



What Street Harassment Looks Like and Feels Like

[Compiled based on the Young Women's Action Team workshop (7/17/03 & 7/23/03)]

Examples of Street Harassment

Suggestive comments & gestures

Name-calling

Re-naming (calling you bitch or ho as though this were your name)

'Hollering'

Touching or grabbing body parts without permission

Whistling

Put downs

More severe: Demands for sex, sexual assault, and rape.

Body Parts That Are Targeted: Thighs, Face, Butt, Breasts.

Who is Responsible for Street Harassment?

Society

The ways that people are raised.

Moral values

Men

Women

What Are The Causes of Street Harassment?

Power and Control

Media-TV, Movies, Music, etc...

Ignorance

Drugs and alcohol

Home/family Upbringing

Effects of Street Harassment

- Feelings of fear, frustration, anger, and powerlessness
 - Loss of confidence
 - Lack of safety

If You Are The Victim of Harassment, Take The Following Steps:

[Source: the UK anti-social harassment project]

Be safe

Safety is a priority. If you are in a situation in which you feel unsafe at all, remove yourself from it as quickly as possible.

If you feel safe enough to respond to your harasser, do the following:

- 1) Name the behavior – For example, ‘Do not slap my butt. That is harassment’ or ‘Do not make suggestive remarks to me. That is harassment’ or ‘Do not comment on my body. That is harassment’ or ‘Do not stare at me. That is harassment’. You can also simply say in a strong voice, “Don’t sexually harass women’.
- 2) Name the perpetrator – ‘You, the man in the blue pinstriped suit, remove your hand from my breast.’ Or ‘You, the driver of the blue Honda, do not stare at my breast.’
- 3) Use strong body language – Look the harasser in the eye, speak in a strong, clear voice.
- 4) Do not apologize or ask a question – Don’t say, ‘excuse me...’ ‘Would you...’ ‘Do you realize...’ ‘I’m sorry, but...’ ‘Please....’
- 5) Do not get into a dialogue with the harasser – Do not answer any of the harassers’ questions. Simply repeat your statement or leave.
- 6) Do not swear or lose your temper – For many harassers, the goal is to get a rise out of you, which is why they participate in this kind of behavior. For them to see you getting angry or upset just encourages them to continue to harass both you and other people.