

<http://itsonus.org/>

THE PLEDGE

This pledge is a personal commitment to help keep women and men safe from sexual assault.

It is a promise not to be a bystander to the problem, but to be a part of the solution.

To RECOGNIZE that non-consensual sex is sexual assault.

To IDENTIFY situations in which sexual assault may occur.

To INTERVENE in situations where consent has not or cannot be given.

To CREATE an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

White House Launches "It's On Us"

(September 19, 2014) -- President Obama today launched *It's On Us*, a campaign to reduce rape on college campuses. The president, along with Vice President Joseph Biden, called on students to sign a pledge to commit to helping keep their friends safe.

To survivors of campus sexual assault, President Obama said, "It's not on you; this is not your fight alone. This is on all of us, every one one of us, to fight campus sexual assault. You are not alone, and we have your back."

RAINN is an original partner on the campaign, along with media companies such as USA Network, Viacom and Electronic Arts, and athletic organizations such as the NCAA and Big Ten. Scott Berkowitz, RAINN's president, and Jennifer Marsh, RAINN's vice president for victims services, joined Administration officials for the launch event at the White House.

"One of the most effective ways to prevent rape is to mobilize men and women on campus to join together in stopping perpetrators before they can commit a crime. RAINN has joined the *It's On Us* campaign as a partner to help bring attention to the important role that students play in keeping their friends safe and in preventing rape on campus," said Berkowitz.

Those who are college-aged face a higher risk of sexual assault than other age groups. It's On Us hopes to educate college students that they have a role to play in keeping their peers safe, as well to encourage them to intervene when situations call for it.

Among the advice that RAINN offers college students: If you see a situation that doesn't feel right, find a non-confrontational way to step in. Try redirecting the conversation, or suggesting your friend join you outside.

College men and women are also key in lending support to peers who have been impacted by rape or sexual assault. "We need to make sure that if someone's friend is sexually assaulted, students know how to support him or her, and ensure that they have access to the help they deserve through the National Sexual Assault Hotline and local resources," said Berkowitz.

It's On Us is a project of [Generation Progress](#) with support from Mekanism, the PVBLC Foundation and the White House.

Ready to take action? Here are [5 ways](#) to get involved. Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag [#ItsOnUs](#)

If a friend is in crisis, let them know about the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE and [online.rainn.org](#)). They can talk anonymously with someone who understands what they are going through and can help.

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) 2009, is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization and was named one of "America's 100 Best Charities" by Worth magazine. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE and [online.rainn.org](#)) in partnership with more than 1,000 local rape crisis centers across the country and operates the DoD Safe Helpline for the Department of Defense. The hotlines have helped more than two million people since 1994. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice.

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 1.800.656.HOPE(4673) | Free. Confidential. 24/7.

<https://rainn.org/>

Sexual Harassment

Rainn

You should be able to feel comfortable in your place of work or learning. If you are being sexually harassed, you can report it to the authorities at your job, school, or local law enforcement.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature in the workplace or learning environment, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ([EEOC](#)). Sexual harassment does not always have to be specifically about sexual behavior or directed at a specific person. For example, negative comments about women as a group may be a form of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment interferes with your performance by threatening your job security or becoming an obstacle to effective work.

Although sexual harassment laws do not usually cover teasing or offhand comments, these behaviors can also be upsetting and have a negative emotional impact.

What does sexual harassment look like?

Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of circumstances. The harasser can identify with any gender and have any relationship to the victim, including a being a direct manager, indirect supervisor, co-worker, teacher, peer, or colleague.

Some forms of sexual harassment include:

- Unwelcome sexual advances
- Requests for sexual favors
- Unwanted touching or physical contact
- Verbal harassment of a sexual nature
- Physical acts of sexual assault
- Making conditions of employment dependent on sexual favors

Where can sexual harassment occur?

Sexual harassment can occur in the workplace or learning environment, like a school or university. It can happen in many different scenarios, including after-hours conversations, exchanges in the hallways, and non-office settings of employees or peers.

Where can I learn more about sexual harassment?

Visit the [EEOC](#) to learn more about sexual harassment laws. If you are a minor, you can learn more at [Youth at Work](#), EEOC's website for youth in the workforce.

Street Harassment

You might also encounter sexually harassing behaviors outside work or school. People experience catcalling, [being followed](#), sexual advances, groping or fondling, others exposing themselves, and many other unwelcome or threatening behaviors on the street or in public settings. The laws about these behaviors vary from state to state. You can find out more about this issues from your [local sexual assault service provider](#) or local law enforcement.

Related:

- [Sexual Exploitation by Helping Professionals](#)
- [Sexual Assault](#)
- [Stalking](#)

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