



LET'S BE THE FIRST...

Rising for a Safe Vadodara for Wo_men

RIISING TO ENSURE A SAFE VADODARA FOR WO_MEN*

Sexual harassment / assault of women and girls in public spaces is an everyday occurrence. According to TOI, a recent survey shows that **99% of women** confirmed being sexually harassed in their lifetime. **Vadodara is no different!**

This reality limits women's mobility, access to public services and their participation in public life. It has lasting impacts on the emotional, mental and physical health, growth and well-being. Yet, sexual harassment remains a neglected issue.

In fact, street harassment is often considered normal.

Determined to make **public places safe for women and girls**, we have initiated the **"Rising to Ensure a Safe Vadodara"** campaign. We advocate safeguarding **wo_men's rights to access public places, so that every wo_man can move freely without fear no matter where, when or how!**

* The underscore between WO_MEN is called 'gender gap'. It gives space to the people who don't or won't identify themselves as a man or woman.

- **Let's not be silent**
- **Let's speak up loud and clear**
- **Let's be bold, brave and make our voices heard**

LETS MAKE VADODARA THE FIRST CITY FREE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT!



SEXUAL VIOLENCE INCLUDES

- Comments on appearance, sexual orientation, etc
- Honking or yelling, making flirtatious advances
- Staring, leering, whistling, kissing or pssst noises
- Grabbing, groping, touching (e.g., someone's breasts or butt)
- Flashing, exposing oneself or public masturbation
- Stalking, blocking or following women (on foot, in a vehicle)
- Sexual or vulgar gestures or comments (e.g., Hey baby, I'd like a piece of that")
- Rape, molestation or any other unwanted sexual act
- Filming or photographing without consent

**ANY ACTION OF
THIS KIND IS A CRIME**

PLACES OF PUBLIC USE INCLUDE

Roads, Sidewalks, Bus Stops, Train Stations, Auto Stands, Under bridges and flyovers,
Parks and Gardens, Parking Lots , Malls, Education Institutions,
Hospitals, Inside transportation and many more...

EQUAL RIGHT TO USE PUBLIC PLACES!

Any unwelcome or unwanted verbal, non-verbal, physical or visual
conduct of sexual nature that makes others uncomfortable is a crime.



JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- **Awareness drive**

Actively participate in dialogue and discourse to collectively challenge sexual harassment to create a safe Vadodara!
Every Friday at 5.00 PM.

- **Perception study (Survey & Focus Group Discussions)**

Participate in our study by sharing your perceptions and experiences to understand the issue of sexual harassment in places of public use.

- **Contribute towards a #SafeVadodara!** Participate in our contest by sending your anecdotes, art, poems or photos on **'Rethinking Women's Safety in Public Places'** until 5th July. The best entries will be exhibited for public viewing.

- **Reclaiming Public Places - Gender-Inclusive Urban Planning and Design**

Share your experiences and safety concerns with eminent experts, policy makers and state authorities on **Tuesday, 14th July 2015, 9 AM-7 PM. Register now to participate.**

- **Personal Safety Workshops**

Participate in personal safety and gender sensitization workshops to address gender-based violence, harassment and discrimination.

- If you (or anyone you know) are going through harassment/abuse by known or unknown people or feeling stress, anxiety, confusion, helplessness and need to speak to someone or just require information,
drop in on Wednesdays between 4-6 PM.

Contact us for more information or to take part in any of the above mentioned activities.

TAKE PART! MAKE VADODARA SAFER!





-IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES YOU WEAR!

-IT'S NOT THE TIME YOU CHOOSE TO GO OUT!

-IT'S NOT THE MALE COMPANION YOU WENT OUT WITH!

-IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO MOVE FREELY AT ANYTIME IN ANY PLACE

Sexual harassment is a violation of human rights. Don't blame yourself, don't feel guilty, don't feel social pressure or stigma - **BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!** You're not wrong even if family/friends/neighbours/media/police or anyone else tells you otherwise. **SPEAK OUT LOUDLY - THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE.** Here are some **TIPS** to deal with such situations.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Always walk confidently with your head held high.
 - Don't ignore your instincts, act upon it immediately before it becomes worse.
 - Always remember that it is better to be safe than sorry.
 - Don't panic, instead take a deep breath!
 - You have the strength and ability to find a way out.
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- Avoid questioning/verbal argument.
 - Directly name the behavior with an assertive and loud voice by looking straight at the perpetrator and insist that he stops! This usually leaves the perpetrator dumbstruck.
 - Run to the nearest lit houses/street/shop/ATM (for security!) with traffic or crowds and make loud noise to get support.
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- Before getting in, note down the auto's/taxi's registration number and pass it to concerned people.
 - Talk or pretend to be talking on the phone, audible to the driver.
 - Be aware! If you feel something is wrong, immediately get off or scream and make people notice!
 - In a lift, press all the buttons to your destination to stop it on every floor.
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- Don't hesitate, share your experience with whomever you are comfortable with!
 - Make it public! Inform authorities or the perpetrator's workplace to create pressure.
 - Report the crime to the nearest police station, file the FIR. Be sure to take a signed copy.
 - In case of being sexually abused or raped, immediately consult the nearest hospital to get a medical check-up done before cleaning yourself up, or urinating.
 - No Police Station/Hospital can refuse to assist, it is their legal duty.
 - Store all '**HELPLINE**' numbers in your mobile: **1098** child helpline, **181** women's helpline/ **1091** women's rescue, **108** in emergency;
For help in **any kind of situation call 100** (Police control).

We strongly believe that you are the best judge of your situation and should make your choice based on the context.



WOMEN'S SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

What YOU can do TO TAKE A STAND against sexual harassment/assault:

- This issue is serious. **Listen and believe** in women's experiences!
- Learn about it and become more sensitive to what might offend others.
- **Offer your support** to the people who have experienced violence.

IT STARTS WITH YOU!

- Question your own attitude and behaviours and how they may disrespect or harm women.
- Don't make/join in/laugh on comments/jokes that make women/girls uncomfortable.
- Sexist language and street harassment all contribute to a culture of violence.
- Don't walk by if you witness harassment/assault anywhere.
- Look disapprovingly at the person harassing someone.
- Name the behavior: "You just called her a bitch." State a principle: "That's not okay."
- Assess the risk, then intervene and confront the harasser.
- Take support from bystanders, call for help or the police if necessary.
- Stand next to the person being targeted so they know they are not alone.
- Ask the person being harassed "Are you ok?" or if there is anything you can do to help.
- Connect them to support-services.

If you can't confront the harasser directly

- Distract by asking time, directions etc.
- "Accidentally" drop your key/bags/spill coffee to create a disruption.
- Make eye contact with other bystanders and ask, "What should we do to help?"
- Yell "Somebody do something!" and get a group to intervene.
- Take a picture or video for evidence.

Be a role model: Lead by example and talk to your friends, family and co-workers about how they can help to end harassment/violence against women.

A note on safety: We don't want anyone to get hurt, always think about safety and consider those possibilities that are unlikely to put you or others in harm's way.



Olakh was established in 1993 to create a just and peaceful society, considering all prevailing violence, discrimination and injustice that the society renders to its vulnerable sections. It is an emotional and physical space to mutually share, learn, grow and assert our identities with pride and dignity. For more information, please visit our website.

YOU ARE WELCOME

Sit with us, share your experiences and enjoy the atmosphere! You can also contribute by offering your time, knowledge, thoughts, skills and more. If you are looking for a medium of change **Olakh is YOUR SPACE!**

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT

Olakh A space to share
8-A Nivruti Colony, Opp. Zila Talim Bhavan,
Between: Upendracharya Asharam & Viroc Hospital,
Arya Kanya Vidhyalaya Road, Karelibaug
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SMART CITY = SAFE CITY