



## Sexual and Gender-based Violence Overview and Definitions

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) is any sexual or physical act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. SGBV also includes any gender-motivated act that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychosocial harm or suffering, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

SGBV can be further defined within three primary categories: sexual violence, physical violence, and emotional violence. Keep in mind that multiple types of violence can be present in the same situation at once.

*\*Please note that some of these definitions may be graphic.*

### **Sexual Violence**

**Rape/Marital Rape:** The penetration of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration with genitals, without the consent of the victim.

**Sexual Assault:** Any sexual contact and/or behavior which occurs without the explicit consent of the victim.

**Child Sexual Abuse:** Any sexual contact or sexual behavior (including rape or attempted rape) directed towards or with a person under the legal age of consent.

Please verify state-specific laws for consent if you are unsure if an individual is a victim of child abuse: <http://www.ageofconsent.us/state-laws>

### **Physical Violence (aka. Intimate Partner Violence)**

**Physical Assault/Abuse:** A physical attack from an individual or group, with or without use of a weapon, threats of physical attack, or acting in a threatening behavior towards the victim.

### **Emotional Violence (aka. Psychological Abuse)**

**Humiliation:** Consistent insults and engagement in verbally aggressive behavior which is intended to humiliate or control the victim.

**Controlling and Manipulative Behaviors:** Non-physical actions meant to control and/or manipulate the victim into submitting to the desires or commands of the aggressor.

Stalking: While legal definitions of stalking vary based on jurisdiction, it can be generally defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

### **Trafficking in Persons**

Trafficking in Persons: the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.