

CCASA Definitions

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is an umbrella term that refers to non-consensual behaviors that is committed against someone without their consent or through the use of threats, force, or coercion. These behaviors can include, but are not limited to, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, indecent exposure, sexual exploitation, and sex trafficking.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is any unwanted comment, gesture, action, or behavior of a sexual or gender-related nature that makes the recipient feel embarrassed, degraded, uncomfortable, or unsafe. This can include, but is not limited to, unwanted attention to someone's appearance, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or sexual activity, as well as unwanted touches to a person's body.

Sexual harassment can be experienced by anyone, anywhere. It can be verbal, physical, written, or visual.

Child Sexual Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse is when an adult or older teen:

- Looks at or touches the private parts of a child's body
- Asks a child to look at or touch their private parts
- Shows a child sexual images
- Speaks to a child using sexual language

A child is someone under the age of 18. Though there are close-in-age exemptions when it comes to those under the age of 18 participating in sexual activity.

Age of Consent in Canada is 16, with several close-in-age considerations:

- Individuals under the age of 12 cannot consent to sexual activity.
- Individuals aged 12 and 13 may consent to sexual activity with someone who is less than two years older.
- Individuals aged 14 and 15 may consent to sexual activity with someone who is less than five years older.
- Individuals under 18 years old cannot consent to any sexual activity that is:
 - Exploitative in nature, such as pornography or prostitution;
 - With someone who is in a position of power.

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation refers to the abuse or attempted abuse of position(s) of power or trust for sexual purposes. This can include financial, social, or political gain through the sexual exploitation of another person.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation refers to abuse or attempted abuse of position(s) of power or trust for sexual purposes over someone who is under the age of 18. This can include financial, social or political gain through the sexual exploitation of a youth or child.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is involuntarily recruiting, moving or holding individuals to exploit them for profit. Often individuals are controlled using force, threats, coercion or manipulation. Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking in which the individual is sexually exploited for profit

Consent

Consent is a voluntary agreement. Aspects of consent include:

- Consent is **ongoing** and **activity specific**.
- Communicated **verbally** and **non-verbally**.
- Cannot be given by someone other than the individual themselves.
- **Cannot be given** by someone who is **incapacitated/unconscious**.
- Consent can be **invalidated** in cases where one party occupies a position of power, authority or trust.

Consent is:

- **Freely Given**
- **Reversible**
- **Informed**
- **Enthusiastic**
- **Specific**

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- Individuals under 18 years old cannot consent to any sexual activity that is:
 - Exploitative in nature, such as pornography or prostitution;
 - With someone who is in a position of power.
 - With someone on whom they are dependent on.

Coercion

Coercion is the use of pressure, threats or emotional manipulation to get someone to do something that they do not want to do. Coercion can be used in sexual acts, sexual image sharing, and more. Consent does not exist under coercion, meaning if someone gives 'consent' but coercion was used to gain the consent, then the consent is invalid. Coercion is commonly used in sexual violence.

Examples of coercion include:

- Pressuring and Badgering
- Threats and Intimidations
- Emotional Manipulation and 'Guilt-Tripping'

Rape Culture

Rape culture is defined as a societal view or environment in which sexual violence and abuse are normalized, often played down, laughed off or excused.

Examples can include:

- 'Locker Room talk' being used as an excuse for inappropriate sexualized discussions between athletes.
- 'Boys will be boys' being used as an excuse for inappropriate sexualized behaviour done by boys and men.
- 'She was asking for it' being used to justify an act of sexual violence

Person First Language

Person First Language acknowledges the person first, above their experience and labels that often accompany that experience (and are often harmful). It involves using neutral language when discussing someone impacted by sexual violence and their experience.

Some common terms used when talking about someone who has experienced sexual violence are 'victim' or 'survivor'. While those terms may resonate with someone who has experienced

sexual violence, they also may not. Some may find these terms harmful if they do not identify with being a victim or a survivor.

Some common terms used when talking about someone who has chosen to commit an act of sexual violence are 'perpetrator', 'offender' or 'rapist'. While those terms may resonate with someone who has experienced sexual violence, they also may not. Those terms may feel harmful for someone who does not view the person who caused them harm as a perpetrator, offender or rapist.

These terms may or may not resonate with someone for a variety of reasons. Though regardless of the reasons, person first language helps to dismantle labels and assumptions and allows an individual to define their experience for themselves. This can help provide some feelings of power and control following an experience of sexual violence

Non-Consensual Photo Sharing

The sharing of an intimate photo or video without the consent of the individual(s) in the photo or video. This includes photos or videos that have been consensually or non-consensually taken.

If the photo or video involves someone under the age of 18, it is the sharing of child sexual abuse material.

Sextortion

Sextortion is when someone threatens to send an intimate photo or video of someone to other people if they do not receive something in return (this can include money, more photos/videos and more).

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

GBV is violence that is committed against someone based on their gender, gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender.