Power-Based Violence & Online Dating Safety

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Overview

Introduction / Ground Rules
Power-Based Violence
Intersectionality
Consent
Online Dating & Dating App Safety
Online Dating Strategies for Establishing Boundaries
Questions
What is power-based violence?
The use of actual/perceived power over another in order to gain and maintain control within a relationship.

Why do we use this terminology?
To create inclusive and intersectional awareness around these forms of violence.
A concept introduced by attorney and legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw that can be defined as:

a way of understanding how different identities overlap and create opportunity for multiple forms of oppression to work against an individual.
Intersectionality

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViDtnfQ9FHC

Kimberlé Crenshaw
American Civil Rights Advocate
Professor, UCLA School of Law and
Columbia Law School
CONSENT

Freely Given
Reversible
Informed
Enthusiastic
Specific

Planned Parenthood
Online Dating
Dating App Safety

AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS...
Did you know that more than 40 million people use online dating services or dating apps?
Online Dating

Dating App Safety

Privacy

Dating sites rely on gathering and selling information about users for marketing and to make a profit. This is important because the perception of anonymity online may not match the reality – private and intimate information about users is gathered and sold by most sites. In addition to the routine sharing of user data for marketing, dating sites have exposed users’ personal information accidentally through bugs in their software, and through inadequate security, allowing hackers to access personal and financial information. (techsafety.org)

Harassment

Young adults, and particularly young women, experience online harassment at a high rate. People who identify with other marginalized groups are more likely to experience harassment. Online dating represents a small portion of where people say that online harassment happens.

Harassment, threats, and abuse that happen “only” online should be taken seriously. Such experiences can be traumatizing, and may include financial crime or identity theft. Victims report efforts to ruin their reputations and drive them from online community. If enough identifying information is known, the abuse can also quickly become an offline threat. (techsafety.org)
It is important to identify, establish, and maintain boundaries in your online relationships.

We can not depend on others to respect our boundaries. Continuing to enforce and maintain our boundaries is of the utmost importance.
Online Dating

1) Use different photographs for your dating profile
2) Avoid connecting with suspicious profiles
3) Check your potential date on Social Media
4) Wait to share personal information
5) Video Chat before you meet in person
6) Tell a friend where you are going
7) Meet in a public place
8) Do not rely on your date for transportation
9) Trust your instincts
Use different photographs for your dating profile

Someone can copy and paste your photograph into a search engine and find social media accounts.

Recommended to use a photograph that is not currently being utilized on any social media accounts or via Web.
Avoid connecting with suspicious profiles

Many users use fake profile pictures and many sites do not confirm whether users post accurate or truthful information.

Recommended to avoid and/or block/report anything suspicious and/or suspicious users.
Check your potential date on Social Media

There is nothing wrong with wanting to know more about the person you are considering dating.

Recommended to try and find out more as many dating sites do not confirm information or conduct background information.
Wait to share personal information

Establish boundaries. You are not required or should ever feel required to share information about yourself.

Recommended to not share anything you are not comfortable sharing. Establish boundaries.
Video chat before you meet in-person

Confirming that someone appears to be who they claim. This is a strategy to create an environment where you are in control by establishing boundaries.

Recommended to confirm someone is who they are. Many people use fake profiles and pictures. Establish boundaries.
Tell a friend where you are going

Telling someone where you are going is a strategy to assist in creating that safe space on a date.

Recommended to tell a friend where you are going so if you can have a trustworthy person to connect with if you become uncomfortable.

Establish boundaries.
Establish boundaries. If you are not comfortable to meet somewhere private let them know and meet in a public setting.

Recommended to meet in public place until you are comfortable to meet in private setting. Establish boundaries and the space where you are comfortable.
Establish boundaries and strategies to create a safe environment where you are comfortable. If you are able to drive feel free to do so.

Recommended to drive yourself so that you are in control on when you want to leave and where you want to go. Establish boundaries.
TRUST YOURSELF.

Recommended to trust yourself and your instincts. If you do not feel comfortable then establish boundaries that make you feel safe.