



Women in Motion

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A Little Bit of Background

Advocacy
Movements
Began

(National Women's History Alliance, 2019)

**Pre
1964**

—

1964

—

1986

—

1994

—

2022

Title VII of the
Civil Rights Act

Foundation of preventing sexual
harassment

(U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission, 1964)

Supreme Court
Addresses Harassment

Establishment of guidelines in
the workplace

(Wenzel Fenton Cabassa, 2018)

The Violence
Against
Women Act
Passed

(U.S. Department of Justice, 2014)

Speak Out
Act signed

(U.S. Congress, 2022)



The Problem At Hand

Sexual Harassment Can Shape Any Commute

Women all over the world experience sexual harassment during their commutes. This is regardless of the way they dress, their facial expressions, or the routes they take.

My Thesis Statement

Increasing awareness, education, access to resources, and interventions can improve safety and reporting of sexual harassment on public transportation, decreasing sexual harassment behavior.

YOU CAN'T GET TO OPPORTUNITY IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE GETTING THERE

HARASSMENT CAN SHAPE THE COMMUTE

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE AROUND YOU IS BEING HARASSED

- PRETEND YOU KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL BEING HARASSED OR ASK THEM TO SIT BY YOU
- CALL OUT THE BEHAVIOR IF IT FEELS SAFE TO DO SO
- ASK FOR HELP FROM THOSE AROUND YOU
- REPORT BEHAVIOR TO THE BUS DRIVER OR SECURITY

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BEING HARASSED

- CHANGE WHERE YOU ARE; EITHER CLOSER TO THE DRIVER OR NEAR OTHER PEOPLE
- GET OFF AT AN EARLIER STOP
- USE YOUR VOICE IF YOU FEEL SAFE TO DO SO
- GET HELP FROM SOMEONE NEAR YOU
- RECORD IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FORMS OF HARASSMENT

- **Air dropping inappropriate photos**
- **Continuous staring or eye contact**
- **Unwanted photos or filming**
- **Inappropriate comments (catcalling)**
- **Following or stalking**

SEXUAL ASSAULT: UNWANTED PHYSICAL CONTACT

44% OF UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN EXPERIENCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON OR TO COLORADO UNIVERSITY; 18% EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT

19% OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES EXPERIENCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR ASSAULT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



HELP LINES AND REPORT RESOURCES



HELP LINES AND REPORT RESOURCES



My Poster

It is important to note that this project is a proposed intervention and has not yet been implemented in a real-world setting. Instead, it is based on research and best practices in awareness and resource accessibility.



City Commission,
H.R., 2019

University of
Colorado Boulder,
2024

Helping Survivors,
2026

Street Safe
Thinking,
2022

Women Abuse
Council Of
Toronto, 2021



Why I Chose This Project

Europe trips : Using the public transit I noticed a lot of posters advocating against sexual harassment.

Personal Experiences: Myself and others have been sexually harassed on public transportation.

Current Political Situation: Certain individuals could be seen as promoting sexism and harassment

Why I Care

Many women all over the world experience sexual harassment on public transportation, sometimes daily.

Many women don't feel they can get help during these situations or feel it is not worth the time to report it.

I want women to feel safe, I want the girls growing up in the world to feel safe

Why Public Transportation?

- **This is a vulnerable space for women.**
- **This environment can create a situation that is hard to leave or difficult to avoid.**
- **These interactions can be brief, leaving uncertainty or confusion about what to do.**
- **This type of environment can be hard to study.**

The Impact of My Project



**Promote an overall safer
public transportation system
for women**

01

Raise Awareness

- Encourage individuals to recognize and act against harmful behaviors

02

Provide Resources

- Encourage reporting of individual experiences
- Allow for easy access to phone numbers and websites



Limitations of My Project

Method

- This project focuses on awareness than direct measurement of behavior
- Statistics primarily rely on reported incidents, which can be skewed or underestimate actual prevalence

Target Sample

- This project focuses on women
- This poster has not been tested in real transportation stations

Why This Project Matters to the Public



1 Public Safety

- Sexual harassment can escalate
- Increasing awareness to prevent behaviors

(Manchester University, 2017) (Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, 2024)



2 Empowerment

- Individuals can feel unsure on how to respond

(Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, 2024)

3 Community

- Awareness can encourage bystanders to intervene
- Safer public transport

(Apple, 2013) (Ceccato, V., & Nalla, M. K, 2024)



4 Resources

- Know where to report
- One can take action
- Easier access

(Paul, L. A., Zinzow, H. M., McCauley, J. L., Kilpatrick, D. G., & Resnick, H. S., 2013)





Colorado Sexual Harassment Statistics

2,643

Non- consensual sex offenses in Colorado during 2024

(Colorado Department of Public Safety, 2024)

3,431

Confirmed cases of sexual harassment in schools between 2024 – 2025

(Colorado Department of Education, 2025)

5%

Colorado students reported sexually harassing an individual even though it was known to be unwanted

(Colorado, D. of P. H., 2023)

National Sexual Harassment Statistics

81% or more

Of women experience sexual harassment in their lifetime

(National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 2018)

73%

Of women experience sexual harassment in a public space

(Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, 2024)

56%

Of girls experienced sexual harassment or abuse before 18

(Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, 2024)

19%

Of women experience sexual harassment on mass transportation

(Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, 2024)



What Are Other States Doing?

- **Washington D.C. Metro:** In 2012 the first large anti-sexual harassment transit campaign. WMATA's STOP (Sidetrack, Tell, Observe, Postpone) campaign. (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 2012) (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 2019)
- **New York City Transit:** Campaigns aimed to emphasize that harassment is a violation of civil rights; NYPD's Transit Special Victims Squad and online reporting. (New York City Police Department, 2025) (Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2025)
- **Los Angeles Metro:** Technology-based reporting is available through a texting systems, a new law passed requiring surveys to be sent out to transportation users. (Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2021) (California Transit Association, 2023) (Transit Talent, 2023)
- **Chicago Transit:** The CTA campaign emphasizes bystander responsibility. The main message is that everyone deserves a right to travel safely. (Chicago Transit Authority, 2015) (Chicago Transit Authority, 2026)





What Are Other Countries Doing?

- **United Kingdom:** British transport police as well as RITSI (Report It To Stop It) campaign (encouraging women to report offences).
 - Personal experience: posters advocating against sexual harassment on train transportation. (UK Parliament, 2025)
(Transport for London, 2025)
- **Mexico City:** "We Move Safely" strategy, along with protocol on how to handle sexual harassment. (Changing Transport, 2025)
- **Japan:** Women only train cars (Tokyo Weekender, 2023)(Lupianez, 2021)
- **France:** SNCF Increased police presence, specialized training, posters, and surveillance (Societe National des Chemins de fer Francais Groupe, 2026)
- **India:** Training programs for bus drivers (American Jewish World Service, 2022)



The Change I Hope To Create

01

Women
have less
fear



02

There is an
increase in
reporting



03

There is more
accountability
held



What Needs to be Done in the Future

- **More research when it comes to harassment in public transportation spaces** (McDonald, S.C., & Crowley, J.E., 2023) (Ceccato, V., & Nalla, M. K., 2024)
- **Improve reporting systems for harassment incidents** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025) (Ceccato, V., & Nalla, M. K., 2024)
- **Expand public awareness** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025) (Paul, L. A., et al., 2013)
- **Create new laws and policies** (Ceccato, V., & Nala, M.K., 2024) (Nnawulezi, N. A., et al., 2024)
- **Greater accountability for perpetrators of sexual harassment** (O'Leary-Kelly, A. M., et al., 2014) (Vidu, A., et al., 2021)
- **Education about respectful behavior in shared public spaces** (Apple, 2013) (Nnawulezi, N. A., et al., 2024)
- **Increased collaboration between authorities and advocacy groups** (D'Amora, D. A., & Bums-Smith, G., 1999) (Vidu, A., et al., 2021)



What I Hope You Got From This Presentation

Sexual harassment is a common experience

Having access to resources is very important.

Awareness can help reduce these behaviors.

Everyone plays a role in creating a safe public space

Public transportation is an environment where sexual harassment occurs often.

Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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