

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Reference Guide

Queer people can experience sexual violence in their intimate relationships. This violence might relate to their gender identity or sexual orientation, even if their partner isn't cis or het.

Sexual violence can manifest in different ways

Sexual violence can include sexual **comments** or **behaviour** by one intimate partner that the other partner **didn't consent to**. This can happen for instance when one partner tries to satisfy their own intimate and sexual needs while disregarding their partner's needs or boundaries.



EXAMPLES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Sexually humiliating the other partner
- Forcing them to watch porn
- Touching them sexually without their consent (sexual assault)
- Failing to disclose a sexually or blood-transmitted disease
- Removing a condom without the other partner's consent (stealthing)
- Threatening to cheat or break up
- Comparing sexual performance
- Depriving them of sexual relations as punishment
- Sharing information about sexual relations, intimacy, sexual activities, sex toys or the other partner's body with people
- Sharing (or threatening to share) intimate images of the other partner without their consent (often called sextortion)

Sexual activities without valid consent lead to sexual violence

All participants in a sexual activity must give valid consent. Lack of valid consent could lead to sexual violence.

To be legally valid, consent must be:



CLEAR

The person **explicitly consents** through their **words** or **gestures**.
If a person is passive, that doesn't mean they're consenting.



GIVEN FREELY

- The person **isn't**:
- **forced** or **threatened** into consenting, or
 - **obliged to consent** because the other person is using or abusing their role, position or status.



CONSCIOUS

- The person **isn't**:
- **unconscious or asleep**, or
 - **so intoxicated** by drugs or alcohol that they don't know what they're doing.



INFORMED

Consent to sexual activity shouldn't be based on a lie that would expose the person to a risk of **harm** or **severe bodily injury**.



Additional rules apply if one or more participants in a sexual activity are under 18.
For more information, read Éducaloi's article on [Sexual Consent of Teenagers](#).

Sexual violence can be a crime

Some sexually violent acts are crimes and can be reported to the police.



EXAMPLES OF SEXUALLY VIOLENT ACTS THAT ARE CRIMES

- Touching a partner sexually without their consent (**sexual assault**)
- Sharing intimate images of a partner without their consent (**non-consensual distribution of intimate images**)
- Creating, possessing or distributing visual or written material of a sexual nature depicting minors (**child pornography**)

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