



What is Sexual Violence, Assault and Harassment?

What is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence is any unwanted (non-consensual) sexual act or activity. There are many different kinds of sexual violence that exist including but not restricted to: **rape, sexual assault**, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, coercion, **gaslighting**, rape and assault within marriage / relationships, female genital mutilation, trafficking and sexual exploitation, forced marriage and so-called honour-based violence and ritual abuse, which can also be forms of domestic violence. Sexual violence can be psychological and/or physical.

Consenting to a sexual act or activity involves agreeing by choice and having the freedom and capacity to make that choice.

A person is free to make a choice if nothing bad would happen to them if they said no.

Capacity is about whether someone is physically and/or mentally able to make a choice and to understand the consequences of that choice.

What is Sexual Assault?

A person commits sexual assault if they intentionally touch another person, the touching is sexual and the person does not consent.

It involves all unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature and ranges from pinching, embracing, groping and kissing, to rape and sexual assault which involves penetration without consent.

Sexual assault is a criminal offence.

What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome words, conduct, or behaviour of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, embarrassing, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the recipient.

A single incident or persistent behaviour can amount to harassment.

Sexual harassment can range from behaviour that seems obvious to anyone or subtler behaviour less obvious to either the person responsible for the behaviour or to the recipient. Often the impact is not felt or witnessed immediately. The impact may go beyond the recipient to people who see or hear what happens or who try to offer support.

Sexual harassment may include but is not restricted to the following, even if the harasser perceives these behaviours as harmless and well-intentioned:

- unwanted physical conduct including touching, caressing/stroking, pinching, pushing, grabbing;
- unwelcome sexual advances or suggestive behaviour, either physical or verbal (including written);
- any of the above behaviours that continue despite it being made clear that they are unwelcome, including repeated suggestions for social activity, asking someone out, etc.

Sexual harassment does not necessarily occur face to face and can be in the form of emails, visual images (such as sexually explicit pictures on walls in a shared environment), social media, telephone, text messages and image based sexual abuse such as revenge porn and upskirting.

How will RADA investigate and support you?

If you report any of the above, then RADA will investigate as per the relevant policy as these would be considered as breach of the Respect at RADA Policy.

We look at cases either via [student non-academic misconduct](#) (student/student) or [complaints policy](#) (student/staff).

Support Available

At RADA

Contact wellbeing team and/or use [Report a Concern](#) to let us know what has happened we can then offer you support and explain internal disciplinary processes if needed as well as helping you get external support.

External

Report to A & E, in person or call 999 and request an ambulance.

Report to Police, Call 999 in an emergency

Alternatively, call police non-emergency number 101 or attend any local Police station