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The purpose of the presentation is to provide information on what behaviour is regarded as sexual harassment and sexual assault, including rape. In addition, information will be provided on the legal age of consent in Norway. The criminal penalties for sexual assault will also be covered in the presentation. The presentation will also briefly touch upon prostitution and human trafficking.
Interactions between the sexes – where do the boundaries go?
The legal age of consent

- The legal age of consent in Norway is 16 years of age. This means that sexual relations with children and young people aged under 16 is a criminal offence. This is provided for in the General Civil Penal Code.
- The law protects children and young people against assault by adults.
- The purpose of the law is also to prevent children and young people from feeling pressurised into having sex before they are ready for it and before they wish to do so themselves.
- All sexual relations with children aged under 14 are regarded as rape.
Sexual harassment and sexual assault

- Sexual harassment means unwanted sexual attention that is annoying to the person subjected to it.
- Sexual harassment can be both verbal and non-verbal as well as physical.
- Sexual assault includes rape, touching and serious threats of a sexual nature.
- Physical harassment borders on sexual assault.
Rape is involuntary sexual activity

- Rape is where one person forces sexual activity upon another person.
- Rape does not necessarily involve intercourse. In addition to intercourse, other forms of involuntary sexual activity also constitute rape.
- Rape is a gross sexual assault.
Stranger rape

- A «stranger rape» is rape where rapist is not known to the victim.
- A stranger rape happens without warning, often in a public place.
- Violence and coercion form part of the assault.
Party rape

- A «party rape» is a rape that takes place in connection with a social activity.
- The victim and the perpetrator are often young and know each other to some extent.
- In many cases, the victim is too intoxicated by alcohol or drugs to resist or consent to sexual activity.
- Some rapes take place while the victim is asleep.
**A sleeping person cannot consent to sex**

**Case:**
Lisa and her girlfriends had been out to a bar. In the bar they met a group of boys who invited them back to an apartment nearby for a party. At the party, they drank quite a lot of alcohol, danced and partied.

Lisa falls asleep with her clothes on. She wakes up some hours later without any clothes on. Ole, who owns the apartment, is asleep next to her, naked. Lisa wakes Ole and asks him what happened. Ole replies that they had sex. Lisa says that she remembers nothing and starts to cry. Ole gets angry and says that she went along with it, since she got into his bed and didn’t put up any resistance.

**Discussion:**
- Is this rape?
Intimate partner rape

• An intimate partner rape is rape where the victim and the perpetrator are or have been in a permanent relationship.
• Rape by a spouse is regarded as an intimate partner rape.
• The boundaries between the use of physical and/or mental violence and rape may be unclear.
No means no

**Case:**
Marit and Hans have been married for five years. They have two small children and are constantly tired and worn out, because they get too little sleep. They argue all the time, both about housework and about their financial situation.

Hans frequently signals that he would be interested in sex, but Marit generally says she is tired and turns away from him.

One evening Hans is especially eager. Marit says no several times, but he holds her down and has intercourse with her, even though she tries to pull away.

**Discussion:**
- According to Norwegian law, what Hans did to Marit was rape. Share your thoughts on this.
Rape of the vulnerable

- A rape of a vulnerable person is characterised by the exposed position of the victim, making the person in question particularly vulnerable to assault.
- The perpetrator takes advantage of his/her position of psychological power to coerce the victim into sex.
Where can victims of assault get help?

- A person who has been raped can contact the A&E department in the area or the police.
- In Oslo, there is dedicated resource centre for rape victims (Dixi).
- Most victims of a sexual assault experience negative feelings and reactions after the assault.
The penalty for rape

- Involuntary sexual activity is rape and is punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years.
- Rape involving intercourse is punishable by imprisonment for at least three years and up to 15 years.
- Gross rape is punishable by imprisonment for up to 21 years.
- The rape of a sleeping or unconscious person or a rape in a close relationship is punishable in the same way as other types of rape.
- The punishment for the rape of a vulnerable person may be stricter than for other forms of rape.
Prostitution and trafficking

- Prostitution means the purchase and sale of sexual services.
- Buying sexual services is against the law, but selling sexual services is not.
- Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery in which people are exploited in for example prostitution or slave-like work using coercion, violence and threats. The motivation behind human trafficking is financial.
- Under Norwegian law, human trafficking is illegal.