

## DAY 7: December 1<sup>st</sup> *Harassment and Violence in the Work Place*

### Sarah's Story

"I work in an office. The good days are those when other employees ask you if you're single and why *"a pretty girl like you should be alone"*. The not so good days are the ones where they feel free to touch you, a hand on your arm, an unwanted hug, a pat on the bum." (Irish Independent Nov.4, 2017)

Women and men experience violence and harassment in the world of work, but unequal status and power relations in society and at work often result in women being far more exposed to such treatment.

### High Risk Groups

- 1. Migrant workers:** More than half are women, but they comprise 98% of sex-trafficked victims. Often, they are in isolated and invisible "women's work" with higher violence risk.
- 2. Domestic workers:** are usually female, often doing informal work, without a support system. They can undergo physical or psychological violence, including sexual harassment and rape.
- 3. Health services workers,** between 80-90% are women. They are eight times more likely to face physical threats, than those working in manufacturing.

**Women in Management:** It has been proved that women who reach executive positions, may face high levels of sexual harassment.



**2017 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) 'Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work'** Agreed conclusions:

"The Commission strongly condemns violence against women and girls in public and private places, including harassment in the work place.

...these forms of violence are major impediments ...hampering women's ability to enter... and remain in the labour market and make contributions commensurate with their abilities."

✚ **The Beijing Platform for Action** recognizes sexual harassment as a form of violence against women. It calls on employers, unions, and civil society, to ensure governments enact and enforce laws on sexual harassment and that employers develop anti-harassment policies and prevention strategies. (para. 178c)

✚ **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a United Nations agency dealing with labour standards



### What could an ILO Convention cover?

- Provisions to prevent gender based violence at work
- Measures to protect and support workers affected by gender based violence
- A description of groups most affected by gender based violence: LGBT, Indigenous and migrant workers, workers living with HIV/AIDS and disabilities, people trapped in forced and child labour

### ACTION to promote equality:

1. **Actively** support the rights of women in the work place to ensure protection and equality.
2. **Encourage** women to seek equality and justice when negotiating new employment.

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Prepared by the 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group, with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...

## ***16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...***



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)



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**Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.**

***DAY 7***

***1<sup>st</sup>***

***December***

## **CHILD MARRIAGE....**



[www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay](http://www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay)

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.



See [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)