



SEXUAL CONSENT WORKSHOP

Postgraduate Participant



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Oxford SU VP for Women

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STATISTICS

Q1 is from Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences (Office for National Statistics, 2016). Q2-Q4 are from An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics, 2010). Q5 is from Mankind UK. Q6-Q8 are from Hidden Marks (NUS, 2013).

LEGAL DEFINITIONS

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 defines many sexual offences. It includes but is not limited to:

1. **Rape:** non-consensual penetration of mouth, anus or vagina with a penis.
2. **Sexual assault by penetration:** non-consensual penetration of anus or vagina with an object or body part other than a penis.
3. **Sexual assault:** intentional, non-consensual, sexual touching.
4. **Causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent:** This can include masturbation or viewing sexual images. This also covers forcing someone to perform sexual penetration.

Other offences are detailed in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 have to do with children and the effect of age on consent and/or the legal severity of an offence.

Section 74 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 defines consent. Someone consents only if they **agree by choice** to an activity and have the **freedom** and **capacity** to make that choice. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex; it can also be subject to conditions, such as wearing a condom.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.

It is important to note that while these definitions are important, they may not be how a survivor chooses to think of their experiences. There is a difference between legal definition and emotional impact.

Many people also criticise the specific inclusion of penises in the definition of rape as:

cisnormative (failing to include or consider trans people), and

heteronormative (failure to include all aspects of LGBTQ+ sex)

The act is available to read here: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents

Q1 Roughly ___ of women in the UK and of ___ men have experienced sexual assault (including attempts) since they were 16...

- a. 15% / 3% b. 2% / 0.8% c. 19% / 4%

Q2 Around ___ women are sexually assaulted and ___ women are raped each year in the UK...

- a. 100,000 / 7,000 b. 400,000 / 80,000 c. 75,000 / 18,000

Q3 ___ percent of rapes are perpetrated by someone the survivor already knows...

- a. 70% b. 90% c. 50%

Q4 ___ of survivors of rape and sexual assault identify their partner as the perpetrator...

- a. 30% b. 57% c. 45%

Q5 3 in ___ of the UK male population have been affected at some point in their lives by sexual violence...

- a. 10 b. 20 c. 30

Q6 1 in ___ university-age women experience serious sexual or physical assault during their time as a student...

- a. 7 b. 16 c. 24

Q7 ___ of university-age women experience stalking...

- a. 5% b. 10% c. 12%

Q8 ___ of women attending university have experienced harassment in and around their institution...

- a. 28% b. 52% c. 68%

Q9 Marital rape was ruled to be against English law in ___ ...

- a. 1963 b. 1899 c. 1991

SCENARIO 1

My friend has been a bit off and quiet recently. Last week, she showed me a couple of texts and emails from her supervisor. Some of them were work-related but seemed really pushy, asking her to tell him exactly why she couldn't meet with him at his preferred time, and making unreasonable demands at strange hours of the night. Others were different, friendlier, and some were apologetic; he said he 'just got frustrated that someone so bright is so disorganised'. In quite a few messages he referenced her looks, saying that she was beautiful and making jokes about going on dates with her. He even told her to wear a low-cut top the next time they met, though then he said he was being ironic and just having a laugh. After all this stuff he'd get demanding again and accuse her of not working hard enough.

I've seen how they interact in person: he's very touchy-feely, often gives her hugs and has this habit of touching the back of her neck to make her jump because he thinks that's funny.

I told her it seemed a bit weird and inappropriate, but even though she'd shown me the emails and texts because she wanted my opinion on whether or not they were okay, she didn't really take it on board. She just sort of clammed up and deflected, saying that at least he was a good supervisor, and that it was probably just his sense of humour.

SCENARIO 2

I was in my college MCR, we had all been to formal that night so people were quite drunk. Someone had put on some music and a few of me and my friends were dancing with some of guests from dinner.

One guy was really hot, we kept making eye contact, he asked me if he could dance with me and I said yes. We danced really close and he kept checking that I was ok with everything. I asked him if we could sit down to chat, we went upstairs to a quieter part of the college and chatted for a while. We kept getting a bit closer to each other and I could tell from his body language he wanted to kiss me, so I did, it was really nice and afterwards I checked he was ok and asked if he wanted to kiss again.

We left college together and we headed back to my accommodation, things went a bit fuzzy after that and I don't remember much else. I woke up the next morning still in my clothes with my shoes by my bed and a note on them. It was from the guy and he had written that he put me to bed because I seemed really drunk and that if I wanted to meet with him again I could add him on Facebook.

