

# What is Sexual Violence?

What You Need to Know at George Brown College

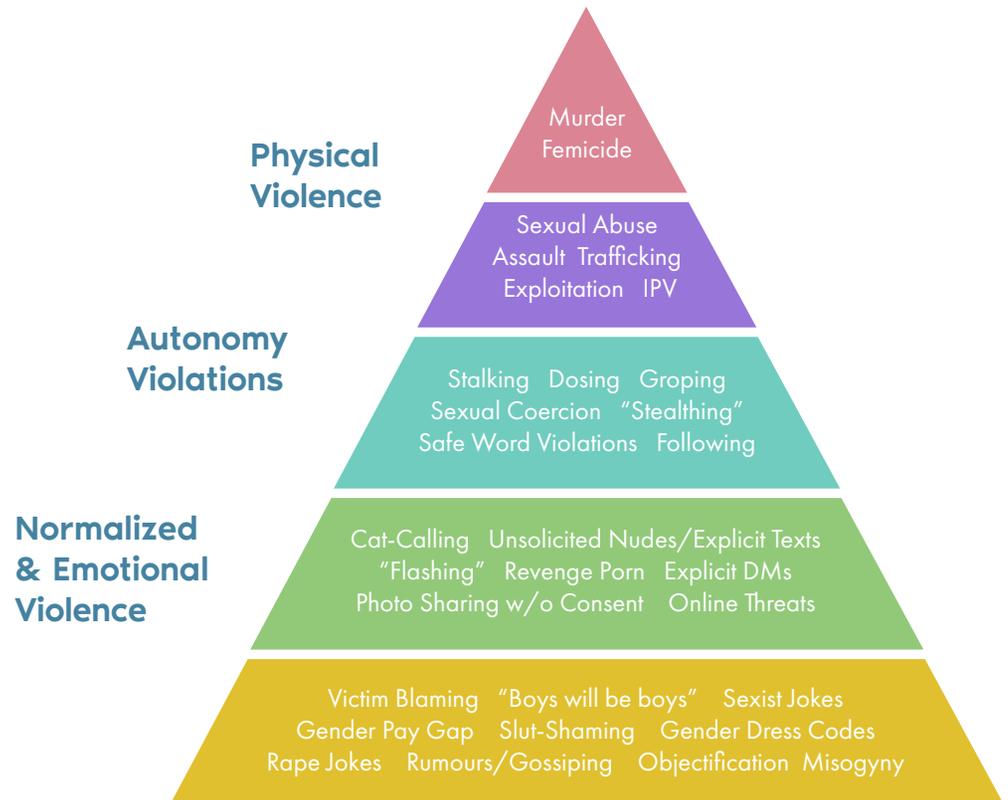


## Policy Statement

Sexual violence in all forms will not be tolerated at George Brown College. Sexual violence is an abuse of power and impacts all members of the George Brown community. Sexual violence is rooted and propped up by various forms of oppression, such as inequality, rape culture, misogyny, colonialism, racism, including anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and ableism.

## Sexual Violence & Consent Culture

Sexual violence takes many forms and can occur at different levels. The top of the pyramid is a result of all the layers that come below it.



**Racism Sexism Ableism Trans/Homophobia  
Patriarchy White Supremacy  
Capitalism Colonialism**



# What is Sexual Violence?

An umbrella term that covers **any sexual act or acts targeting a person's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression**, whether the act is online, physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person's consent.

## What is Sexual Harassment?

Engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct against a person because of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, where the course of comment or conduct is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome. In some circumstances, a single incident, if serious, can constitute harassment.

## What is the Difference between a Bystander and an Upstander?

A bystander is an individual who observes or witnesses an incident of sexual violence and has the opportunity to either condone, intervene, or do nothing. An upstander is a bystander who recognizes the sexual violence and takes a stand by interrupting and challenging the situation

## It's Important to Remember

Sexual harassment and gender and sexual-based violence can take many forms. Sexual Violence can be:

- Verbal, or
- Non-Verbal
- Physical, or
- Written Material
- Can Occur Online

## Creating a Culture of Consent

We can all help create a culture of consent. We can:

- Educate ourselves on consent, consent culture, gender-based and sexual violence
- Intervene when we see incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence
- Start having conversations about consent with family and friends

## Contact Information

Office of Anti-Racism, Equity & Human Rights Services (OAREHRS)  
[www.georgebrown.ca/OAREHRS](http://www.georgebrown.ca/OAREHRS)  
[diversity@georgebrown.ca](mailto:diversity@georgebrown.ca)

Sexual & Gender-Based Violence Response Team Contact:  
416-415-5000 ext. 3450  
[svra@georgebrown.ca](mailto:svra@georgebrown.ca)

## Resources

Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario Legal Support:  
416-597-4900 or  
1-866-625-5179

### General 24/7 Resources

211 Crisis Intervention:  
Call "211" anywhere in Ontario or visit  
[211central.ca](http://211central.ca) or [211ontario.ca](http://211ontario.ca)

Distress Centre:  
Over-the-phone counselling for people experiencing suicidality or emotional distress.  
416-408-4357

Good2Talk Post-Secondary Student Help Line:  
1-866-925-5454  
[good2talk.ca](http://good2talk.ca)

Victim Services Toronto:  
416-808-7066  
[victimservicestoronto.com/contact](http://victimservicestoronto.com/contact)

### SV-Specific 24/7 Resources

Assaulted Women's Help Line:  
416-863-0511, #7233  
TTY 1-866-863-7868  
[awhl.org](http://awhl.org)

Toronto Rape Crisis Centre:  
416-597-8808  
[trccmwar.ca](http://trccmwar.ca)

Sexual Assault Line York Region:  
905-895-7313 or 1-800-263-6734  
[womensupportnetwork.ca](http://womensupportnetwork.ca)

Rape Crisis Centre of Peel:  
905-792-0821 or 1-800-810-0180  
[hope247.ca](http://hope247.ca)

Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse:  
1-866-887-0015

WCH SA/DV Care Centre:  
416-323-6040  
[womenscollegehospital.ca/care-programs/sexual-assault-domestic-violence-care-centre-sa-dccc](http://womenscollegehospital.ca/care-programs/sexual-assault-domestic-violence-care-centre-sa-dccc)

