

ONLINE RESOURCES

Consent & Support Zine

<http://www.anarcha.org/sallydarity/consent.html>

Anarcha-Feminist News

<http://www.anarcha.org/>

Sex Ed for the Real World

<http://www.scarleteen.com/>

Western Washington Planned Parenthood

<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/westernwashington>

Polyamory tips

<http://www.polyamory.org/>



See you in the streets!

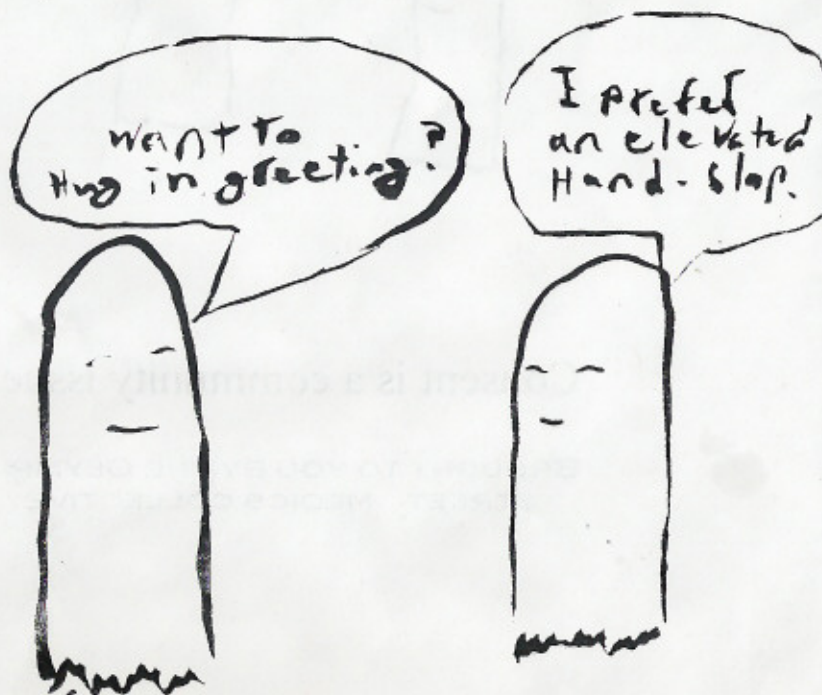
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DON'T RAPE EACH OTHER!



Consent is a community issue!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OLYMPIA
STREET MEDICS COLLECTIVE



Community Youth Services: (360) 943-0780
 Our mission is to support youth and families in achieving their needs for health, safety, security and community (21 or under).

Stonewall Youth: (360) 705-2738

Stonewall Youth is a non-profit community organization that supports, informs, and advocates for youth up to 21 years old who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or who have questions about their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Questions to ask yourself about consent (Printed in Slug & Lettuce)

By Cindy

1. How do you define consent?

2. Have you ever talked about consent with your partner(s) or friends?
3. Do you know people, or have been with people who define consent differently than you do?
4. Have you ever been unsure about whether or not the person you were being sexual with wanted to be doing what you were doing? Did you talk about it? Did you ignore it in hopes that it would change? Did you continue what you were doing because it was pleasurable to you and you didn't want to deal with what the other person was experiencing? Did you continue because you thought it was your duty? How do you feel about the choices you made?
5. Do you think it is the other person's responsibility to say something if they aren't into what you're doing?
6. How might someone express that what is happening is not ok?
7. Do you look only for verbal signs or are there other signs?
8. Do you think it is possible to misinterpret silence for consent?
9. Have you ever asked someone what kinds of signs you should look for if they have a hard time verbalizing when something feels wrong?
10. Do you only ask about these kinds of things if you are in a serious relationship or do you feel comfortable talking in casual situations too?
11. Do you think talking ruins the mood?
12. Do you think consent can be erotic?
13. Do you think about people's abuse histories?
14. Do you check in as things progress or do you assume the original consent means everything is ok?
15. If you achieve consent once, do you assume it's always ok after that?

21. Do you assume that if someone is affectionate they are probably sexually interested in you?

5. If someone consents to one thing, do you assume everything else is ok or do you ask before touching in different ways of taking things to more intense levels?
 7. Are you resentful of people who want to or need to talk about being abused? Why?
 20. Do you pursue someone sexually even after they have said they just want to be friends?
 19. Do you pursue friendship with people because you want to be with them, and then give up on the friendship if they aren't interested in you sexually?
 10. Are you usually attracted to people who fit the traditional standard of beauty as seen in the united states?
 19. Do you pursue friendship with people because you want to be with them, and then give up on the friendship if they aren't interested in you sexually?

WAYS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Identify the person's most critical concerns and access supportive resources; refer the survivor to an appropriate resource person if you are unable/uncomfortable with providing immediate support.
- Listen to the survivor in a nonjudgmental way.
- Allow the survivor to regain control by making informed decisions.
- Ascertain whether or not the survivor needs immediate medical attention.

