

Sexual Harassment Myths & Facts

Read the statements and then put a check mark in either the fact or the myth column.

	Fact	Myth
1. After being sexually harassed, people can feel angry and frustrated.		
2. The person who has been sexually harassed must have done something wrong.		
3. Sexual assault is a private subject, and we should mind our own business.		
4. If a girl touches another girl's breast without permission, it is not proper and is sexual harassment.		
5. Online sexual harassment can often happen in chat rooms, emails, games, etc.		
6. Sexual harassment usually happens with a trusted person rather than a stranger.		

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Answer Key

	Fact	Myth
1. After being sexually harassed, people can feel angry and frustrated.	✓	
People can have a wide range of reactions after experiencing sexual assault. Feeling anger and frustration is among them. Other feelings one might have include shock, loss of control, fear, self-blame, and distrust. It is important for the survivor of sexual harassment to know that what they are feeling is okay.		
2. The person who has been sexually harassed must have done something wrong.		✓
FACT: Nobody deserves to be sexually harassed. Nobody asks to be harassed. And nobody has an excuse to sexually harass others. Sexual harassment is always wrong.		
3. Sexual assault is a private subject, and we should mind our own business.		✓
FACT: If we stay silent, we actually choose the side of those who harm others. If you see something or hear something, say something and try to help. For instance, protect the person by telling trusted adults.		
4. If a girl touches another girl's breast without permission, it is not proper and is sexual harassment.	✓	
Touching someone's breast without permission is not okay. Even if two people are in a relationship or dating, you need permission to touch someone.		
5. Online sexual harassment can often happen in chat rooms, emails, and games.	✓	
Online sexual harassment can take place in various forms, including chat rooms, emails, and games. Online sexual harassment can be sharing sexual images or videos, spreading gossip, rumours or lies about sexual behaviour, or making sexual comments. If you experience these things, it can help to speak to a safe adult (school counsellor, teacher, parent/caregiver or family member) and report the person to the company whose platform the abuse happened on.		
6. Sexual harassment or assault usually happens with a someone you know rather than a stranger.	✓	
According to <i>Self-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014</i> , the offenders were more often a friend, acquaintance or neighbour.		