

Working Together to  
**Build Gender**  
**Equity** at Yonsei



STOP  
SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE

Contents\_Eunjin Park, Illustrations\_Gyongwon Lim, Translations\_Suyun Choi

Copyright©2015 Yonsei University, Division of Student Affairs and Services, Center for Gender Equity

Building 505, Yonsei University, 50 Yonsei-ro, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, 03722

☎ 02-2123-2118 📧 [helper@yonsei.ac.kr](mailto:helper@yonsei.ac.kr)

This book is made of recycled paper to protect our planet.



Yonsei University, Division of Student Affairs and Services, Center for Gender Equity

# Understanding sexual harassment and sexual violence

## Sexual harassment violence can happen in everyday life

When it comes to sexual violence, what commonly comes to our mind is often physical abuse, such as rape or sexual assault. We are prone to think that it only happens in extreme situations, affecting only a certain number of people in particular communities. However, contrary to our preconceptions, sexual violence is far more prevalent and commonplace than we would like to believe. It happens everyday and can occur at any moment in our daily lives; even our colleagues, classmates and faculty members on campus can be victims. Due to the normalcy of sexual violence, it is easy to trivialize the issue and belittle it as something unimportant or unworthy of concern. Hence, we should make the effort to be more conscious of its occurrence in our lives by acting and thinking in ways that demonstrate awareness of the gender inequalities and the socially constructed institutions of gender that exist in our society. If we ignore these realities, we end up perpetuating a sexist culture that has prevailed throughout history, worsening the problems of sexual violence in our community. It is our hope that through our collective efforts and experiences in preventing sexual violence we can share respect for one another. Together, we can create an environment and a community at Yonsei where everyone shares a sense of consciousness and awareness through proper understanding and education about sexual violence. Then, we can all feel safe from sexual harassment and violence.

### Definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence

## What is sexual violence and sexual harassment?

### — Definitions of sexual violence:

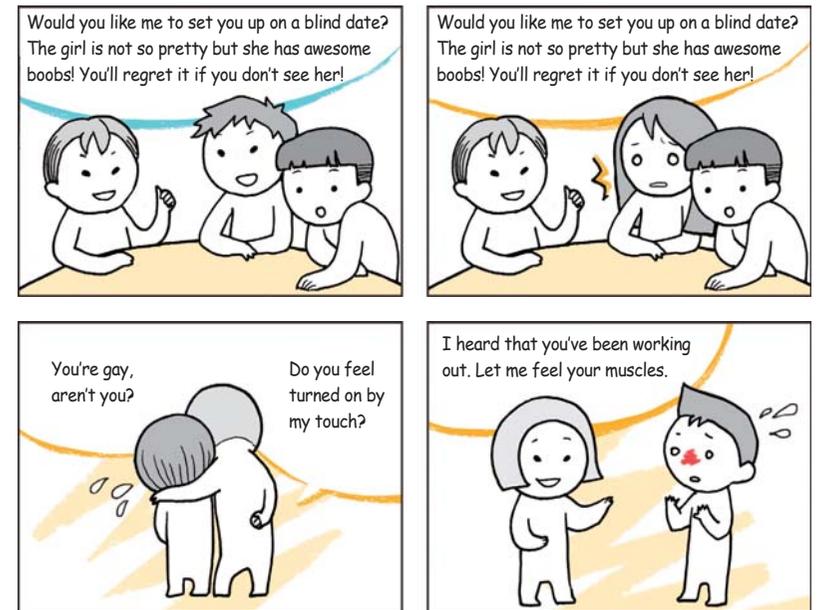
- All sexual behaviors that use physical force over someone and work against someone's sexual autonomy (from The Standard Education Book for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, 2013)
- In legal discourse, sexual violence refers to rape or indecent assault (i.e., sexual behavior accompanied with physical violence or threats). Recently, sexual behavior without physical violence has been recognized as sexual violence if it is against someone's will.
- Behavior defined in Article 2 Clause 1 of "Act on Special Cases concerning the Punishment, etc. of Sexual Crimes"

### — Definitions of sexual harassment:

- When a person of senior position causes someone of lower position to feel sexually humiliated or offended in the workplace, including governmental, public organizations and private companies.
- When a person is disadvantaged, treated unfavorably or penalized at the workplace on grounds that s/he rejected verbal or physical conduct or request of a sexual nature. (Article 3 Clause 3 of "Framework Act on Women's Development")

## “Is this sexual violence?”

The context of the situation determines whether the behavior displayed is considered as a form of sexual harassment and violence. While we may laugh at the humor of sexual jokes and expressions, such words and gestures, depending on the situation, can be considered forms of violence that cause others physical or emotional pain. It is very common for us to mindlessly talk about a person's physical features and evaluate his or her attractiveness. In fact, many casual conversations among friends often include sexual jokes. We may consider someone to be humorous and socially active if he or she can play well with sexual innuendos in conversations. However, by incorporating sexual references in conversations, we create situations in which the opposite sex is likely to feel uncomfortable; women, for example, are known to feel discomfort when male companions talk about their bodily features in a sexual way. Hence, telling jokes—even the most subtle ones—about someone's physical features or sexual identity can be sexual harassment or violence.



It is not easy for the person directly involved or the third-party to express unpleasantness in such situations. There are many reasons that causes them to hesitate in raising their voice: they may be concerned that their complaint will ruin the mood, they may be unsure about what exactly sexual violence is, or they may be worried about the repercussions. However, such uncertainties, hesitations and fears can only give sexual violence an invisible power. Thus, we must internalize sensitivity to gender by being mindful of the fact that certain behavior and words that some perceive as "normal" or "common" are humiliating and discomforting to others.

# Sexual violence in dating

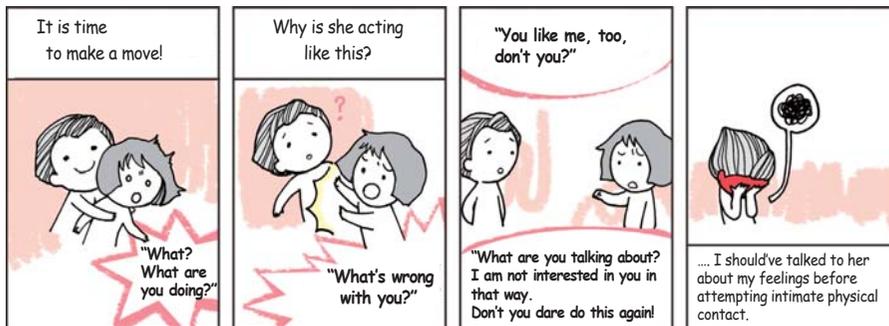
## “In the name of love ...”

When it comes to romantic relationships, it is easy to think that intimate physical contact or comments cannot happen. However, one-sided expressions of intimacy can be considered sexual violence even if the intimate expressions are not perceived as sexually aggressive in the moment. As time passes and as the relationship changes, such expressions can later on be used against a person by citing them as acts of sexual violence. Hence, we should strive to have mutual relationships that are based on constant communication, open conversations and mutual decisions, not one-sided desires and oppression.

## In the beginning of the relationship,

The danger of ambiguous relationships is that no one mentions the nature of the relationship.

- Q. Is it okay for me to proceed with intimate physical contact even when the relationship is ambiguous? It could be romantic but...what if the feeling is my own and not mutual?
- A. Non-mutual expressions of affection can be considered sexual violence or harassment. Even if the feeling of affection is mutual, it is not appropriate to express intimacy without asking for the other person's consent. Regardless of whether you disagree with the person or not, you must show that you understand and respect his or her thoughts, expectations and desires.



## When you are rejected...

When you are rejected, you might think that you can change the other person's mind by trying harder or forcing yourself onto him or her. But you should understand that such courting can be considered as stalking. Accepting rejection is a way of respecting someone you like.

## During the relationship

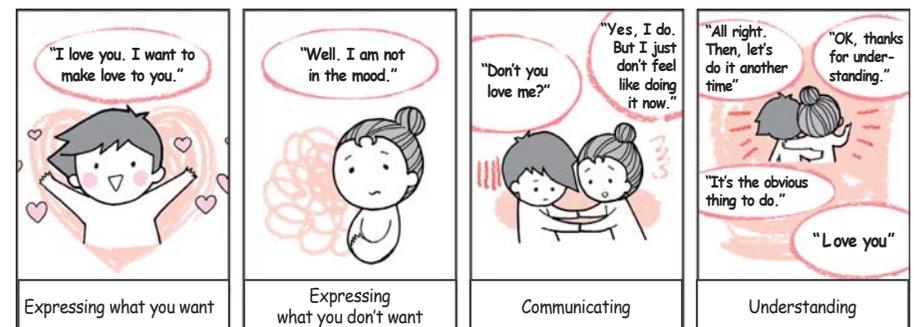
In a relationship, we learn how to read and respect another person's feelings and thoughts. When considering the other person's feelings and thoughts, we should respect our own feelings and thoughts regarding intimate physical contact. When you are about to engage in sexual activity, ask yourself the following questions: Is it okay for us to be intimate even after we break up (in terms of our future)? Will I regret later for having been too intimate? Am I ready to enjoy this sexual experience? It is important to remember that we are as responsible for what happens in our relationships. Thus we should learn to make informed decisions and take responsibility of the consequences.



## When breaking up

A healthy break-up is as important in any relationship as maintaining it. If, after a break-up, your ex-partner threatens to release sex tapes or photos of you, or if he or she proceeds to stalk you, your ex-partner is committing an illegal sexual offense. If you are currently under such a threat, try obtaining material evidence and report it to the Center for Gender Equity or the police in order to get help and support. If you are hurt by the break-up that you did not wish for, before trying to salvage the relationship, reflect on how selfish and violent it is to express one-sided love. It is strongly encouraged that you keep all memories of the relationship and learn a lesson from the break-up; this will help you manage your next relationship in a better way.

## Expressing emotions, communicating and understanding



## Violence between students



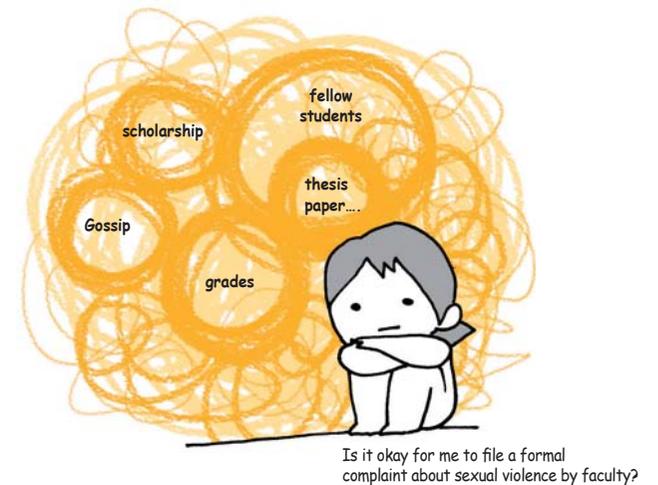
Sexual violence can happen among close colleagues and friends on campus. It is often the result of our sexist culture, in which the objectification and grading of women is seen as ordinary rather than problematic. For instance, when we socialize at department events or at bars, we use sexist humor and games that encourage intimate physical contact to encourage friendliness and interaction. While we tend to think of particular actions or comments as sexual violence and harassment, this given cultural context is unarguably the foundational cause of sexual aggression. With the advancement of technology and the invention of smart phones with functional cameras, the number of incidents of people taking inappropriate or unsightly snapshots of women without their consent in public areas, such as libraries or stairways, has increased. Being exposed to such activities, women feel humiliated and fearful. Women will inevitably feel uncomfortable when they are in public places; they know that in any given time or place, a displeasing picture can be taken of them by anyone within their vicinity. Since we live in a culture that epitomizes and glorifies sex, sexual objectification happens carelessly and easily. Hence, it is crucial that we recognize our ignorance and consider what 'normal' really means. That way, we can create a healthier community culture.



