

I am a Woman... getting out of my house.... What is my Right, if I feel Sexually Harassed?

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I read following in a web portal:

Roseanne Barr, an American actress, writer and media personality said, "The thing women have yet to learn is nobody gives you power. You just take it."

The power is nothing but the RIGHT to rise against..... In this blog, we will discuss, what a woman (of any age), can exercise her rights, when she faces Sexual Harassment, specifically outside her house....

If you feel any harassment (or crime) on you, at your home or at any public place, she can complain to Law Enforcement Agencies directly or reach out to any Women's Forum or Commission.

Major Crimes against Women as per the Indian Penal Code

1. Domestic Violence (at home)
2. Dowry deaths (a domestic crime)
3. Honor Killing (domestic crime)
4. Eve Teasing (common public place harassment)
5. Chain Snatching (common public place crime)
6. Stalking (common public place crime)
7. Acid attacks (common public place crime)
8. Outraging modesty of a woman (common public place crime)
9. Cyber crime
10. Women trafficking
11. Rape
12. Kidnapping

The specific one – SEXUAL HARASSMENT - is covered under IPC as well as Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act.

2 things a Women shall know

- (1) What is Sexual Harassment?
- (2) What to do if she (the woman) is subjected to Sexual Harassment?

Definition of Sexual Harassment







“Sexual harassment” includes any one or more of the following unwelcome acts or behavior (whether directly or by implication) namely:—

- (i) physical contact and advances; or
- (ii) a demand or request for sexual favours; or
- (iii) making sexually coloured remarks; or
- (iv) showing pornography; or
- (v) any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature;

Where a Woman feels sexually harassed, she can make a complaint and there is no need to think what the Harasser’s intention – whether GOOD or BAD

What to do, in case of such sexual harassment?

1. **Aggrieved women can go to Police and file a case as per the following sections**

Section 509		06	Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman (Bailable and punishable with Simple imprisonment for 3 years + Fine, if proved)
Section 354d		05	Stalking (Bailable & punishable upto 3 years + Fine for first conviction, if proved –and Non-bailable and punishable upto 5 years + Fine for second or subsequent conviction, if proved)
Section 354C		04	Voyeurism (Bailable & punishable 1 to 3 years + Fine for first conviction, if proved and Non-bailable & punishable 3 to 7 years + Fine for second or subsequent conviction, if proved)
Section 354B		03	Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe (Non-Bailable and punishable 3 to 7 years + Fine, if proved)
Section 354A		02	Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment (Bailable and punishable 1 to 3 years + Fine, if proved)
Section 354		01	Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty (Non-bailable and punishable 1 to 5 years, if proved)

2. If the Sexual Harassment is at any “Workplace”, she can go to police and / or, make a complaint to the “Internal Committee” available in such workplace. Otherwise she can make a complaint to (a) Women’s forum (b) Women and Child department of the area (c) or if you are a working women, you can write a complaint in <http://www.shebox.nic.in/>

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