SUPPORT RESOURCES

Evergreen Office of Sexual Assault Prevention: (360) 867-5221

Short-term advocacy is also available through this office. This is a safe place for all people to come and find support to get their needs met.

Evergreen Counseling Center: (360) 867-6800

The Counseling Center provides consultation, evaluation, and counseling services for students dealing with issues impacting their well being.

Evergreen Mediation Center: (360) 867-6656

Evergreen's Center for Mediation Services provides a group of trained volunteers with the skills to help parties in conflict examine their individual needs, identify common interests, and begin to craft a mutually beneficial agreement.

Women's Resource Center: (360) 867-6162

Our purpose, interests, and events are as diverse and evolving as the women on our campus. We can help you with just about anything, from a legal issue to what rant you want to unleash on the world.

SafePlace 24hr Crisis Hotline: (360) 754-6300

SafePlace is the only advocacy agency and confidential shelter for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Thurston County.

INTRODUCTION

What is consent?

Consent is the expressed willingness to engage in a specific act or behavior. This applies to many different contexts, but we're mostly going to focus on those that are overtly sexual.

Anyone's consent can be violated, whether they are heterosexual, homosexual, queer or otherwise identified. It's important to remember what folks are most at risk, but to also remember that this can happen to anyone.

Why is it important?

Consent is important not only because respecting it keeps those around you safe, it also promotes a community of involvement and accountability. None of us are entitled to anyone else's body or sense of agency, and vice versa.

Consent is totally hot!!

Engaging in sexual behavior is all the better when you know for sure that the person you're with is just as about it as you are.

It can seem scary or foreign, but asking someone (or being asked) "can I kiss you?" can be one of the hottest things around.

FORMS OF CONSENT

Verbal Consent:

Silence does not equal consent. "Maybe" does not equal consent.

A verbal response in the affirmative along the lines of "yes", "definitely" or "yes, fuck me right now...please", constitutes verbal consent.

Physical Encouragement:

Verbal consent (or otherwise communicated through a language) is the only tried and true way to gain consent, but depending on the circumstances physical encouragement can indicate potential for consent.

WHEN TO ASK

Platonic touching:

Not everyone wants a hug, and it's important to ask (especially people you're just getting to know) if you can touch them.

Popular culture often portrays the first kiss as unexpected, shocking or even initially worthy of resistance, in reality these models of first contact usually don't turn out so great. Giving someone an invitation to offer consent on the other hand usually does turn out pretty great. Although initially a little anxiety educing phrases such as "Can I kiss you?" or "I have a crush on you" can be very non-confrontation and communicative.

These phrases are not to be confused with any form of "cat-calling" which usually are just very frightening for the individual on the receiving end.

From Act to Act:

Just because it was alright to hug someone and hold their hand, doesn't mean it's alright to kiss them. Just because it was alright to kiss someone doesn't mean it's okay to go down on them. Just because it was alright to go down on someone doesn't mean it's alright to have intercourse with them. Just because it was alright to have intercourse with them, doesn't mean it's alright to move all your stuff into their apartment the next day.

IMPEDIMENTS TO CONSENT

Drinking & Drugs:

Drinking and drug use will hamper your ability to consent and to be aware of the ability to consent of your partner. Everyone has to set their own boundaries when it comes to intoxication and consent, but it is critical to be very aware of your own ability to make decisions relevant to your safety. Many will say that alcohol or drugs may loosen them up enough to flirt or engage in sexual situations, but chances are, if you're into each other when you're drunk you'll be into each other over a hung over coffee date.

It's not only an ethical issue, most of us lose a great deal of performance when intoxicated. The more sober you are, the better it's going to be.

HOW TO SAY NO

No one is entitled to your body!:

You are the only owner of your body and you are not obligated to share it with anyone unless you want to.

otherwise violating your consent, you'd be surprised how many people back off when they think you're going to throw up on them.

Kick in the Chest Feminism:

By this we mean an escalation, either verbally or physically removing someone from the space you need to be safe. This tactic is often not the best and it escalates the situation, but being up front and direct with some who is harassing you often gets the point across quickly.

Residential and Dining Services:

If you live on campus you have access to Residential Assistants and Residential Directors who can be can assist you in seeking counseling, anti-oppression trainings and other community resources. If need be you can also request an emergency transfer in your housing.

DON'T ASSUME

Consent:

Don't assume that someone is going to consent even if it's seems like they've been into you. You still have to ask!

Gender Identity:

Not everyone is the gender that you may subscribe to them. Gender is different than biological sex in that gender is the result of cultural and social factors. There is a wide rainbow of genders and sexual identities that may or may not be previously known to you. Be aware of your assumptions about gender and gender roles!

Remember non-female sexed people have their consent violated too:

Although there is lots of evidence that points to certain groups being most at risk for having their consent violated, that's not exclusive. There are also many perceived cultural norms about heterosexual men and their roles in heterosexual relationships that often veil abuses.

These are just several examples of the wide gamut of relationship dynamics all of which have the potential to create unsafe situations.