



Ways to Fight Back

Do you want to take action against street harassment, but not sure what to do? First, always consider your safety. If you are in a situation in which you feel unsafe at all, remove yourself from it as quickly as possible. Don't take chances if you are at all unsure.

If you feel safe enough to respond to your harasser because you are with a group of friends or family, and if you are in a place where you will not be alone with your harasser, do the following:

Name the behavior: For example, "Do not slap my butt. That is harassment."

Name the perpetrator: "You, the driver of the blue pick-up, do not stare at my breasts."

Use confident body language: Look the harasser in the eye, speak in a strong, clear voice.

Do not apologize or ask a question: Don't say, "Excuse me...", "Would you...", or "I'm sorry, but..."

Do not get into a dialogue with the harasser: Do not answer any of the harassers' questions. Simply repeat your statement or leave.

Do not swear or lose your temper: For many harassers, the goal is to get a rise out of you. Seeing you get angry or upset just encourages them to continue to harass both you and other people.

These suggestions were adapted from a flyer by the UK Anti-Street Harassment Project.

TV: Do you enjoy being part of this program, and what are you getting out of it?

Ronnett: I love the Young Women's Action Team because all of us have a lot of different ideas and we are all leaders. We have a very good group, and I get a lot out of it. I developed my leadership skills, and I can talk in front of people now. We perform, we have poetry contests, and we also have "He Say, She Say" conferences where we talk about different things that bother both genders.

TV: What made you or the other girls decide that enough was enough?

Ronnett: I think it's the fact that

it's done so much and so often. It's bad enough that grown men try to talk to us, but they are even trying to talk to little girls. That's nasty and sick, which is why we do what we do.

TV: What are people saying about your work? Do they enjoy it, or do they disagree with it?

Ronnett: Some people say that we are man-bashers, but it kind of depends on who you are talking to. We also get a lot of positive reactions because we've been on the news and in the newspapers so people understand what we are going through and most of them enjoy it.

ESCALATION OF STREET HARASSMENT



This ladder created by the Rogers Park YWAT shows how small comments can escalate to threats and violence.