

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. ⁱ

1 // 4

women in Canada have experienced inappropriate sexual behaviours in the workplace. ⁱⁱ

IT'S A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM

~4.7 MILLION

WOMEN IN CANADA HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED SINCE THE AGE OF 15. ⁱ

BUT SOME GROUPS EXPERIENCE HIGHER RATES

LGB+ PEOPLE ARE ALMOST

3x

more likely to be physically or sexually assaulted. ⁱⁱⁱ

INDIGENOUS WOMEN ARE

3x

more likely to be sexually assaulted than non-indigenous women ^{iv}

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE MORE THAN

2x

as likely to be sexually assaulted as those without disabilities. ^{iv}

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. ^v

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 ⁱ

UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THOUGH

The harm of sexual violence is significant and has long-lasting, widespread impacts on those who experience it. ^{vi}

It's the only violent crime in Canada not on a decline. ^{vii}

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

SOURCES

- ⁱ 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
- ⁱⁱ In 2020, one in four women and one in six men reported having experienced inappropriate sexualized behaviours at work in the previous year, Statistics Canada, 2021
- ⁱⁱⁱ Experiences of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours among gay, lesbian, bisexual and other sexual minority people, and the transgender population, in Canada, Statistics Canada, 2018
- ^{iv} Self-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014, Statistics Canada, 2017
- ^v Police-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2009-2014, Statistics Canada, 2017
- ^{vi} The Impact of Trauma on Adult Sexual Assault Victims, Department of Justice, 2019
- ^{vii} Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014, Statistics Canada, 2015