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SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PUBLIC SPACES IN GEORGIA: STATEMENT OF POWER OR INVISIBLE DISCRIMINATION?

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Introduction

- ✓ How invisible is street harassment to the society?
- ✓ Why people tend to neglect it?
- ✓ What is the main reason of sexual harassment in public space?

Definition

Street Harassment:

- ✓ Unwanted verbal or nonverbal action.
- ✓ Actions of sexual nature.
- ✓ Harassers – men, target of harassment – women.

Street Harassment includes:

- ✓ Sexual verbal comment,
- ✓ Ogling/staring,
- ✓ Whistling
- ✓ Unwanted touching
- ✓ Physical contact, etc.

Invisibility Or Indifference?

62% of respondents had experience of street harassment.

38% of respondents denied having such an experience.

59% of respondents faced street harassment 2-5 times in their lifetime.

32% of respondents - more than 10 times (Amashukeli, 2015, 116).

Spaces:

- Streets – 44%
- Transport – 33%
- Parks – 8%
- University – 2%

Reason:

53% of respondents - feeling of perpetrators that their actions will not be punished.


46% of respondents - construction and strengthening of masculinity by perpetrators in the eyes of society.

47% respondents - “indifference of society”
(Amashukeli, 2015, 108).

Street Harassment as a Statement of Power

- Public exercise of power over women.
- Statement about the rights of men over women's bodies.
- Pushing women back to the private sphere.
- Control of sexuality.
- Corrected behavior.

Thanks For Attention!

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