

Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising,
Resources & Education

The word "SHARE" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. A thick, purple, curved swoosh starts under the 'S', goes under the 'H', loops around the 'A' and 'R', and ends under the 'E'.

SHARE

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

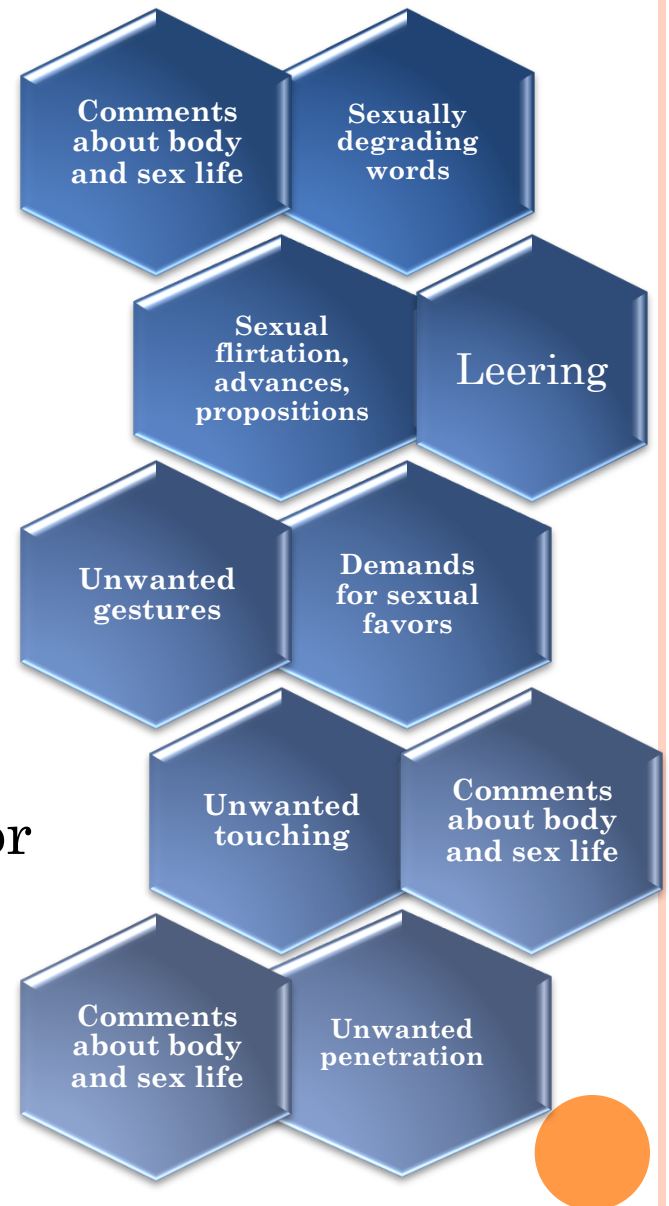
Unwelcome sexual behavior:

- Sexual advances
- Requests for sexual favors
- Other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- And/or based on one's sexual orientation or gender identity

That creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment

And impacts working, living conditions, or academic experiences

Must be severe or pervasive



SEXUAL ASSAULT

- Any form of unwanted or involuntary touching or penetration of intimate body parts, by the same or opposite sex.
- Being forced to touch someone else.
- “Unwanted or involuntary” means
 - Sexual contact without the consent of the victim, including the use of threats, intimidation, coercion, or physical force.
 - Sexual contact with those who are unable to give consent, because of their age or because they are physically helpless, mentally incapacitated, or intoxicated.



SEXUAL ASSAULT (CONT' D)

What is consent?

- ❖ Based on choice
- ❖ Active, not passive
- ❖ Possible only when there is equal power
- ❖ Given freely, not giving in because of fear
- ❖ Verbal. Legal consent is verbal, when no forms of trickery, manipulation or intimidation are in place.
- ❖ If you can not say “No” comfortably – then the “yes” has no meaning.
- ❖ The influence of drugs and / or alcohol can pre-empt a person from having the ability to give consent.

