



Sexual And Verbal Assault



Role or Job	Assigned to...	Job Description
Facilitator and Quality Checker	Lynn Zeineddine	-makes sure everyone has an opportunity to contribute - checks the criteria for quality work to make sure the group is meeting its target
Timekeeper	Chlea Makhoul	- makes sure the group completes tasks on time
Material Manager	Lynn Jannoun	- gathers, organizes, and returns all materials used - ensures keeping materials in good order and not waste them
Group Representative and Recorder	Rand Hatoum	- speaks for the group when negotiating with the teacher
Task Master and Recorder	Sirine Najmeddine	- encourages the members to stay focused on the job - encourages the members to fulfill their roles' responsibilities



Sexual and Verbal Assault

Anti-Sexual and Verbal Assault

Every single teenager has been exposed to a certain type of abuse at least once in their life. However, most aren't aware of how serious this issue is since society deems it as a taboo subject. That's why we, as a group, decided to shed light and raise awareness on this sensitive issue. Our group aims to raise consciousness and promote research on dating violence and other similar types of assaults. We plan to develop prevention methods and action plans, particularly for teenagers in our age group. After our research, it is evident that dating violence and other types of abuse are ongoing matters in teenagers' lives; thus, we intend to open up more about it and engage others in this topic. Many teenagers don't view this issue in a serious way, and they often don't speak up if they're being assaulted in any form. For this cause, we aim to inspire these people to vocalize their experiences and ask for help when obliged. As a partner in a relationship, they must acknowledge their right to say "No" whenever they feel insecure and unsafe. They're entitled to speak up about any harassment they experience and not hold it in, for this could traumatize them forever. We also seek to create an impact on the assaulters. If we educate them from an early age, we might limit this violence from occurring later on. These people assault others for particular reasons, and for this, we aim to define those reasons and clarify matters that later on lead to these assaults. Additionally, our team addresses the Sustainable Development Goal 5, which aims to achieve gender equality. When gender equality is attained, both genders will receive the same amount of respect. In a nutshell, we want to influence both the assaulter and the victim. We aspire to shed light on all types of abuse- not just physical harm, and finally, we aim to create a positive connection to the issue by focusing on the qualities of healthy and affectionate relationships.

Our team wanted to expand our aims and engage more teenagers in the project. Unfortunately, the current global pandemic stood in the way of achieving our plans. However, before these difficult times, we partnered with two AUB doctors: Dr. Zakia Dimassi and Dr. Julia Sammouri. They have vast experience in this field and have already directed projects and studies related to dating violence and other forms of harassment. After meeting with them and sharing ideas and opinions, we were finally able to narrow our topic down to dating violence. To our disappointment, we weren't able to change our title and make it more applicable to our project. Then, we conducted a small presentation in the school's auditorium during an advisory session. The attendees were teenagers of our age group, as this issue is explicitly addressed to them. We started off by introducing dating violence and sexual harassment. We engaged with the audience and presented and discussed real-life situations to clarify our point. We noticed that not all teenagers view this issue from the same perspective. We opened debates and discussions with them; thus,

opening their eyes to daily life experiences which they didn't know how to react to. This session helped them understand that some actions are unacceptable and they have the right to stop them. Furthermore, at the end of the session, some students came to us seeking some advice and revealed their thoughts; we answered their inquiries and discussed their viewpoints. This presentation portrayed the drastic change in opinions between genders. Moreover, we conducted a survey on students our age. They filled up a questionnaire about the attitudes towards male and female psychological dating violence. The results helped us know more about teenagers' opinions regarding the topic and shifted our focus on how to raise awareness among students. The survey helped us interpret the mindset of teenagers. It allowed us to understand their perspectives more vividly, and made them cognizant of their right to say "No". Furthermore, we created an Instagram page (@speakkout) to engage teenagers in activities and spread awareness among them. Our posts were dedicated to provide statistics, raise awareness, and encourage those teenagers to speak up. Through this interactive platform, we shared our responses and thoughts with our followers. They were also able to tell their stories anonymously, and we didn't hesitate to put them on the right path and encourage other audiences to never be afraid to speak up.

As mentioned earlier, before the global pandemic, our team was planning on improving our project and expanding our purposes. Unfortunately, we couldn't achieve all our goals. We intended to organize a bake sale in school to raise money and donate them to Himaya, a Lebanese non-governmental organization. Moreover, we developed an idea to film a short video concerning catcalling and street harassment. We had thought about roaming around Bliss street for a couple of hours with a hidden camera to record harassers. We also intended to publish the video on social media to raise awareness on the issue and perceive the level of street harassment teenagers endure on a daily basis. To add more, we planned to host games after school that would indirectly educate teenagers on dating violence and sexual and verbal abuse. We wanted to interview couples and ask each one of them questions, in order to establish and emphasize the differences in their opinions on these matters.

