

## DAY THREE: 27th November

### Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment means unwanted conduct of a sexual nature affecting the dignity of men and women, which can include unwelcome physical, verbal and nonverbal conduct.

(Aeberhard-Hodges 1996)

### Story from a member of the public

This woman's evidence about her experiences is not uncommon:

*I have been sexually harassed and suffered physical assault too, many times over a 30-year period. The harassment ranges from whistles and 'catcalls', to my breasts, bottom, legs and groin being touched. These events have taken place on buses and trains, while walking or standing in public places during the day, in shops and bars - anywhere where men are present, in fact.*

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmsellect/cmwomeq/701/701.pdf>

### Question:

What is your reaction to this true story?

### Global Facts:

- **Gender-based violence** knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socio-economic class.
- **A 2019 survey of almost 31,000 people** across 40 countries found that 32% of women (18–34 year olds) in Ireland have experienced some form of sexual harassment in the previous 12 months - the second highest out of all 40 countries surveyed and the worst in Europe. Only Mexico fared worse at 43%. (*The Irish Examiner - March 2019*)
- **A Plan International UK survey** has found that shockingly, 52% of girls and young women aged 14-21 in Wales, have experienced unwanted sexual attention/physical contact, or indecent exposure in public. 17% have been touched, groped or grabbed. A huge 37% said they have been followed in public. (*April 29th 2019*)



"Today in many places we hear a call for greater security. But until exclusion and inequality in society and between people is reversed, it will be impossible to eliminate violence." (*Pope Francis: 'Evangelii Gaudium' 59*)

## Laudato Si

In Pope Francis' encyclical to the world in 2015, he clearly values creation and life -

*"Human life itself is a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement"* LS 15



pexels.com

### UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Many of the SDGs reference Women.

#### SDG 5 - Targets 2:

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

#### SDG 11 – Target 7:

Provide universal access to safe, inclusive & accessible green & public spaces, in particular for women & children, older persons.

### CEDAW

#### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(Suggest you read this during the **16 Days**)

**CEDAW Article 16:** ". . . provides men and women with "the same right to enter into marriage, the same right freely to choose a spouse . . . "

**ACTION** I will take, to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

1. Read more on the subject – <http://endviolence.un.org/orangeday.shtml>
2. 'Enough is Enough' - [www.gov.ie/noexcuses](http://www.gov.ie/noexcuses)
3. Make a donation to [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](#)

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

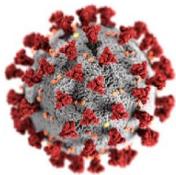
(Updated November 2020)

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)



### BEFORE

#### THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

**243 million** women and girls, aged 15-49, experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the past year.

#### SINCE THE PANDEMIC

violence against women, especially domestic violence, has increased dramatically.

#### EXACERBATING FACTORS INCLUDE

security, health and money worries, cramped living conditions, isolation with abusers, deserted public spaces, limited access to support services.

In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from responses to violence against women to immediate COVID-19 relief.  
([unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org))

#### Don't Stand So Close To Me - Sexual Harassment & Covid 19

(June 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ddMYbEzCS8>

**During lockdown in the UK**, a poll of over 1,000 14-21 year-old girls found that, despite the streets being emptier, **1 in 5 girls** who experienced street harassment said **it has got worse in the lockdown period.**  
(*Plan International UK – April 2020*)



*of Activism  
Against  
Gender  
Violence...*

**DAY 3...**

*27<sup>th</sup>*

*November*

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

*"Orange the World: Fund,  
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"*