

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

# IT'S NOT JUST "HOW THINGS ARE".

Sexual violence is a form of gender-based violence that's a serious problem in Canada and around the world. It can happen between people in romantic or dating relationships, within a family, at work, between friends and acquaintances, and to strangers.

Some instances of sexual violence are met with outrage and action, while others are dismissed as just the way things are or worse, blame is placed on the victim/survivor.

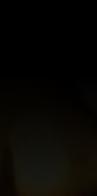
To achieve gender equality, we need to work together to prevent and end all types of sexual violence.

IT CAN BE

# WORDS OR ACTIONS.

Sexual violence references to any unwanted sexual contact, including sexual assault and sexual harassment.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT



Unwanted sexual activity (e.g. sexual touching, kissing someone without consent, rape).

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT



Comments, behaviour, and unwanted sexual interactions. Can take the form of jokes, catcalls, whistles, threats, or discriminatory remarks.

IT CAN

# HAPPEN ANYWHERE

Sexual violence doesn't just happen in the shadows, it often takes place in plain sight.

1 // 3

of women experienced unwanted sexual behaviour in public which can include unwanted sexual attention or unwanted physical contact.<sup>i</sup>

1 // 4

women in Canada have experienced inappropriate sexual behaviours in the workplace.<sup>ii</sup>

# IT'S A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM

**~4.7 MILLION**

WOMEN IN CANADA HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED SINCE THE AGE OF 15.<sup>i</sup>

## BUT SOME GROUPS EXPERIENCE HIGHER RATES

LGB+ PEOPLE ARE ALMOST

3X

more likely to be physically or sexually assaulted.<sup>iii</sup>

INDIGENOUS WOMEN ARE

3X

more likely to be sexually assaulted than non-indigenous women.<sup>iv</sup>

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE MORE THAN

2X

as likely to be sexually assaulted as those without disabilities.<sup>iv</sup>

Perpetrators are most often somebody known to the victim/survivor

Among sexual assaults where an accused was charged by the police,

87%

of victims/survivors knew their assailant.<sup>v</sup>

However, victims/survivors can feel blamed for their own victimization

1 in 5

victims/survivors of sexual assault felt blamed by their perpetrator or family and friends.<sup>vi</sup>

UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THOUGH

The harm of sexual violence is significant and has long-lasting, widespread impacts on those who experience it.<sup>vii</sup>

It's the only violent crime in Canada not on a decline.<sup>viii</sup>

By treating all sexual violence seriously, WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT AND END IT AND MAKE CANADA A SAFER PLACE TO LIVE.

LEARN HOW TO STOP DISMISSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AT

[Canada.ca/ItsNotJust](http://Canada.ca/ItsNotJust)

## SOURCES

<sup>i</sup> Gender-based violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2018: Initial findings from the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, Statistics Canada, 2019

<sup>ii</sup> In 2020, one in four women and one in six men reported having experienced inappropriate sexual behaviours at work

<sup>iii</sup> In the previous year, Statistics Canada, 2021

<sup>iv</sup> Peoples of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours in Canada, 2018

<sup>v</sup> Self-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014, Statistics Canada, 2017

<sup>vi</sup> Police-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2009-2014, Statistics Canada, 2017

<sup>vii</sup> Police-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014, Statistics Canada, 2015

<sup>viii</sup> Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014, Statistics Canada, 2015