In a society where this type of abuse is normalized, this project helped us broaden our understanding of teenage violence from the many viewpoints we received. After engaging with the audience and putting ourselves in their shoes, we developed a connection with them. It showed us how differently teenagers think about such critical matters, which made us evolve our communication skills and widen our perspectives. We also developed management skills, as well as the ability to plan, coordinate, and prioritize our work. Finally, this project revealed our teamwork skills as we cooperated and coordinated the work collectively, distributed the roles equally, and worked as a team to ensure the effectiveness of our project.

Writers: Rand Hatoum
Leen Jannoun



Attitudes towards Female Psychological Dating Violence Scale

	(1)Strongly Disagree	(2)Mildly Disagree	(3)Neither Disagree nor agree	(4) Mildly Agree	(5)Strongly Agree
1-There is no excuse for a girl to threaten her boyfriend	3.3%	0%	16.6%	16.6%	63.3%
2-There is never a good enough reason for a girl to swear at her boyfriend	3.3%	10%	20%	26.6%	40%
3-Girls have right to tell their boyfriends how to dress	60%	20%	6.6%	13.3%	0%
4-A guys should always do what his girlfriend tells him to do	46.6%	30%	16.6%	3.3%	3.3%
5-If a girl yells and screams at her boyfriend it does not really hurt him seriously	70%	20%	3.3%	6.66%	0%
6- Girls have a right to tell their boyfriends what to do.	63.3%	13.3%	13.3%	10%	0%
7- It Is important for a guy to always dress the way his girlfriend wants	50%	46.6%	3.3%	0%	0%
8- Sometimes girls just can't help but swear at their boyfriends	43.3%	26.6%	16.6%	10%	3.3%
9- A guy should always ask his girlfriend first before going out with his friends.	50%	26.6%	16.6%	0%	6.66%
10- It is OK for a girl to bad mouth her boyfriend	73.3%	23.3%	3.3%	0%	0%
11- It is understandable when a girl gets so angry that she yells at her boyfriend	20%	36.6%	20%	23.3%	0%
12- Sometimes girls have to threaten their boyfriends so that they will listen.	96.6%	3.3%	0%	0%	0%
13- A girl should not control what her boyfriend wears.	16.6%	20%	13.3%	10%	40%

Attitudes Towards Male Psychological Dating Violence Scale

	(1)Strongly Disagree	(2)Mildly Disagree	(3)Neither Disagree nor agree	(4) Mildly Agree	(5)Strongly Agree
1- A guy should not insult his girlfriend	0%	0%	9.1%	13.6%	77.3%
2- A guy should not tell his girlfriend what to do	0%	9.1%	18.2%	27.3%	45.5%
3- A girl should ask her boyfriend first before going out with her friends.	59.1%	22.7%	18.2%	0%	0%
4-Relationships always work best when girls please their boyfriends.	45.54%	22.7%	22.7%	4.5%	4.5%
5- There is never a reason for a guy to threaten his girlfriend.	4.5%	4.5%	0%	9.1%	81.8%
6- Sometimes guys just can't help but swear at their girlfriends	54.5%	22.7%	4.5%	9.1%	9.1%
7- A girl should always change her ways to please her boyfriend.	40.9%	27.2%	27.2%	0%	4.5%
8- A girl should always do what her boyfriend tells her to do.	77.3%	18.2%	4.5%	0%	0%
9- A guy does not need to know his girlfriend's every move.	4.5%	0%	27.2%	18.2%	50%
10- There is never a good enough reason for a guy to swear at his girlfriend.	0%	9.1%	9.1%	13.6%	68.2%
11- It is understandable when a guy gets so angry that he yells at his girlfriend.	27.2%	40.9%	22.7%	9.1%	0%
12- It is o.k for a guy to bad mouth his girlfriend.	90.0%	4.5%	4.5%	0%	0%
13- There is never a reason for a guy to yell and scream at his girlfriend.	18.2%	18.2%	0%	22.7%	40.9%
14- A girl should not see her friends if it bothers her boyfriend.	77.3%	13.63%	9.1%	0%	0%
15- It is important for a girl to always dress the way her boyfriend wants.	77.3%	22.7%	0%	0%	0%