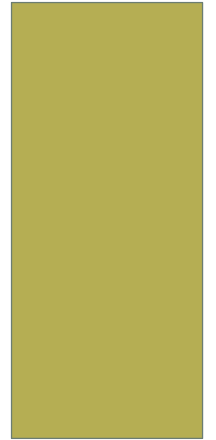




YES OR NO?

CONSENT



WHAT IS CONSENT?

Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something:

Sexual consent is an agreement to any sexual experience – be it touching someone, kissing someone, or having full sex with them.



REASONS WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE NOT TO HAVE SEX

Just don't want to

Scared

Religion/Culture

Nowhere to go

Want to wait until they are married

Haven't met the right person yet

Don't know what to do

Uncomfortable with their body

Don't feel ready

Peer pressure

To avoid pregnancy or STIs

Don't want to be called names

Fear of getting hurt

REASONS WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE TO HAVE SEX

Nothing else to do - boredom

Media

Feel they have to

For pleasure

Don't want to be called names

Drunk/taken drugs

To keep their partner

To show their partner how they feel

To fit in

To have a baby

Because it's fun

Want to lose their virginity

They think everybody else is

Feels like the right time

SIGNS OF CONSENT?

- The person clearly wants to engage in the activity and actively demonstrates this verbally and/or through their body language
- There should be no ambiguity or confusion about whether consent is given: 'not saying no' is not giving consent.
- Both ethically and in the law, responsibility for ensuring that consent has been given lies with the person seeking consent. This means being sure that a partner is actively consenting and that none of the conditions which prevent free, informed consent (such as manipulation or exploitation) are present.

CONSENT AND THE LAW

- The legal age of consent to sexual activity is 16.
- Any voluntary agreement to sexual activity by a child under 16 cannot be defined as consent in law.
- Below the age of consent, the law protects young people by prohibiting them from engaging in certain behaviours - they protect them from potential exploitation.
- However, guidance from the Crown Prosecution Service states that, as long as neither partner is under 13, *'pupils of the same or similar age are highly unlikely to be prosecuted for engaging in sexual activity, where the activity is mutually agreed and there is no abuse or exploitation'*.

CONSENT AND THE LAW

- The age of consent is the age when young people *can* legally consent to have sex, not the age when they *should* or *must* do so.
- Where a person over the age of 16 has sex with someone under 16, it is the person over 16 who commits the offence, not the younger person.
- There are some situations where it is illegal to have sex with someone under the age of 18, for example if the other person is in 'a position of trust', such as a teacher with their pupil.

RELATIONSHIP SCENARIOS

She is 15 and really fancies a 15 year old lad at school. He says he will go out with her if she sends him a naked photo on her phone.

What might her feelings be?

What should she do about it?

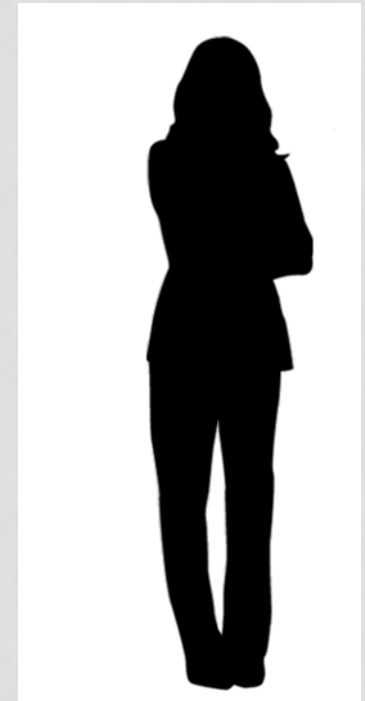
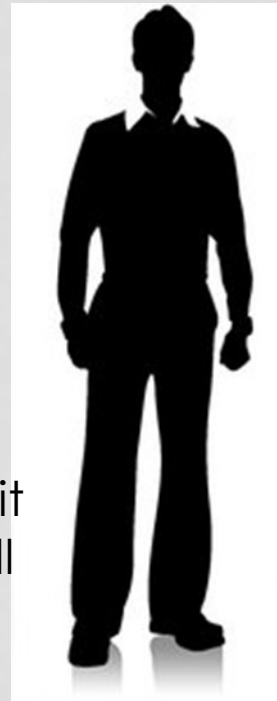


RELATIONSHIP SCENARIOS

They had sex for the first time last Saturday. She text him to say she can't wait to do it again next weekend. He does not feel confident or comfortable to have sex again so soon.

What could he say to her?

Why might someone think it is okay to presume they will have sex with that person again ?



RELATIONSHIP SCENARIOS

Her boyfriend has told her they are going to have sex for the first time tonight.

What could she say back to him?

Where could she go for help and support?



RELATIONSHIP SCENARIOS

They have been going out for a year and are both 15. They haven't had sex yet and want to wait until they are older.

Why might someone decide not to have sex?

What do you think of them?



WITHDRAWING CONSENT

- We all have the right to withdraw our consent at any time and that this must be respected.
- Just because someone agreed to something previously doesn't mean they will always agree to it and this must be respected.
- Everyone has the right to say 'I have changed my mind' and this must be respected.
- There can be no excuses for not respecting someone's right to change their mind, or to not give or withdraw their consent.

CONSENT AND TEA!

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoWLWS4-kU>



CONTACT



24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247

www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge