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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!