Afeefah Manzoor

Professor Theana Kastens

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You’ve Been Sexually Harassed, Me Too

I remember the first time that I dealt with sexual harassment like it was yesterday. I was barely even fifteen at the time. I was terrified of my parents finding out and getting blamed for it and got into a fight with my best friend because of it. It was not even my fault for it to happen to me, I did not do anything to encourage this attention, but that is what I thought anyway. It is my fault. Being a freshman, one does not expect to be texting a classmate and then being attacked with what he would want to do to you. I remember freaking out and crying before going to class the next day and having a friend whom the same thing happen to by the same guy come with me to the security office to report it. Nothing happened to him, he stayed on the football team and made varsity the next year. Another girl and I also had a boy tell us that he was going to rape us when we were alone. Nothing happened to him either. The Me Too Movement is needed for these reasons because it gives sexual harassment and sexual assault victims a voice and feel like they are not powerless. It also gives them a support system where they do not feel like they are alone.

Me Too lets survivors feel like they have the power to speak up and their harasser or abuser will face consequences for their actions. Sexual harassment or assault for women is as high as 81% and 43% for men.[[1]](#footnote-1) With these statistics, how often does one hear a person getting charged with or face some sort of consequence dealing with sexual assault or harassment. So many women now coming forward and accusing the assailant or harasser, yet many still go unreported. About two out of three sexual go unreported.[[2]](#footnote-2) With so many sexual assaults and may more harassments going unreported. Women are now seeing more culprits dealing with some sort of consequence, such as getting called out, facing prosecution, or even going to prison for some time. These culprits getting called out on social media spreads news, making future and current employers seeing the nature of these people. Me Too has sparked many companies to do sexual harassment prevention training which is a start for change.

Many yet still go unreported. Men and women alike fear to report workplace harassment due to the fact they may face some sort of retaliation.[[3]](#footnote-3) When survivors feel like they are completely alone, they fear that they will get punished in place of the assailant or harasser, which in many cases may be a boss or someone else in a higher position. With the Me Too Movement gaining speed, law officials have made some new regulations. Such as in France, law makers have made catcalling and other forms of public harassment a punishable offence and California have passed several bills as well.[[4]](#footnote-4) California has passed the Whistleblower Bill to protect legislative staff members who have reported sexual harassment and another to extend the time limit to file sexual harassment lawsuits from one year to up to three years.[[5]](#footnote-5) This has given survivors some sort of reinsurance from society in general. Also, many women coming out against the same abuser or harasser has given another support system, such as the women who came after Harvey Weinstein, which was the headway for this movement. All these women and men coming together to support each other dismantles this feeling of loneliness that they once have felt and gives a better support system.

Before writing this paper, I forgot I was a victim of sexual harassment in several cases. I cannot forget how powerless I felt when nothing happened to those boys. This movement has given me the power I did not know I had or needed. The Me Too Movement has given many victims a sense of power and support that they need and did not know that they had before. It makes them feel like they no longer have to put up with these horrendous acts and words that are thrown their way.

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