

# **RESPONDING TO STREET HARASSERS & THEIR LAME GAME**

Different styles of street harassment require different responses. Here are examples of the types of games that street harassers play. Some harassers may play more than one game, so be prepared to respond to all of them.

## **1. Mr. Why Are You Trippin? (aka “I’m Just Tryna Holla Atcha Shawty!”)**

He thinks he’s being nice to you, by giving you “compliments,” staring at you, and yelling at you from a distance, but he’s really annoying and his game is lame! When you diss him, he gets an attitude with you and acts like you’re the one with the problem.

Example: “Damn, you got some nice legs, girl!” “you too good to speak?” or “smile...why you gotta’ look so mean?”

What you should do: be calm, up front, and low key; don’t respond to his excuses or to his attempts to distract you.

## **2. Mr. “I’ll Take You to the Candy Shop: (aka the “Dirty Old Man”)**

He’s too old to be trying to holla at young girls, but he thinks he’s a pimp. He might be a loser who can’t get a date with a woman his own age, so he wants to buy you things in exchange for your attention and/or sexual favors...or he might get off on using you for sexual thrills without your consent or testing how you respond to him to see if he might be able to rape you (rape testing).

Example: 20-something or older guy staring at a young girl’s body at the EL or bus stop.

What you should do: He’s a pervert. Be careful and strong. Protect yourself. Stay out of his way, and get help!

## **3. Mr. P.I.M.P. (aka “Throw a Couple of Dollas Atcha”)**

He might look like a baller, but he’s really a buster! He is a liar who gets off on taking advantage of women and girls. He may give you compliments and ask you to be a model for a variety of fake jobs. He might offer you money or try to buy you things. You might end up getting caught up in an illegal situation that you don’t want to be in, or you might end up drugged up in a hotel room while he sells the room key for \$5.00 to men who will rape you.

Example: “Girl, you look too good to be working at McDonald’s. I work for \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of famous person). We’re shooting a video around the corner. You should meet me there. I can make you an overnight celebrity.”

What you should do: Recognize game! Be firm and realize that he’s probably lying and might be dangerous! Do not give him your real name or any personal information about yourself.

#### **4. Mr. “I’ll Follow that A\$\$ in the Mall” (aka the Stalker)**

He is the guy who follows you around like a puppy and/or deliberately intimidates you and makes you feel uncomfortable. When you try to get away from him, he won’t leave you alone. He might even pop up in places where he knows you will be – like at school or at work. He is creepy and dangerous.

Example: “You look so sexy in the parking lot, I just had to follow you into the mall or find you” or “where do you stay at?”

What you should do: He is a loser and may be dangerous. Be careful and strong. Protect yourself. Stay out of his way, and get help! Get friends to back you up.

#### **5. Mr. Jack A\$\$!**

He tries to intimidate you on purpose and may call you out of your name or threaten you. He might touch, grab, bite, or lick you. He might moan at you or make other offensive noises. He may flash you or try to expose your body parts without your permission (lifting up your skirt, etc.). He may be testing your response to him to figure out if he might be able to rape you (rape testing).

Example: A guy grabs a girl’s butt as she walks by or lifts up a girl’s skirt because she won’t talk to him.

What you should do: He may be dangerous! Demand the harassment stop and protect yourself. Get out of his way and get help!

*Adapted from the Street Harassment Curriculum Student Workbook by the Rogers Park Young Women’s Action Team*