## Sexual violence between faculty and students



In contrast to sexual aggression or harassment that occurs among students, friends and/or romantic couples, sexual violence between members of the faculty and students is different because of the existing power dynamics; the former typically possesses more power than the latter. In cases of sexual violence occurring between faculty members and students, the victims are in a very vulnerable position. Students have difficulty in resisting or rejecting unpleasant or unreasonable requests made by faculty members because they can influence their future and career. The perceived consequences of not granting the wishes or commands of faculty members cause students to feel obliged to say "yes" in all situations. Furthermore, it seems that many of these students receive little help from their peers, who see themselves as powerless and incapable to effectively help them out. Therefore, as a result, there are many cases of sexual violence that occur even when it could have been prevented. Victims of sexual violence typically find it difficult to maintain their ordinary life habits and focus on their schoolwork. By showing the victim that you sympathize and support him/her, you can help the victim regain strength, focus, and confidence.



# Addressing sexual violence I

## If you are a victim of sexual violence,

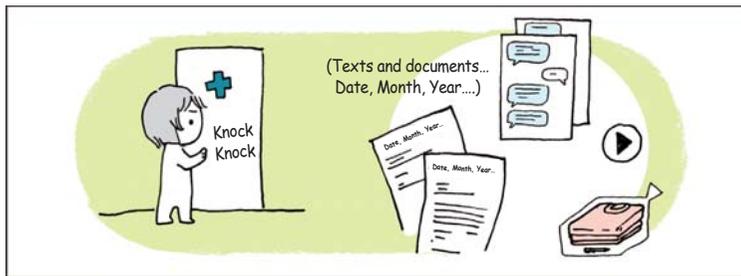
### 01 Take care of yourself.

First and foremost, take good care of yourself. Though you may be a victim of sexual violence, you certainly should not have to act like one. Furthermore, do not blame yourself for the situation. Regretting past decisions will only amplify whatever negative feelings you have in regards to the situation. Instead, seek professional help if you need to or confide in trust worthy friends and family. In other words, depend on people who you know can give you positive energy and help strengthen your mental and emotional health.



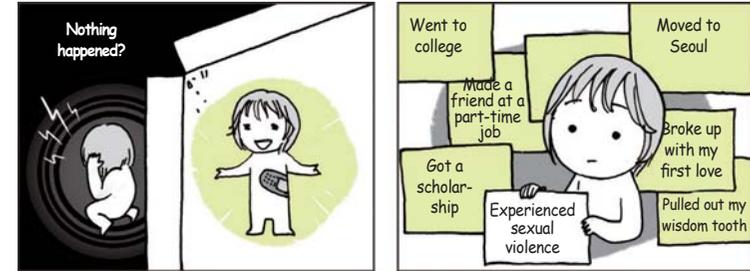
### 02 Go to a clinic for a checkup as soon as possible.

Dial 112 and file a formal complaint to the police. When receiving medical or professional treatment, ask for a written diagnosis. If you can, gather any physical evidence of the attack or the assailant by going through all or any saved text messages, phone call records and email exchanges. All of this information is critical in not only finding and identifying the perpetrator, but also determining his/her punishment.



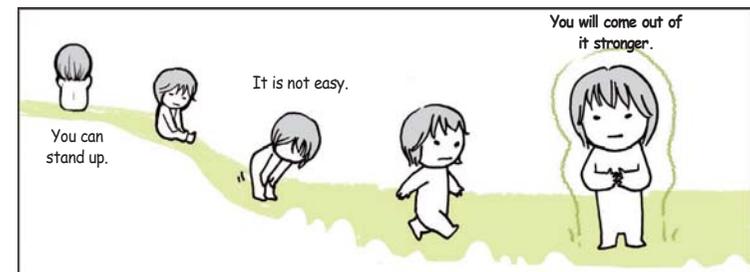
### 03 Do not deny or ignore what had happened

In order to heal the physical and mental wounds of sexual violence, it is critical for you to acknowledge and accept the fact that it happened. Due to the stigma against victims of sexual violence, you may find it easier to be in denial. However, remember that your experience of sexual violence is merely one of the many experiences that define you; although it will become a part of your identity, it is certainly not all of it. By accepting the situation, you are sure to move past it.