DOMESTIC/DATING VIOLENCE

- The actual or threatened physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse of an individual by someone with whom they have a current or prior intimate relationship.
- Intimate relationship:
 - Current or past partner or spouse
 - Family member
 - Someone with whom a child is shared
 - Household member or roommate (former or present)
 - Caretaker



STALKING

- Purposefully or knowingly engaging in a course of conduct (2 or more acts) directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for her/his safety or the safety of a third person or suffer other emotional distress.
- “Course of conduct” means *repeatedly* maintaining a visual or physical proximity to a person, directly or indirectly or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means.
 - Following
 - Monitoring
 - Surveilling
 - Repeated harassment
 - Observing
 - Threatening
 - Interfering with a person’s property
 - Communicating to or about a person

[Trigger warning for rape culture and discussions of rape jokes. This post originally appeared in similar form as a comment at Shakesville.]

Following is a primer for men who are interested in learning more about the practical effects of rape humor. Most of the information in this piece is, as always, generally applicable, but this has been written to be most accessible for men in keeping with the objective of the series. Additionally, this post in particular is addressed to men, not because women don't rape and women don't make/laugh at rape jokes and not because men can't be raped, but because, by nature of the existing gender disparity, men are in a unique position to be taken seriously when they raise objections to casual language and humor regarding rape. Men are also in a unique position to prove to rapists and douchebags that not all men rape or take rape lightly by being able to embody living proof of that fact.

To all those men who don't think the rape jokes are a problem:

I get it—you're a decent guy. I can even believe it. You've never raped anybody. You would NEVER rape anybody. You're upset that all these feminists are trying to accuse you of doing something, or connect you to doing something, that, as far as you're concerned, you've never done and would never condone.

And they've told you about triggers, and PTSD, and how one in six women is a survivor, and you get it. You do. But you can't let every time someone gets all upset get in the way of you having a good time, right? Especially when it doesn't mean anything. Rape jokes have never made YOU go out and rape someone. They never would; they never could. You just don't see how it matters.



I'm going to tell you how it does matter. And I tell you this because I genuinely believe you mean it when you say you don't want to hurt anybody, and that it's important to you to do your best to be a decent and good person, and that you don't see the harm. And I genuinely believe you when you say you would never associate with a rapist and you think rape really is a very bad thing.

Here is why I refuse to take rape jokes sitting down...

Because 6% of college-aged men, slightly over 1 in 20, will admit to raping someone in anonymous surveys, as long as the word "rape" isn't used in the description of the act—and that's the conservative estimate. Other sources double that number (pdf).

A lot of people accuse feminists of thinking that all men are rapists. That's not true. But do you know who think all men are rapists?

Rapists do.

They really do. In psychological study, the profiling, the studies, it comes out again and again.

Virtually all rapists genuinely believe that all men rape, and other men just keep it hushed up better. And more, these people who really are rapists are constantly reaffirmed in their belief about the rest of mankind being rapists like them by things like rape jokes, that dismiss and normalize the idea of rape.

If one in twenty guys (or more) is a real and true rapist, and you have any amount of social activity with other guys like yourself, then it is almost a statistical certainty that one time hanging out with friends and their friends, playing Halo with a bunch of guys online, in a WoW guild, in a pick-up game of basketball, at a bar, or elsewhere, you were talking to a rapist. Not your fault. You can't tell a rapist apart any better than anyone else can. It's not like they announce themselves.

But, here's the thing. It's very likely that in some of these interactions with these guys, at some point or another, someone told a rape joke. You, decent guy that you are, understood that they didn't mean it, and it was just a joke. And so you laughed.

Or maybe you didn't laugh. Maybe it just wasn't a very funny joke. So maybe you just didn't say anything at all.



And, decent guy who would never condone rape, who would step in and stop rape if he saw it, who understands that rape is awful and wrong and bad, when you laughed? When you were silent?

That rapist who was in the group with you, that rapist thought that you were on his side. That rapist knew that you were a rapist like him. And he felt validated, and he felt he was among his comrades.

You. The rapist's comrade.

And if that doesn't make you feel sick to your stomach, if that doesn't make you want to throw up, if that doesn't disturb you or bother you or make you feel like maybe you should at least consider not participating in that kind of humor anymore, not abiding it in your presence, not greeting it with silence...

Well, maybe you aren't as opposed to rapists as you claim.

Note: A quick and simple rule for language and behavior if you want to be a decent person: Ask yourself, who is more likely to be made to feel comfortable around me based on whatever I'm about to say/do? Rape survivors? Or rapists? Who is more likely to be made to feel uncomfortable? If you're doing something that is more likely to make rapists feel comfortable and/or rape survivors feel uncomfortable, then don't do it!