SCENARIO 3

I've been with my partner for almost five years. We met as undergraduates in a bar that was popular with the LGBTQ community in our uni town. We've shared a lot: getting our undergrad degrees together, coming out to our parents together, then moving to London to work for a few years after graduating. Most recently we moved to Oxford together. My partner works while I'm completing my DPhil. We are good for each other and have been discussing getting married after I finish, but there was one incident about two years ago now that still lingers in my mind, even though we've since talked it through.

It had been an exhausting week in the lab dealing with my frustrating post-doc and I was really tired. When I got home, my partner began kissing me in that "I want to have sex tonight" way and asked if I was up for it. I kissed their forehead, squirmed away, and began getting ready for bed. A few minutes later, they began kissing me again. I gave them that "not tonight" look, but they continued. I sighed, and thought that they wouldn't stop unless we did have sex.

It was weird afterwards though. I really didn't want to have sex, but I didn't say anything either. When we talked it over, I explained that. They understood, and it hasn't happened again. But it was weird, to feel pressured like that. We've been together for so long, I shouldn't still feel like this.

SCENARIO 4

It happened half way through the first year of my DPhil. I like to go out a lot, to drink and to have sex - that's me. It's fun to be somewhere with a fairly active LGBTQ social scene, and I'm out most weekends. One night, a group of friends from my department were at a friend's house. I think we had plans to go out, but we kept drinking at my friend's instead.

There was someone there that I knew sort of well, we were talking and flirting. We decided to move to a quieter part of the house and they asked if they could kiss me, I was so excited, I had liked them for a while, they were so kind and funny! We started kissed and mutually exploring each other's bodies a bit, it felt really good, I was really enjoying myself. We sat for a while just drinking afterwards and I remember being quite tired, but I can't really remember much after that. I do remember waking up hours later to a dark, quiet house without my skirt or underwear on. I was alone, but I was in a bed. We had sex, I'm sure of it, but it wasn't something I agreed to. Or did I?

My mum said it is what I deserve for the life I lead, and the police said it was sex regret. I'm not sure what to think. My work has suffered, and my supervisor has commented on it, though he doesn't know what's wrong. Maybe I should pull myself together, but I can't stop thinking about it.

CONSENT GENERALLY:

Where do you think consent applies?

Examples:

CONSENT DEFINITIONS:

Consent is defined by section 74 Sexual Offences Act 2003.

*Someone consents only if they **agree by choice** to an activity and has the freedom and **capacity** to make that choice. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.*

More information from the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is available on the sheet of legal definitions included in your workshop pack.

How would you describe consent?

How can you check consent?

Evaluation

Please take some time to reflect on the sexual consent workshop by completing our online feedback survey. This survey is available via the Oxford SU website, and you should also receive an email from your common room asking you to complete the survey.

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The act is available to read here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/content>

RESOURCES

Oxford University Student Union Student Advice Service

01865 288466
advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

Oxford University Student Union It Happens Here Campaign

vpwomen@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

Equality and Diversity Unit Harassment Advisor Network

01865 270760
harassment.line@admin.ox.ac.uk

Oxford University Counselling Service

01865 270300
www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling/

Sexual Violence: Response & Prevention at Oxford University

[https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/
sexual-violence](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/sexual-violence)

Oxford Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre For self-identifying women

01865 726 295 / 0800 783 6294
Sun: 6.00pm-9.00pm
Mon & Thurs: 6.30pm – 9.00pm
Fri: 11.30am – 2.00pm
www.oxfordrapecrisis.net/

Bletchley Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

Police House, Queens Ave,
Bicester, OX26 2NR
0300 130 3036
www.solacesarc.org.uk

SurvivorsUK

For male survivors of sexual abuse
0845 122 1201
Mon & Tues: 7.00pm – 9.30pm
Thurs: 12.00pm – 2.30pm
www.survivorsuk.org

Survivors' Network

For self-identifying women
01273 720110
Wednesday
7pm – 9pm
help@survivorsnetwork.org.uk

Survivors' Network

For trans and non-binary people
01273 204050
Sunday
1pm – 5pm

Galop

For LGBTQ+ people
020 7704 2040
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
10am - 4pm
referrals@galop.org.uk

Respect

Support for perpetrators and abusers
0845 122 8609
Mon – Fri: 9.00am – 5.00pm
www.respect.uk.net

OTHER WORKSHOPS & TRAINING SESSIONS

If you would like to know more about sexual consent and sexual violence, you might be interested in the following link:
<http://www.consentiseverything.com/>

Or in attending these other workshops and training sessions:

Queer Consent Workshops

Bystander Intervention Training

All of these are running at different points in the year. For more information, or to suggest new training you think would be helpful, get in touch with Oxford SU VP for Women at vpwomen@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk.



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