
STREET HARASSMENT IS...

Unwelcome interactions in public spaces between strangers that are motivated by gender/sexism and cause someone to feel sexualized, intimidated, embarrassed, humiliated, objectified, angry, or unsafe.

It includes: unwanted leering and whistling, “catcalls,” sexually explicit comments, demands for a smile, persistent demands for a date or phone number after you’ve said no, calling someone a bitch, dyke, or fag, and it can escalate into following, groping, indecent exposure, and even sexual assault.

IT’S A GLOBAL PROBLEM...

At least 80% of women worldwide and many men, especially men in the LGBTQ community, experience street harassment. Street harassment—or the threat of it—may make them feel unsafe in public spaces and may limit the places they feel they can go. Thus, it is a human rights violation. It needs to stop!

WHAT WE CAN DO...

- 1) Set a good example; be respectful.
- 2) Share our stories. Help make visible the experiences that are too often invisible and normalized.
- 3) Call out harassers. “Hey, man, that’s not cool,” “Cut it out,” and, “Stop, that’s harassment.” Ask them, “Can you please repeat yourself?” or “Would you want your mother to see you saying that?” We can also report indecent exposure or physical harassment to the police – note what the person looks like or take a photo to submit with the report.
- 4) Stand up for others when we see them being harassed: we can ask them if they’re okay and need help and the offer it. We can directly call out the harassers. We can also cause a distraction, interruption, or pretend to know the person being harassed and lead them out of the situation.
- 5) Organize community action: hand out fliers, hold an event, write pro-respect messages on sidewalks with chalk, talk to city council members and transit workers, organize a safety audit, and mentor youth.

INTERACTING WITH STRANGERS IN PUBLIC SPACES:

WHAT'S OKAY AND WHAT'S NOT?

THIS IS OKAY:

- ✓ Treating someone the way you'd want a loved one treated by a stranger.
- ✓ Calling someone, "Miss," "Ma'am," "Mister."
- ✓ Saying hello, or smiling and nodding.
- ✓ Wishing someone a nice day.
- ✓ Commenting on the weather, current events, and similar topics.
- ✓ Helping someone with a heavy bag.
- ✓ Asking someone if it's okay to talk to them or if it's okay to ask for their phone number.
- ✓ Ending an interaction if the person you started talking to says they don't want to talk or if they put in headphones or take out a book, etc.

THIS IS NOT OKAY:

- ✗ Treating someone with disrespect or sexually objectifying them.
- ✗ Calling someone you don't know terms like, "Baby," "Sexy," "Shorty," and "Ma."
- ✗ Telling someone to smile.
- ✗ Whistling or yelling out the car window at someone you don't know.
- ✗ Following or touching someone you don't know.
- ✗ Commenting on how people you don't know look.
- ✗ Persistently asking someone for a phone number or date or their name after they've said no or given other signs that they don't want to respond.
- ✗ Calling someone a bitch, dyke, ho, or stupid when they won't talk to you or after they tell you to leave them alone.

Learn more: www.StopStreetHarassment.org. Join the conversation on Twitter: #EndSH

STOP
STREET
HARASSMENT