

Gender Equality Online Training Information Booklet

Module 3
Code of Ethics and Preventing
Discrimination



Module 3: Fundamental Concepts of Gender-Based Violence

Gender-Based Violence: Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression or which affects individuals of a particular gender disproportionately. It can take the form of physical, psychological, economic, and sexual forms of violence. Stalking, dating violence, and cyber violence are different forms of it. However, gender-based violence can target not only the mentioned groups but also all individuals, including all age groups, genders, and sexual orientations. Gender-based violence can occur in public spaces such as workplaces, streets, cafes, public transportation, as well as at home. The perpetrators of violence are often closely known individuals such as employers, family members, spouses, friends, and partners, but they can also be unknown strangers. After incidents of violence, it is possible to observe violence being legitimized and even blamed on the survivor/victim of violence with statements such as "What was she doing there?", "she shouldn't have gone there!" "She shouldn't have worn that outfit," "She should have broken up before," "Why didn't she break up before?", "Why did she enter a relationship?". As can be seen, the concept of victim blaming is defined as an approach that exonerates the perpetrator by attaching the blame for victimization to the person who has been victimized on various grounds. One of the most important steps to prevent gender-based violence is to define the concept of "consent" and to know how to respect people's boundaries. Consent means willingly saying "yes" to any situation, action, or behavior. A "no" answer is not consent. Not responding or remaining silent does not mean the person has consented. Another aspect of the concept of consent is the "construction of consent." Construction of consent is defined as "behaviors that involve pressure and coercion to obtain consent from a person who has not given consent." Emotional manipulation, compliments, and occasionally threats can be seen in the construction of consent. The main aim is to persuade the person by making them feel bad and exerting pressure on them. Sentences such as "Don't you trust me?", "You don't love me as much as I love you" are examples of sentences that can be heard frequently during the construction of consent. Gender-based violence can apply to anyone and can manifest in various forms of relationships.

Fundamental Concepts

Violence: Violence includes actions that result in or are likely to result in harm or suffering to an individual physically, psychologically, economically, or sexually. It also encompasses threats and coercion related to such actions, as well as the arbitrary restriction of freedom.

Gender-Based Violence: Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression or which affects individuals of a particular gender disproportionately.

Types of Gender-Based Violence

Physical violence: Forcing a person into unwanted behaviors and/or contact by using physical force. Physical violence can take the form of, among others, serious and minor assault, deprivation of liberty, and murder—examples: hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, pulling hair, or throwing something.

Psychological violence: Any words or behaviors that aim to control and pressure a person without using physical force, undermining their sense of security and restricting their freedom. It can occur in various forms, such as love bombing, ghosting, and gaslighting. Examples: manipulating, belittling, demeaning, yelling, invading personal space, restricting, threatening, isolating.

Economic violence: Any behavior that restricts a person's financial freedom. Examples: controlling bank accounts, seizing money, not allowing the person to work in a paid job, forcing them to work.

Sexual violence: Engaging in any verbal/physical sexual behavior without the person's consent. It is also used as an umbrella term for sexual harassment and assault. Examples: making sexual jokes, harassment, rape, coercing consent for sexual intercourse, forcing the transmission of sexual photos/videos.

Sexual harassment: Sexual expressions, gestures, and other behaviors performed without physical contact and the person's consent. Depending on the environment and context in which it occurs, persistent repetitions of actions or a single action can be considered sexual harassment. The relevant words, gestures, or other behaviors need not be continuous. However, the persistence of harassment actions aggravates the nature of the harassment.

Sexual assault: The violation of a person's bodily integrity through sexual behaviors without the person's consent, without the need for persistence. Example: in the absence of the person's consent hugging, kissing, touching, or raping someone.

Cyber violence: Behaviors aimed at coercion, control, or restriction of a person's freedom carried out in digital/virtual environments or through digital/virtual tools. Examples: Browsing someone's phone, asking for social media passwords, checking social media accounts.

Dating violence: Any words or behaviors applied by one partner to keep the other under pressure, restrict their freedom, and/or control them during or after a romantic, emotional, and/or sexual relationship. Examples: preventing a partner from seeing friends, persistent following, imposing rules in the relationship, acting beyond the person's consent.

Persistent Stalking: Based on Turkish Law No. 6284, persistent stalking refers to any attitude or behavior, whether physical, verbal, written, or through any means of communication, that causes fear and helplessness in the victim in terms of physical and psychological aspects regardless of whether there is a family bond or relationship between the individuals involved. Example: frequently calling, following, and sending messages.

Perpetrator (violence offender): Refers to a person who intentionally engages in behaviors involving violence and harassment to control their partner, ex-partner, or anyone else, regardless of whether they have been accused, prosecuted, or convicted.

Victim / Survivor: Refers to individuals who have been subjected to any form of gender-based violence.

To prevent all forms of violence and discrimination, particularly gender-based violence, the Prevention of Discrimination and Violence Unit was established in 2024. For more information on this topic, you can visit asob.ozyegin.edu.tr







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