

DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT

Harassment takes many forms but can generally be defined as behaviour including comments and/or conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual or groups of individuals or which creates an uncomfortable environment.

Harassment may include:

- written or verbal abuse or threats;
- sexually oriented comments;
- racial or ethnic slurs;
- unwelcome remarks, jokes, innuendoes, or taunting about a person's body, attire, age, marital status, ethnic or racial origin religion etc.;
- displaying of sexually explicit, racist or other offensive or derogatory material;
- sexual, racial, ethnic or religious graffiti;
- practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety, or negatively affect performance;
- unwelcome sexual remarks, invitations or requests whether indirect or explicit, or intimidation;
- leering (suggestive staring), or other obscene or offensive gestures;
- condescension, paternalism or patronizing behaviour which undermines self-respect or adversely affects performance or working conditions;
- physical conduct such as touching, kissing, patting, pinching, etc.;
- vandalism;
- physical assault.