



Sexual Harassment Information for Teens

What is it?

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual behavior. It may take different forms, including:

- Physical contact, like grabbing, pinching, touching your breast or butt or other body parts, or kissing you against your will;
- Sexual comments, like name-calling, starting rumors about you, making sexual jokes at your expense, or making sexual gestures at or about you;
- Sexual propositions, like asking you for sex or repeatedly asking you out on a date;
- Unwanted communication, like phone calls, letters, or e-mails. These can be mean, nasty, or threatening, or they can seem flattering or nice but still make you uncomfortable.

These are only examples; there may be other forms of behavior that are not listed here but still can be considered sexual harassment.

Both the harasser and the victim can be either male or female, and they do not have to be the opposite sex. The harasser can be another teenager or an adult.

Get Help!

Tell the person harassing you that their behavior makes you uncomfortable and you want them to stop.

- You can do this face-to-face or in writing. In some cases, this will be enough to stop the behavior. If you don't feel comfortable doing this by yourself, just skip this step and begin with the next one.
- If the person doesn't stop when you ask them to, please tell an adult - Your Local Coordinator, Teacher, or call CIEE and speak to someone in the Support Team.
- If this happens at school report the harassment to the appropriate person in your school, and/or tell a host parent.
- Be persistent. If the first person you tell doesn't take you seriously, keep telling someone in authority until something is done about it.
- If you feel in immediate danger, contact the police.
- For help 24 hours a day, contact CIEE's Support Team at 1-800-448-9944.