

Writings by Members of the Rogers Park Street Harassment Project.
(7/21/03)

Don't Give Up by Farheen Fatima (YWAT Alumni)

Ladies,

Street harassment is a big issue nowadays.

When a guy hollers at you, just pretend that you are not there.

Whenever a guy hollers at me, it makes me embarrassed.

I am getting tired of walking alone on the street.

But, Ladies, don't give up.

Take action that would stop this street harassment.

I keep asking myself:

Why are those boys trying to bother us?

AND

Why don't they holler at their sisters and ask them how they feel about it?

All I am asking for is:

Why can't boys take care of their business instead of hollering, staring, whistling, laughing, and touching girls?

I'm Tired... By Suliat Oluwa (YWAT Alumni)

What's up cutie? Wanna ride with me, big Mama?

You ain't all that, bitch.

I'm tired of walking down the street

I'm tired of ignorant people hollering at me.

I'm tired of people looking at my breasts
while talking.

I'm tired of feeling guilty for dressing in a certain way.

I'm tired of being called names that were not given to me by my parents.

I'm tired of staying home after 8:00 p.m., just because I'm scared of the unknown.

I'm tired of feeling unsafe on the street.

I'm tired of seeing my eyes watching some unacceptable act.

I'm tired of asking myself the same question every day: "WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING?"

I'm tired of being tired of all this harassment.

All I want is my respect and dignity.

RESPECT - Joyce Taylor, 16 years old (currently still a YWAT member, 19 years old)

*I want to feel comfortable while I walk down the street.
I don't go outside for men to approach me with let's greet and meet.*

*My body should always be respected by all men
The way I look should not always be why they grin.*

*I have anger that builds up inside, when men stare and glare.
Their nasty remarks are really unfair.*

*When passing a group of men my stomach starts to turn.
They ask me so many questions, and say how they feel, but my number is something you earn.*

*Most men feel they have to come at a girl
Incorrect in order to fit in.
But when it comes down to it, having respect
Shows women that YOU have respect, even within.*

*I am a strong person when it comes to men
but some things they say and do make me feel weak.*

*If only men cared, if only they could see
that being a woman is a tough job
But having respect, for us, can make the world
better for you and me.*