

Haileybury MUN

Research report



GA3: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural

The question of sexual abuse in the military

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Introduction

When serving in their country's military, many women are sexually abused, and this problem is not only prevalent, but systemic. There is a culture of 'don't ask, don't tell', which should have been abolished long ago. In order to combat this issue, delegates should think about punishments which could be introduced for perpetrators, and protections which can help to decrease the likelihood that female officers will suffer sexual abuse.

Definitions

Consent – an agreement expressed through affirmative, voluntary words or actions, and mutually understandable to all parties involved, to engage in a specific sexual act at a specific time.

Incapacitated - a person is incapable of consent if they are unable to *understand the facts, nature, extent, or implications* of the situation due to drugs, alcohol, a mental disability, being asleep or unconscious, or based on their age. Consent does not exist when the individual initiating sexual activity *knew or should have known* of the other person's incapacitation

Complainant - refers to an individual who reports experiencing sexual misconduct committed by a fellow service person

Sexual assault – non-consensual sexual penetration; or, non-consensual intentional sexual contact with an intimate area of another person

Sexual harassment – unwelcome conduct or behaviour of a sexual nature, whether violent or nonviolent

Sexual violence - physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or when a person is incapable of giving consent due to use of drugs or alcohol, or due to an intellectual disability or other disability. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion.

Statistics

- In the US, 52% of those who came forward about experiencing sexual assault were retaliated against by their own chain of command
- A woman's odds of being harmed by a fellow soldier dwarf her odds of being harmed by the enemy.
- Full on rape and forced prostitution runs rampant within the ranks, newer service members often having to perform sexual favors to those senior to them. The reports of forced male prostitution have especially caught the attention of the media in recent years.
- Since 2016, there has been a [20% increase](#) of sexual assault complaints within the IDF
- While one in six women in the IDF are reported to have experienced some level of sexual harassment, only 15.6% have actually come forward and reported it.
- Some women have said that service there is so agonizing that many women stop menstruating and that rape is commonplace, according to a report from [BBC](#).

- One in six men report being sexually abused during childhood. This means that over 8,000 men enter the Army every year having already been sexually abused.

Bibliography

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