

### What is Sexual Harassment and what constitutes it?

Sexual harassment is bullying or coercion of a sexual nature, or the unwelcome or inappropriate promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favors. In most modern legal contexts, sexual harassment is illegal. Src: Wikipedia



# Circumstances defining who is affected by sexual

harassment in the work place, may occur are as follows but not limited to:



Victims and harassers may be either a man or woman

The harasser can be a supervisor, an agent of the employer, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or a non-employee such as a client

Sexual harassment may come in many forms including through notes and email

The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome

Unlawful sexual harassment may occur without economic injury to or discharge of the victim.

The victim can be any person affected by the offensive conduct.

#### Examples of sexual harassment include:



Sharing sexually inappropriate images or videos, such as pornography, with co-workers

Sending suggestive letters, notes, or e-mails

Displaying inappropriate sexual images or posters in the workplace

Telling lewd jokes, or sharing sexual anecdotes

Making inappropriate sexual gestures

Staring in a sexually suggestive or offensive manner, or whistling

Making sexual comments about appearance, clothing, or body parts

Inappropriate touching, including pinching, patting, rubbing, or purposefully brushing up against another person

Asking sexual questions, such as questions about someone's sexual history or their sexual orientation

Making offensive comments about someone's sexual orientation or gender identity



### The Costs of Sexual Harassment



#### **Emotional Well-Being**

Sexual harassment can jeopardize the victim's emotional and mental health, and lead to the loss of self-esteem. Sexual harassment in the workplace can cause significant stress and anxiety, long-term clinical depression, even causing employment termination.



Global Consequences Sexual harassment has a direct effect on employers and the global economy. Millions of dollars are lost yearly due to issues stemming from sexual harassment, including legal costs.

## Prevention

tips for employers. Employers have an obligation to prevent sexual harassment from occurring in the workplace.

#### Create and communicate a clear anti-harassment policy

Conduct sexual harassment training and retraining for everyonemake it mandatory

Ensure managers and supervisors understand their obligation to maintain zero tolerance

Monitor emails and other electronic communications to scan for harassing content

Ensure employees know their options if they find themselves in such a situation

Clearly define the process to submit a complaint Define clear consequences for such behavior

Cultivate a culture where sexual harassment is not welcome or tolerated

Have a clear process for investigating any complaint of harassment

Take every complaint seriously

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