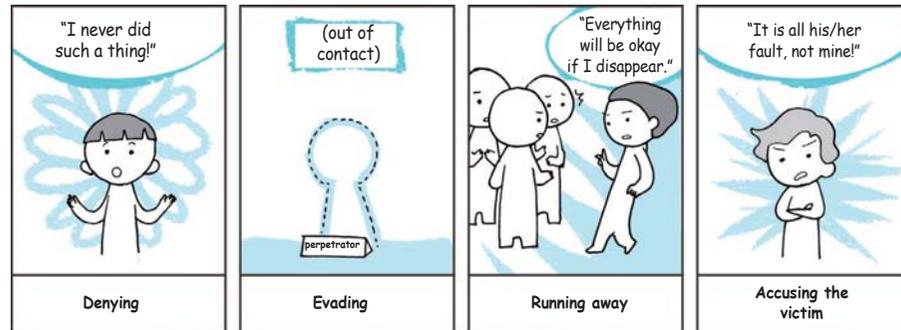
### 04 Actively address the case

While you may think that you are ready to move on, it is likely that you are still not completely over it. The negative impact of sexual violence are hard to wash away. Therefore, it is important for victims to take an active approach in recovering from the situation by confronting it rather than avoiding it. Asking for a sincere apology from the perpetrator as soon as possible after the incident is critical when attempting to overcome sexual violence. There are procedures and strategies that are available to help you in achieving this. For example, when you report the case to the Center for Gender Equity, the center will investigate the case and explain the course of action and the options that you have, such as requesting open or discrete apologies and asking school authorities to carry out disciplinary action against the perpetrator. These processes are offered to help victims overcome their experience of sexual violence.



# Addressing sexual violence II

 If you are accused of having committed sexual violence,



Anyone can commit an act of sexual violence even without any intention to do so. It is understandable to feel embarrassed and angry about being called a perpetrator. Although your words or actions were said or done without intending to offend anyone, they could still be used against you by a person who perceived them as offensive or harmful. Your intimate gesture, for example, might have unknowingly been against a person's wishes or consent. Therefore, it is useless to try and defend yourself by saying that you "had no intention" anything you said or did because it will only deepen the emotional scar of the victim, who probably felt differently about the situation. Rather than put the victim through more pain and yourself through more frustration or guilt, accept the fact that, regardless of whether or not your actions were wrong, it offended or harmed someone. By showing the victim that you understand his/her pain and sincerely apologizing for your actions, you will not only resolve the victim's feelings but you will also resolve your own.



## How to prevent the second violence



"The second violence" is a phrase that refers to a derivative form of violence committed by a third-party. It entails denial, concealment of evidence, and support of the perpetrator. Those who commit an act of derivative violence in cases of sexual violence typically blame the victim ("She's promiscuous"), conceal evidence of the case ("She should not have reported the case in order to protect the reputation of the community") and support the assaulters ("He is a decent person. He wouldn't do that."). Silence, even if it is for the benefit of the victim, is still considered as an act of support for the perpetrator which is a form of derivative violence.

## Addressing sexual violence III

### If your friend is involved in a case of sexual violence,

#### 01 In the case that your friend is a victim

Having supportive friends is critical in helping a victim of sexual violence recover and overcome the pain. Blaming the victim or trivializing his/her situation only compounds the pain he/she is likely to feel. It also effectively functions to perpetuate the occurrence of sexual violence in our community. Thus, this is considered a form of derivative violence.

If the victim is physically injured, you should immediately take him/her to a clinic or hospital. As the victim's friend, you should assist him/her in thinking positively and overcoming the trauma. When expressing any form of sympathy or support, be cautious. Consider the fact that he/she is emotionally fragile and can thus take every word or gesture seriously. It may be helpful to consult professionals for advice on how to effectively help your friend recover.



#### 02 In the case that your friend is a perpetrator

You may feel embarrassed to discover that your friend is an accused perpetrator of sexual assault or violence. In most cases, friends of the perpetrator tend to side with the accused in order to somehow protect them from blame or criticism. Although taking the side of your friend is usually perceived as the right thing to do, this is never a good choice when you are siding with a perpetrator. By supporting a perpetrator, you are not only preventing him/her to feel any guilt, but you are also inflicting further pain on the victim by making them think the crime was justifiable. Hence, in a certain sense, you would be committing an act of derivative violence. As the friend of a perpetrator, you can help the situation by being supportive in such a way that encourages him/her to take responsibility for his/her actions and to not repeat the same mistake.



### Rebuilding the community

#### : Communal efforts to address sexual violence

While sincere apologies and disciplinary action are effective remedies to sexual violence, it is important to realize that sexual aggression does not stop by implementing just those two. After such formal procedures, it is critical that all members of the community make an effort to create an environment that is welcoming and void of sexual violence. Sexual aggression not only impacts victim(s) but it also impacts the rest of the community. A victim will often choose to leave a community due to the stigmas placed upon him/her. A perpetrator, too, will choose to leave a community in order to escape shame and a ruined reputation. People may feel skeptical and pessimistic as they begin to recognize the frequent occurrences of sexual violence in their community. Thus, when considering a case of sexual violence, we must see it as an issue between the members of the community and the norms of society, rather than one that is merely between the perpetrator and the victim.

#### 01 Try to recuperate the victim's reputation

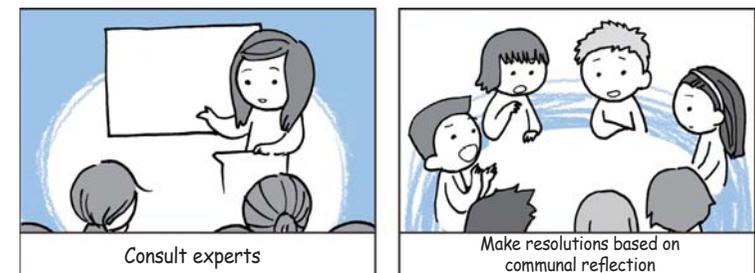
Rather than seeing the victim as someone who needs protection, view the victim as someone who simply needs our help and support in going back to his/her ordinary life.

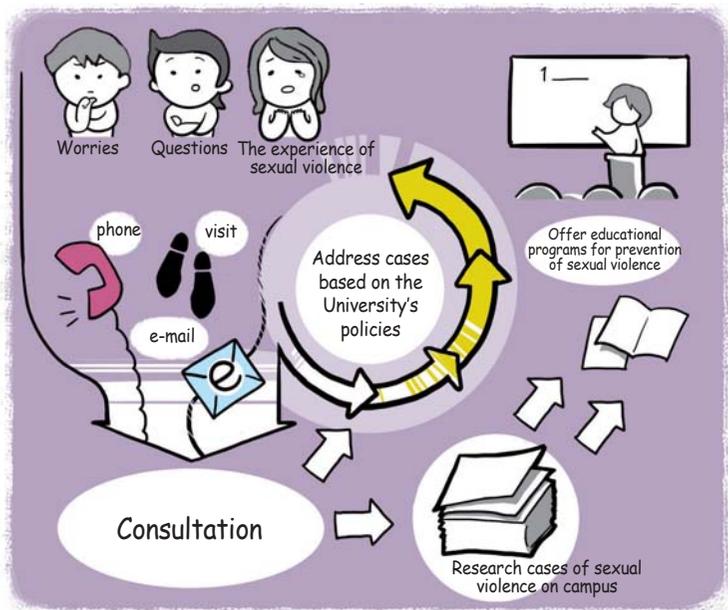
#### 02 Don't consider disciplinary action as a final remedy to sexual violence

Considering disciplinary action as a remedy to sexual violence only separates us from the perpetrator. In doing so, we let ourselves believe that the issue of sexual violence is smaller than it actually is. Unknowingly, we all somehow contribute to the perpetuation of sexual aggression in our society. Hence, it deserves greater attention from each and every member of the community. It is crucial that we all take time to reflect on what we do or say and think about how we might change our behavior or use of words for the betterment of not only our own lives, but also the lives of others.

