

Hey,
that's
not
ok



You deserve to
feel safe at school

**PUBLIC
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DESIGN**

You should always feel safe at school. But sometimes you might not.



People might say or do things that make you feel afraid, or not free to be who you are. That can mean comments or actions that attack your body, gender, and other ways that you present yourself. This is called **gender-based violence**.

Gender-based violence can look like a lot of different things. This guide talks about some of them, and what you can do if you experience gender-based violence from another student.

It includes information about sexual assault and harassment that may be triggering or overwhelming for you. Please be mindful of your emotional and mental needs while reading.



Gender-based violence includes:

- * Street harassment, like when someone tells you to smile for them
- * Slutshaming, when someone judges you for your sexual experience or lack of experience
- * Sexual comments, jokes, song lyrics, stories, or rumors about you
- * Intentionally getting your pronouns wrong
- * Cyberbullying, or sending you inappropriate messages or pictures without your permission
- * Touching you without your permission, like pulling your clothes or grabbing your breasts, butt, or genitals
- * Pressuring or demanding you for sexual activity

What can it look like?

If Gender-based violence happens to you, you're not alone. How it makes you feel is important, even if you don't have the words for your experience. Here are some ways it can happen at school:

My friend telling me I look "too masculine."

When the boys play booty tag, I feel like I have to play along.

It's okay for white girls to wear their hair in braids, but when I do it, it's "distracting."

When my partner wanted to sext even though I was uncomfortable with it.

After I hooked up with this guy, he started rumors about me and kids started calling me "the school slut."


When private pictures that were meant for my girlfriend got sent around the school.




What does it mean to report?

If you experienced gender-based violence from a classmate, you can choose to talk to an adult at school (like a teacher, counselor, or coach) about what happened.

They will work with you to file a report. This means your school has to look into what happened and make a decision about what to do next.




It's helpful to know how reporting works, so you can decide if it's the right step for you.



Filing a report is your choice. It's totally okay if you decide not to.

Ways to report



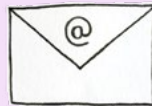
Talk to an adult at school about what happened. Tell them you want to file a report.

Give them a written note

Report



if you'd rather




OR

Talk to the Title IX Coordinator of your school district. It's their job to respond to reports of gender-based violence at schools.

title_ix_inquiries@schools.nyc.gov

OR If you'd rather report by yourself, you can file a report online at **nycenet.edu/bullyingreporting** or print out the reporting form and submit it to your school



You can also send an email to **respectforall@schools.nyc.gov**

What happens next?



Your school has to respond to your report

1 They'll ask you about what happened in detail.

Take your time and include as many details as you feel comfortable sharing. It helps to write things down before meeting with them.

2 They also have to:

- * Decide if they're going to take action against the person you filed a report about.
- * Let you know about their decision within 10 days of when you report.
- * Tell you how their decision will affect you and the person you filed a report against (sometimes this can include a transfer, suspension, or expulsion)

You can file an appeal if you don't agree with their decision

What else you should know

You are always allowed to speak up! Your school **CANNOT** discipline you because you experienced violence. This means they shouldn't force you to change classes, schools, leave a team, or do anything else that hurts your right to an equal education.

If you talk to an adult at school, they have to tell your principal and other school officials like the Sexual Harassment Prevention liaison, or Respect for All Liaison.

In serious cases, like sexual assault, your school might be required to tell the police.

If your school tells you to talk to your attacker/harasser to resolve the report, you have the right to say no.

The school may also have to tell your parents, and the parents of the person you're filing a report against. If you don't want your parents to know, make sure to tell the person you report to.

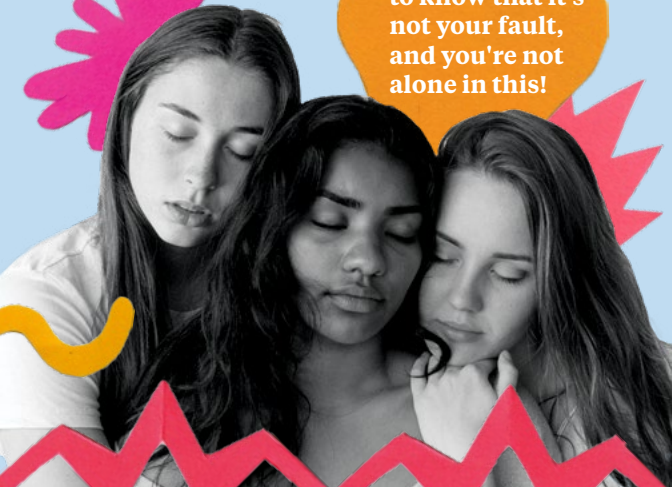
You can report anonymously if you're worried about your privacy!

You are not alone

If someone makes you feel unsafe at school, you may need time to process it before feeling ready to do anything. That's more than okay.

It can help to talk to someone close that your trust, like a friend, relative, therapist, or counselor. They can help you if you want to take any action, or just be there to listen.

If you're feeling stressed, it can also help to pay attention to how you feel in your body. Breathing deeply or relaxing your muscles one by one can help your body feel calm.



It's important to know that it's not your fault, and you're not alone in this!

Consent Matters

It's on your school to make sure you feel safe. A big part of this is creating a culture where people understand how to give—and receive—consent.

Consent is when you're fully okay with participating in an encounter, especially one that's sexual. It's not just about saying "yes," either. You should always feel comfortable, and not pressured to do something.

Saying no is enough. If you're not feeling it, you don't have to explain why.

It's always okay to change your mind, even if you've already started.

Consent should feel good! It's fun to know what you want.

Your voice matters!

Talking about consent is one step towards changing culture. What does consent look and feel like for you? What about your friends?

If you feel ready, talk to an adult at school about what your school can do to support you better.

This project was produced through Public Access Design, a program of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP). Public Access Design projects use design to make complex urban issues accessible to the people most affected by them.



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The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement.

welcometocup.org

Girls for Gender Equity is an intergenerational nonprofit organization based in Brooklyn, that challenges structural forces, including racism, sexism, gender-based violence, transphobia, homophobia, and economic inequity, which constrict the freedom, full expression, and rights of Black and brown cisgender and transgender girls and gender non-conforming youth of color.

ggenyc.org

Luisa Vélez Henao believes design can be a powerful tool for democratizing complex information and spreading social justice.

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Special thanks to all the young people who gave such thoughtful feedback on this project.

This guide is for informational use only and is not a source of legal advice. If you need legal advice, talk to a qualified lawyer.

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To learn more and join people who are fighting for safer schools, get involved with Girls for Gender Equity! campaigns.ggenyc.org

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