

Barriers to Reporting Sexual Harassment

A survivor's ability to report what happened is impacted by: victim-blaming, experiences of social marginalization and prior sexual violence, complexities of identity (e.g. citizenship, race/ethnicity, age), the normalization of sexual harassment, a lack of effective responses, retaliation from the harasser and others, and social misconceptions that minimize the impact of harassment and excuse perpetrators for their actions.

- **Repercussions to Disclosure:** "Everyone will find out"
- **Perpetrator known to Victim:** "... But we work together."
- **Myths & Misconceptions:** "It's just innocent flirtation."
- **Experiences Minimized/Ignored:** "It's not a big deal – they do it to everyone."

Bystanders who recognize sexual or gender-based harassment has occurred but choose to ignore it are complicit in silencing the survivor.