#### 03 Consult experts or professionals and facilitate workshops and educational programs to spread awareness of the issue of sexual violence, and promote justice and respect in the community.

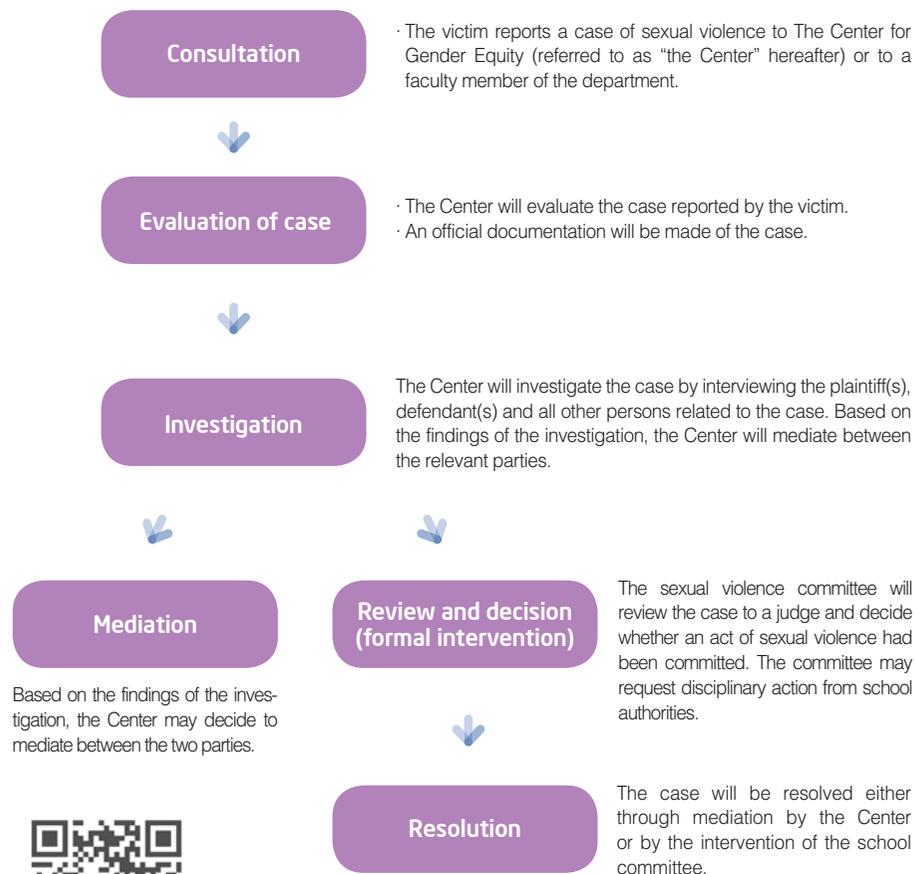
In addition to disciplinary action and therapeutic measures, it is important for all members of the community to problematize cultural norms and recognize the great presence sexism has in all aspects of society. These are the first steps to preventing sexual violence in our community.





- Consultations : The contents of consultations include sexual violence and other issues that deal with sexual identity or sex, such as sexual harassment, gender discrimination, stalking, dating violence, or cyber bullying.
- Phone : 02) 2123-2118
- Email : helper@yonsei.ac.kr
- visit : The Center for Gender Equity (in Nonjiddang; set up appointment by phone prior to visit)
- Hours : Monday – Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm
- Confidentiality is guaranteed.

## Procedure when addressing cases of sexual violence on campus is as follows:



You can find Yonsei University's policies for prevention of sexual violence : [equity.yonsei.ac.kr/helper/ys\\_rules.htm](http://equity.yonsei.ac.kr/helper/ys_rules.htm)