

Your voice.



Your view.

Myths, Misconceptions and Facts

ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Myths and Misconceptions

Facts

If females watched the way they dressed, there would not be problems with sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment can happen to anyone, no matter how they dress. It typically has far more to do with power than with sexual attractiveness or appearance. A particular way of dressing is not permission to touch or otherwise harass.

Sexual harassment is harmless. Persons who object have no sense of humor or don't know how to accept a compliment.

Harassment is humiliating and often frightening. It can undermine careers and economic livelihoods, and affect the learning climate for students. No one should have to endure humiliation with a smile.

If a person would just say "No," or ignore it, the sexual harassment would stop.

Although saying "No" does work occasionally, many men and boys still believe that women and girls who say "No" really mean "Yes," and that they like the behavior. Thus males may justify continued harassment and ignore any protests from females. The lack of response is seen as approval or encouragement. Studies show that in most cases when harassment is ignored it continues and often gets worse.

Nice people could not possibly be harassers.

Harassers typically are not perverts and generally do not fit any particular mold. They come in all forms, including well-liked, talented, respected professionals, as well as popular, active students.

Girls usually like it when guys make sexual comments to them.

Girls usually do not like sexual comments from guys. Most girls report that the comments make them embarrassed or uncomfortable. Comments that many guys think are compliments may actually be sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is no big deal-it's the natural way males and females express affection and friendship with each other.

Unwanted sexual innuendoes, grabbing, and lewd comments are not expressions of affection or friendship but rather expressions of power, a need to control and in some instances, hostility toward women. Truly friendly behavior is not hurtful.

Most guys are not bothered when they hear sexually degrading comments or jokes about women.

Most guys say they are uncomfortable and do not like it when they hear sexually degrading jokes or comments about girls and women.