

## Respecting instead of Indulging – More Respect Less Harm! Preventing On-Campus Sexual Harassment

The *Sexual Harassment Prevention Act* has been publicized on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2005, and taken effect from February 5<sup>th</sup> 2006!

The *NDHU Guidelines for Preventing and Handling On-Campus Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment* (please see *Students' Handbook* for details).

※ Quick Reminder: The recognition of sexual harassment relies crucially on the will of the victim. Since individual feeling varies, when you have doubt about whether or not you have offended someone, do inquire for her/his opinion to avoid breaking the law or resulting in unnecessary tension even misunderstanding.

### 1. Definition of Sexual Harassment

Any situation conforming to the following description but not yet regarded as “Sexual Assault”: words and deeds expressing sexual implication, depreciation, or discrimination, or making other people feel disrespected, sexually unacceptable and/or discriminated both directly and indirectly through languages, behaviors, drawings, or other ways of communication other people understand and affect other people’s moral integrity, self-esteem, learning/working performances as well as opportunities.

### 2. Frequently Seen Doubts

Q1: Sexual harassment is not that serious, is it?

**You’re wrong!** According to related investigations, over 50% of the female have encountered different extent of sexual harassment while studying, working, or simply walking into a public space. All the above mentioned sexual harassment cause different degrees of injuries, our society, however, have been neglecting the seriousness of it.

Q2: If I don’t like to listen to blue jokes, does it mean that I don’t have any sense of humor?

**You’re wrong!** The sense of humor is not necessarily shown through blue jokes. As a matter of fact, you can tell blue jokes as long as they don’t make other people feel uncomfortable or restless. Once you cross that line, your behavior will be seen as sexual harassment.

Q3: Only those who behave or dress inappropriately will be sexually harassed?

**You’re wrong!** According to related investigations, there are no age or appearance similarities among victims. Generally speaking, the behaviors and clothing of the victims have nothing to do with sexual harassment. As a result, being sexually harassed is not the

victim's fault. In other words, the victims are not to be blamed!

Q4: I did nothing but touched you – why make a fuss?

**You're wrong!** Once your behavior violates other people's will, or makes them feel uncomfortable, you have broken related law and order, because the behavior involves not only you, but also the right of other people to act on their own in terms of their bodies. The mindset behind Q4 happens to exhibit your disrespect for other people (especially for the female).

Q5: I just keep showing my good feeling or love, why call it sexual harassment?

**You're wrong!** You may feel that you just want to express your love or admiration, but if that other person feels uncomfortable or unpleasant, your behavior can be regarded as sexual harassment. Therefore, we can conclude that 'Unacceptable Pursuit' is a type of sexual harassment.

Q6: They're OK with being harassed, aren't they? Otherwise, why don't they just speak up??

**You're wrong!** No one likes to be sexually harassed. The female choose not to say a word about being harassed is usually because they have a lot of concerns. They might be, for example, worried about things like 'Are people going to trust me?' or 'Am I going to lose my grade or my job?' even being accused of 'Misconduct'.

Q7: Complaints about sexual harassment are mostly made to revenge?

**You're wrong!** The pressure is already immense for the victim to talk about her/his sexual harassment, let alone there are legal prosecutions waiting for false accusations. Therefore, it is highly unlikely for someone to lie about being sexually harassed.

### 3. What to Do?

#### (1) What can I do when being sexually harassed?

- A. You can speak firmly and loudly something like 'No!', 'what are you doing!?', 'You pervert!' to ascertain as well as express your feeling. When you feel sexually harassed, no matter how trifling it may feel, stop what that person is doing to you immediately as long as you feel uncomfortable.
- B. You can leave the scene.
- C. You can try to fight back with your umbrella or bags if that person doesn't give up,

#### (2) What can I do after leaving the scene?

- A. You can speak of it: Telling someone the incident and your feeling will help you release you from the emotion, clarify difficult points if any, obtain related

information, and develop follow-up strategies for fighting against sexual harassment in a more effective way. Your colleagues, teachers, counselors are the people you can talk to.

B. You can inform related personnel or organizations, such as the police, university military instructors, counselors, etc., after you have secured your own safety if that person was a stranger, and you feel the situation then was not safe enough. The information you provide should contain the time, the location, and any distinct feature of that person so that the authority can make a pursuit or public announcement more effectively as well as efficiently.

(3) Dos & don'ts when encountering an "Exhibitionist" (a.k.a. "Flasher")!

A. Don't panic, don't scream, and don't show any sign of fear on your face. Since flashers normally satisfy themselves sexually or control-wise through the fear of their victims, your behavior of fear might intensify the "exposure".

B. Do stay calm. You can even laugh at the flasher.

C. Do report to the police or the university.

#### 4. Who can I turn to for help?

The official NDHU office dealing with sexual assault or harassment is the Campus Safety Center at the Office of Student Affairs. You can also find help from the following places.

(1) Psychological Counseling Center: 863-2270 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, West Community House) providing consultation on sexual assault and sexual harassment, psychological consultation as well.

(2) NDHU Military Instructors: 863-2995

(3) Class advisors, schoolmates, and classmates

(4) Dorm wardens

(5) Building securities

(6) Police stations

(7) County-level or municipal "Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention" centers all provide service including answering to "113 – The National Women & Child Protection Line", receiving as well as reporting domestic violence and sexual assault cases, helping with matters related to reporting a case, medical diagnosis, medical examination, emergency, urgent shelter, legal counseling, and psychological counseling, and so on.

(8) Hualien County Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: 03-822-8995 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, No. 12, Wenyuan Road, Hualien City)

(9) Sexual Assault & Harassment Counseling Mailbox: [help113@mail.ndhu.edu.tw](mailto:help113@mail.ndhu.edu.tw)

#### 5. Supplementary Materials

Gender Equity Education Act (May 26<sup>th</sup> 2010)

[http://law.moj.gov.tw/LawClass/LawOldVer\\_Vaild.aspx?PCODE=H0080067](http://law.moj.gov.tw/LawClass/LawOldVer_Vaild.aspx?PCODE=H0080067)

Source: Laws & Regulation Database of the Republic of China