



UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

All unwanted sexual acts - whether harassment, abuse, or assault - committed against another person, without that person's freely given consent, is sexual violence and can be prosecuted as a crime. Sexual violence is not about sex, gratification, or sexual rights over another. It is about the power and control an abuser has over their victim. There are many techniques that the abuser may use in order to establish that power and control over the victim; in religious and cultural communities, that often involves misappropriating religious and cultural traditions to justify the violence. This type of violence and abusive techniques are the complete antithesis to the tradition of Islam, which has compassion, justice, and kindness at the root of all its human interactions.