The issue of sexual harassment has been given significant media attention recently. Vastly under-reported, the true extent and gravity of the problem is not completely known. The most comprehensive survey available on violence against women at EU level (published by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2014) also reveals women’s experiences with sexual harassment. The respondents were given a list of 11 possible acts of sexual harassment, six of which were defined as ‘most serious’. It was possible to give more than one answer. Every second woman (55%) in the EU has experienced sexual harassment at least once since the age of 15, and 45% have experienced the ‘most serious’ forms of sexual harassment. Out of all the women who indicated at least one serious incident, 35% did not speak to anyone about the incident, while 63% spoke to somebody (2% gave no answer).

55% of women in the EU have experienced sexual harassment at least once since the age of 15.

Most serious forms of sexual harassment:
- 29% Unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing
- 24% Sexually suggestive comments or jokes that made them feel offended
- 16% Somebody indecently exposing themselves to them
- 7% Sexually explicit emails or text messages that offended them
- 5% Sexually explicit pictures, photos or gifts that made them feel offended
- 2% Somebody making them watch or look at pornographic material against their wishes

Other forms of sexual harassment:
- 30% Staring or leering that made them feel intimidated
- 20% Intrusive comments about their physical appearance that made them feel offended
- 16% Intrusive questions about their private life that made them feel offended
- 16% Inappropriate invitations to go out on dates
- 6% Inappropriate advances that offended them on social networking sites

35% of women did not speak to anyone about the most serious incident.

The other women (63%) talked about or reported the most serious incident of sexual harassment to:
- 28% Friend
- 24% Family member or relative
- 14% Partner/boyfriend/girlfriend
- 6% Colleague
- 4% Employer/boss
- 4% Police
- 2% Doctor or healthcare worker
- 2% Someone else
- 2% Another pupil or student
- 1% Counsellor
- 1% Teacher or professor
- 0.1% Lawyer
- 0.1% Victim support organisation
- 0.1% Labour union representative