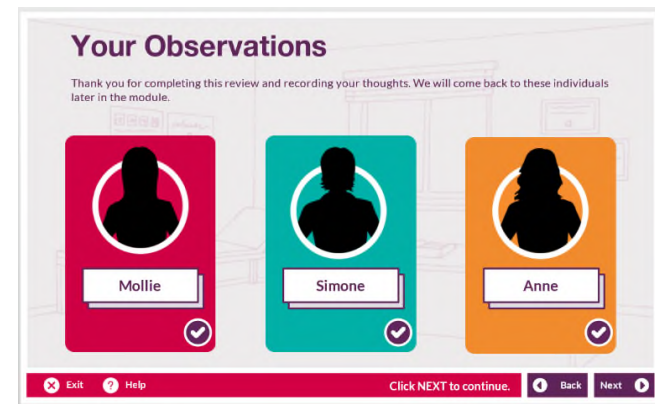


**Women & girls  
online module**



# What is in the module

- Potential differences
- Historical perspective
- Autistic perspectives
- Developmental characteristics
- Asking the right questions



**Women & girls  
online module**

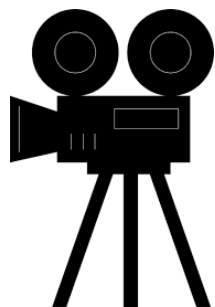
# Film clips

- Lana Grant – Autistic adult, trainer and advocate
  - Talia Grant – Teenager with autism
  - Sarah Hendrickx - Autism Consultant, trainer and autistic adult
  - Carly Jones – Autistic female and British autism advocate
  - Ella Tabb – Autistic speaker, blogger and YouTuber
- 
- Professor Tony Attwood – Clinical Psychologist
  - Dr Judith Gould – Consultant Clinical Psychologist
  - Dr Elizabeth Shea – Clinical Psychologist



**Women & girls  
online module**

# Little taster!



**Women & girls  
online module**

# Thanks!



- [www.autism.org.uk/womenonline](http://www.autism.org.uk/womenonline)
- [online.training@nas.org.uk](mailto:online.training@nas.org.uk)



**Women & girls  
online module**