

# FIGHT HARASSMENT 101

## Ways to handle harasser

1. Use strong body language. Look the harasser in the eyes; speak in a strong, clear voice. Using your voice, facial expressions, and body language together, without mixed signals, show assertiveness and strength.
2. Project confidence and calm. Even if you do not feel that way, it is important to appear calm, serious, and confident.
3. Do not apologize, make an excuse, or ask a question. You do not need to say sorry for how you feel or what you want. Be firm.
4. You do not need to respond to diversions, questions, threats, blaming, or guilt-tripping. Stay on your own agenda. Stick to your point. Repeat your statement or leave.
5. Do not swear or lose your temper: This type of reaction is the most likely to make the harasser respond with anger and violence.
6. Decide when you're done. Success is how you define it. If you said what you needed to say and you're ready to leave, do so.

## Things you can say to harasser

- Ask them if they would want their mother, sister, daughter, wife treated like they are treating you.
- Make an all-purpose anti-harassment statement, such as: "Stop harassing women. I don't like it. No one likes it. Show some respect." Speak it in a neutral but assertive tone.
- Identify the perpetrator: "Man in the yellow shirt, stop touching me." (This is especially useful if other people are nearby, like on a bus).
- Attack the behavior, not the person. Tell them what they are doing that you do not like ("You are standing too close") rather than blaming them as a person ("You are such a jerk").
- If the harasser is in a car, write down the license plate of the car. Even if you can't see it, pretending to write it down can scare the perpetrator into stopping. If the harassers are aggressive or threatening and you do write down the license plate number, you can report them to the police.

## What is harassment?

Harassment = Unwelcome words and actions by unknown persons in public which are motivated by gender and invade a person's physical and emotional space in a disrespectful, creepy, startling, scary, or insulting way.

## Statistics

Most women (more than 80% worldwide) will face gender-based street harassment at some point in their life. Street harassment limits people's mobility and access to public spaces. It is a form of gender violence and it's a human rights violation. It needs to stop.

## Other Resources

Legal aid, psychological counseling and other services can be accessed by contacting the New Woman Research Center and the 16 member NGO task force at 33464901

## Report Harassment



**You can also file a police report at a police station if you have enough information on your perpetrator**

\*Information obtained from [harassmap.org](http://harassmap.org) (Arabic also) and [stopstreetharassment.org](http://stopstreetharassment.org)