

Sexual Harassment Awareness Week

June 1 – 7

**Learn more:
What Counts as Workplace
Sexual Harassment in Canada?**

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/leadership-lab/what-counts-as-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-canada/article37137194/>



Stephen King

6 hrs · 🌐

My wife is rightly pissed by headlines like this: "Stephen King and his wife donate \$1.25M to New England Historic Genealogical Society." The gift was her original idea, and she has a name: TABITHA KING. Her response follows.

Dear Editors (married to a wife or a husband):

In recent media coverage of a gift that my husband (ironic usage) and I made to the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, we became Stephen King and his wife.

Wife is a relationship or status. It is not an identity.

You could have made other choices. You could have referred to me as OfStephen. Or His Old Lady. Or His-Ball-And-Chain.

I have sons. You could have referred to me as Mother-of-Novelists. I have a daughter but wouldn't it be just silly to refer to me as Mother-of-Clergy?

I'm seventy. I thought I would give you permission, if "OfTabitha" predeceases me, to title my obituary, Relick of Stephen King.

In the meantime, you might consider the unconscious condescension in your style book, and give women their names.

5 Things men can do to help end Sexual Harassment and Assault:

1 Initiate open and honest conversations with other men

The first way that men can position themselves as allies to victims of sexual assault and harassment is by participating in challenging conversations—especially with other men.

In a safe setting, discuss what kinds of speech and behaviors are acceptable versus unacceptable, and don't be afraid to challenge assumptions that perpetuate a hostile or dangerous environment for women. Open dialogue helps to break down stereotypes and harmful attitudes, laying the foundation for mutually respectful relationships and creating space for self-reflection and improvement.

2 Self-evaluate and extend empathy

In addition to challenging their peers, men should strive to address the ways in which they themselves may be unknowingly contributing to a culture of disrespect.

Recent research in neuroscience shows that people naturally empathize most with those who look and act like them. To overcome this evolutionary bias, practice cognitive empathy—in other words, challenge yourself to see from the “other’s” perspective and reflect on your own attitudes, beliefs and behaviors surrounding gender and sex. Those who take the initiative to critically evaluate themselves may be able to identify and address unconscious biases that are guiding their actions, in turn becoming more empathetic allies.

3 Take personal responsibility for speaking up against harmful behavior

Broad cultural change begins with individuals, which means that it's essential for men to speak up when they encounter problematic behaviors in their day-to-

day lives. According to [The Conversation](#), bystander intervention in instances of public harassment can help “shift responsibility for preventing sexual violence from victims and survivors to the broader community.”

If you witness verbal or physical harassment, intervene if you feel safe doing so. Taking a direct approach may involve telling the perpetrator to stop; attempting to create physical space between the perpetrator and the victim; or asking the victim, “Can I help?” or “Would you like me to stay with you?”

In some cases, the safest way to help may be to notify an authority, such as a dorm R.A., security guard or local law enforcement officer. Never hesitate to call 911 if you are concerned for the safety of yourself or others.

4 Understand your role in creating a more inclusive system

Just as important as intervening in day-to-day acts of harassment, it is crucial that men understand the larger cultural forces at play that perpetuate these behaviors—and enact change on a systemic level.

Research cited by the [Harvard Business Review](#) reveals that many men identify as allies in the fight against harassment in private, but become uncomfortable expressing their support or intervening in public settings. Though many men worry about not knowing what to say—or worse, saying the wrong thing—what's important is that they [say something](#). Break the stigma by affirming that you are an ally. Victims of harassment and assault will likely be grateful for your willingness to speak up on their behalf.

5 Team up with allies

Another important way men can act as agents for broader change is by teaming up with others who are committed to eradicating sexual harassment and assault. Sustain an ongoing dialogue with friends, peers and family members, with the ultimate goal of encouraging more people to become active allies for the cause.

Consider getting involved in local initiatives or community programs that are working actively to reduce sexual harassment and assault.

Source:

<https://dworakpeck.usc.edu/news/5-things-men-can-do-to-help-end-sexual-harassment-and-assault>

By: Robot Hugs

<http://www.robot-hugs.com/harassment/>
<http://www.robot-hugs.com/harrassment-french/>

I'm not doubting that everyday sexual harassment of women happens.


I promise, I know it happens.

I know it's a problem.

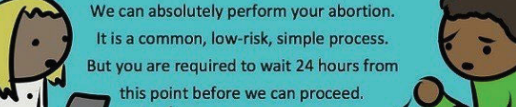
I just never really see it.

Why is that, and where is it happening?

That's a great question!

A cartoon illustration of a person with a large head and small body, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt. They have their arms crossed and a slightly grumpy or skeptical expression. A speech bubble points from their mouth to the right, containing the text: "I certainly never see it! Are you sure you're not just being sensitive?". The background is a solid light green.

I certainly never see it!
Are you sure you're not just being sensitive?





We can absolutely perform your abortion.
It is a common, low-risk, simple process.
But you are required to wait 24 hours from
this point before we can proceed.

It's my body, can't I control when
and how I get medical treatment?

Not till tomorrow you can't.

"Smile, sweetheart!"



Look, all I'm saying is that you can't dress provocatively and then get all offended when guys treat you in a certain way!

I mean... at a certain point, aren't you kind of asking for it?

YEAH...
I LIKE THE WAY
YOU WALK...

HEY! HEY!
WHAT'S YOUR
NUMBER!

YOU LOOK
LIKE A SLUT!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING OUT
SO LATE
ANYWAY?

Sexual harassment is not about desirability - these men also feel compelled to point out how women in their spaces are not sexy to them, or choose to insult challenging or uncooperative women by dismissing their attractiveness.

SUMMER READING – ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- How Brie Larson's 'Captain Marvel' Made Angry White Men Lose Their Damn Minds

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/entertainment/entertainmentmovies/how-brie-larsons-captain-marvel-made-angry-white-men-lose-their-damn-minds/ar-BBUrtM6?li=AAggSpD>
- For Women, by Women: A Sisterhood of Carpenters Builds Tiny Houses for the Homeless

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/for-women-by-women-a-sisterhood-of-carpenters-builds-tiny-houses-for-the-homeless-20180817?fbclid=IwAR1MFj1x4Ygx->
- National Film Board launches mobile game that teaches users about the clitoris

https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/national-film-board-mobile-game-clitoris?fbclid=IwAR2MwWE niiYZEMadawHr6AQaf6A8pv_12OhuTEVhJOKzN5XUbey0UZJe9Pc
- Teenage Girls In This Photo Series Show The Scary Effects Of Editing Apps

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/health/wellness/teenage-girls-in-this-photo-series-show-the-scary-effects-of-editing-apps/ar-BBUpTcl?li=AAggV0S>
- The Message in R. Kelly's Meltdown

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/entertainment/entertainmentmusic/the-message-in-r-kellys-meltdown/ar-BBUg3L?li=AAggSpD>
- Why You Can't Ever Call an Enslaved Woman a "Mistress"

https://www.teenvogue.com/story/the-washington-post-thomas-jefferson-sally-hemings-slavery-mistress?utm_source=facebook&utm_brand=tv&utm_medium=social&utm_social-type=owned&mbid=social_facebook
- The Bizarre History Of Anti-Suffrage Cat Memes

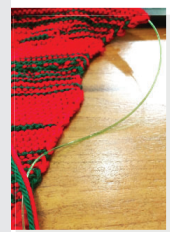
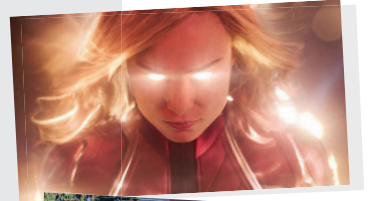
https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/11/07/the-bizarre-history-of-anti-suffrage-cat-memes_a_21600318/
- The Criminalization of Abortion Began as a Business Tactic

<https://www.history.com/news/the-criminalization-of-abortion-began-as-a-business-tactic>
- Borough mayor is knitting to prove men speak too much at meetings

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/montreal-city-councillor-is-knitting-to-prove-men-speak-too-much-at-meetings>
- How to survive in intersectional feminist spaces 101

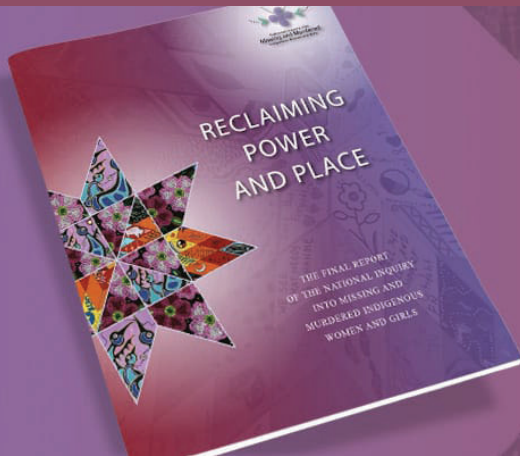
<https://crossknit.wordpress.com/2017/01/23/so-you-wanna-be-an-intersectional-feminist/>
- Why Are We Still Dismissing Girls' Pain?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/17/opinion/girls-pain-sexual-abuse.html>



Reclaiming Power and Place

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls



On June 3, the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls was published.

The *Reclaiming Power and Place* report concludes that “persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada’s staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people”. Former B.C. judge Marion Buller, one of the four commissioners conducting the inquiry, stated that this “is genocide” as she presented the findings of the report.

In the report, stories and “truths” from almost 2400 survivors, experts and Indigenous “Knowledge Keepers” was shared in the process of the inquiry that spanned over two years of public hearings. The report calls for “transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis” that has haunted Indigenous communities across Canada for decades and provides over 231 recommendations directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians.

You can find the full report here: **Final Report**

<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

Ted Talks to Watch

- Ashley Judd – Online Abuse of Women has Spiraled Out of Control
https://www.ted.com/talks/ashley_judd_how_online_abuse_of_women_has_spiraled_out_of_control?referrer=playlist-the_conversation_around_sexual_assault
- Gretchen Carlson – We Need to Talk About Sexual Harassment at Work
https://www.ted.com/talks/gretchen_carlson_how_we_can_end_sexual_harassment_at_work?referrer=playlist-the_conversation_around_sexual_assault
- Jackson Katz – Violence Against Women – It’s a Men’s Issue
https://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue?referrer=playlist-the_conversation_around_sexual_assault