



WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Sexual violence (sometimes called sexual assault) is a crime. It describes a range of sexual behaviours that include the use of force or manipulation to control another person sexually. It can include sexual assault, child sexual abuse, rape, online sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and sexual violence in conflict situations.

If sexual activity happens without your consent (your permission and your agreement) then it is sexual violence. Sexual violence also includes situations when someone can't provide consent because they are too young, intoxicated by drugs or alcohol, unconscious, or otherwise can't say no.

You can learn about consent [HERE](#)

Legally, people under the age of 16 years old cannot give consent because they are a child. Involving a person under the age of 16 years in any sexual activity is child sexual abuse or child sexual assault.

Sexual violence can happen in public spaces, close relationships, families, and in other places such as in sports or other clubs, schools, religious places and other institutions.



TYPES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Rape is forced sexual penetration, through oral, anal, or vaginal sex. Rape can happen to anyone and can even occur within a marriage if one person in the marriage forces their husband, wife or partner into a sexual act without their consent.

Coercing (pressuring or manipulating) someone into sexual activity against their will is known as **sexual coercion**.

Forced, coerced or manipulated sexual activity that happens when you are on a date is called **date rape**.

Indecent assault is unwanted touching, including when someone touches a private area of another person's body without their consent.

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual comments, questions or actions.

ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE

Online sexual abuse is a type of sexual violence that happens when the internet is used to exploit, force, harass, or groom people for sexual purposes. Online sexual abuse can happen to children or adults.

Grooming is when a person slowly builds a trusting relationship with a child or young person through manipulation to sexually abuse them. Grooming happens in-person or online using social media, messaging apps, online gaming sites, and other digital platforms.

Sexortion happens when someone forces or manipulates another person by threatening to expose a secret about them, humiliate them, or harm them. They might say something like "If you don't do what I tell you to do I am going to share the nude photos you gave me with your parents, your friends and/or your school".

Online Sexual Bullying and Harassment is when someone uses social media, online groups, or messaging apps, to send sexual comments or photos, threats of sexual violence or unwelcome sexual material.

Distribution of **Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)** is a type of sexual abuse that happens through the sharing of photographs or videos showing the sexual assault of children and young people.

Sexual Solicitation is when adults use chat rooms, dating apps, or social media sites to pretend to be a child or young person to trick other children/young people into believing they are talking with someone their own age. They do this because they plan to eventually ask a child/young person to engage in sexual activities.

Online Enticement happens when a person tries to trick another person into meeting them for the purpose of having sex. They might pretend to be a "good friend", or they may use tricks or manipulation, such as offering them money or gifts to meet with them in person.

Making child pornography is another type of online sexual abuse. This is known as the **Production of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)** and it happens when children are forced into or used to create sexually explicit photos or videos of themselves.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Making another person perform sexual acts for money is known as **commercial sexual exploitation**. It involves force, manipulation, coercion or tricks to engage people in sexual activity in exchange for money or other things. Sexual exploitation can happen in person or online and can include **trafficking, prostitution and pornography**. Unlike voluntary sex work, in which people choose to participate in the sex industry, victims of commercial sexual exploitation are tricked, manipulated, or forced into the activity against their will.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS AND RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR

Sexual violence in conflict situations, or **rape as a weapon of war**, is the deliberate and organised use of sexual violence, including rape, as a military tactic to further political or social goals during war. Sexual violence in conflict situations is a war crime.

Sexual violence in all its forms is illegal in Australia and is a violation of human rights.

If you are a survivor of any form of sexual violence, you are not alone. Recovery and healing are possible and there are people who can and want to help you.