



Let's end this. Now.

Sexual Violence Prevention Campaign

The Language we use Around Sexual Violence: A Glossary

Sexual Violence: Physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or when a person is incapable of giving consent (for example, due to the person's age, use of drugs or alcohol, or disability, intellectual or other, which prevents the person from having the capacity to give consent). A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence can be carried out by school employees, fellow students, students from other schools, or third parties. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment (Ithaca College).

Sexual Harassment: Any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that occurs in the workplace. Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination and violates both [Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act](#) as well as State discrimination laws (The University of New Mexico).

Sexual Assault: Any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient (Department of Justice).

Consent: When someone agrees, gives permission, or says "yes" to sexual activity with other persons. Consent is always freely given and all people in a sexual situation must feel that they are able to say "yes" or "no" or stop the sexual activity at any point (Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center).

Dating Violence: Violence or the threat of violence committed by any person who is or has been in a relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship will be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interactions between the persons involved in the relationship (Indiana University).

Hostile Environment: Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, creates a hostile environment for a student when the conduct is sufficiently serious to limit or deny a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's educational program (Department of Justice).

Title IX: Essentially, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding (the vast majority of schools). While Title IX is a very short statute, Supreme Court decisions and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education have given it a broad scope, covering sexual harassment and sexual violence. Under Title IX, schools are legally required to respond and remedy hostile educational environments and failure to do so is a violation that means a school could risk losing its federal funding (Know Your Title IX).

Domestic Violence: Crime of violence committed by former spouse, cohabiting partner, or someone with whom you share a child (Know Your Title IX).