

CATEGORY: Addressing suspicion of abuse	Case Study # 16
TITLE: Gender bias	DATE: 12-1-2017
SUB-TITLE: Neglect, suspicion of abuse	
LOCATION: Asia	
<p>'Sonia', a 4th grade ESL student, lived with her father, a high level diplomat, her step-mother and new baby sister. The student complained of toothaches. The first year teacher noticed several black teeth and shared the name of a local dentist with the family when the student said she had never visited a dentist.</p> <p>Upon following up, the step-mother told the teacher that it was 'tradition' in their country to allow baby teeth to fall out even when they were rotten.</p> <p>Sonia was referred to the counselor when she exhibited behavior issues such as stealing from other students. The teacher worked with her on some social problems perhaps caused by her heavy accent or advanced physical maturity.</p> <p>Sonia revealed that her step-mother called her ugly when the class was discussing a performance of Cinderella.</p> <p>The mother of a classmate informed the teacher that 'Sonia' showed her son 'pornography' on a play date two weeks prior. The principal called it a parent issue because it happened off school grounds, but the teacher should 'keep an eye out'.</p> <p>Sonia was drawing pictures of people kissing and 'in love'. The counselor determined this was within a range of normal behavior, but the teacher mentioned this to Sonia's father.</p> <p>By the end of the year, a number of strange behaviors had been observed by the teacher that, in isolation, could be minimized. They were dismissed by the counselor and/or principal.</p> <p>At the end of the year, Sonia was elated to share that she was returning to her home country to live with her mother and older sister. The teacher felt this was done in response to her frequent questioning of Sonia's father, but feels that more should have been done.</p>	
<p>QUESTIONS-COMMENTS-CAVEATS: See the 30 Guiding Questions</p>	