



Suliman S. Olayan School of Business



KIP Documentation Project

Attitudes and Practices towards Sexual Harassment in Beirut

By

HarassTacker

Nay el Rahi

Myra el Mir

Sandra Hassan

Co-Founders

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Olayan School of Business

American University of Beirut

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I. Executive Summary

Much of our understanding of sexual harassment as researchers and activists comes from established theories leading to an ineffective on-the-ground solution. Through this research we looked beyond the obvious understanding we hold of sexual harassment and identified key points to work on.

There is a pronounced dissonance between the language we use and the one circulated in the media on one hand, and the language people use to describe their own experiences on the other. This keeps the discussion in the theoretical sphere; something people know but do not relate to. The notion of consent is present yet mostly irrelevant in affecting the behavior; the notion of body and bodily integrity is more concrete than that of the sexual aspect of sexual harassment, yet the sense of safety and bodily comfort is often delegated to the family. As sexual harassment greatly affects the sense of security, we deconstruct this relationship identifying the role of discourse, knowledge, trust in society, and police.