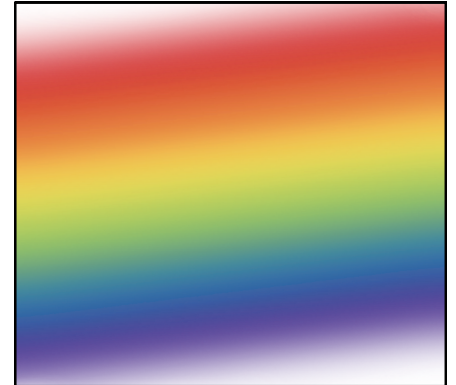


MAPPING QUEER CONSENT

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This edition of the CMGI newsletter reflects on how the queer community navigates sexual consent. It also outlines the process of filing a complaint with CMGI if you experience sexual harassment. In addition, it highlights Samabhav, a two-day film festival on gender equity, diversity, and inclusion, hosted by Alliance Française de Ahmedabad in collaboration with Men Against Violence and Abuse on 12–13 July 2025.



Queer Negotiations of Sexual Consent

As Pride Month comes to an end, it is imperative to reflect on the queer perspective on sexual consent, which both challenges and redefines mainstream narratives. Conventional understandings of sexual consent often stem from a view of relationships where straight couples are the norm and fixed gender roles are expected. In this view, men are positioned as constant initiators whose consent is implied, while women are framed as sexual gatekeepers whose consent is conditional and contractual. This way of thinking strips consent of its depth, turning it into a gendered performance that reduces it to a one-time yes or no, rather than something that is dialogic, mutual, and ongoing.

Such normative models not only flatten the complexity of heterosexual desire and communication but also constrain queer experiences by pushing them into the same limiting mold. Queer dynamics are frequently interpreted through heteronormative lenses that impose fixed gender roles, hierarchical power structures, and active or passive binaries. One example of this would be a reference to the terms top/bottom in the LGBTQIA+ community, which often mirror dominant heterosexual scripts. These labels, while meaningful for some, can also reflect the lingering influence of normative sexual hierarchies, even in spaces that are consciously working to resist them.

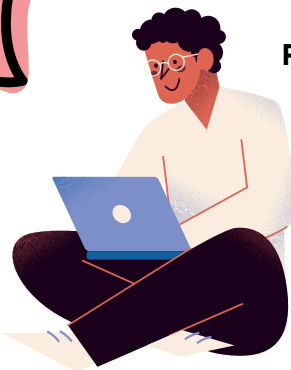
Yet, despite the normative influence, queer communities have cultivated alternative models of intimacy and consent. Precisely because queer relationships, by virtue of existing outside rigid gender binaries, require more explicit negotiation of desire, boundaries, and expectations. This results in a more nuanced and reciprocal approach to consent that recognizes shifting power dynamics, and the fluid nature of sexual and romantic encounters.

More than just a response to exclusion, queer consent practices offer a constructive framework that reimagines intimacy through mutual respect, shared responsibility, and a focus on pleasure. By centering queer perspectives, we can move beyond the limitations of binary sexual scripts and build a more inclusive and communicative culture of consent that affirms the complexity of all bodies, desires, and identities.

IIMA TALKS

Even in queer spaces, consent isn't perfect. There are still power plays, still moments where someone pushes a little too much... and then you're left wondering - was that okay? And the hard part is, because it's queer, you're expected to know better... but we're all still figuring it out.

Prashant*, Academic Associate



You know what I've noticed? In queer relationships, the roles kinda switch up a lot more... like who's taking charge or who's being more masculine or feminine... it's not stuck in one mode... it flows back and forth

Ridhi*, Research Assistant



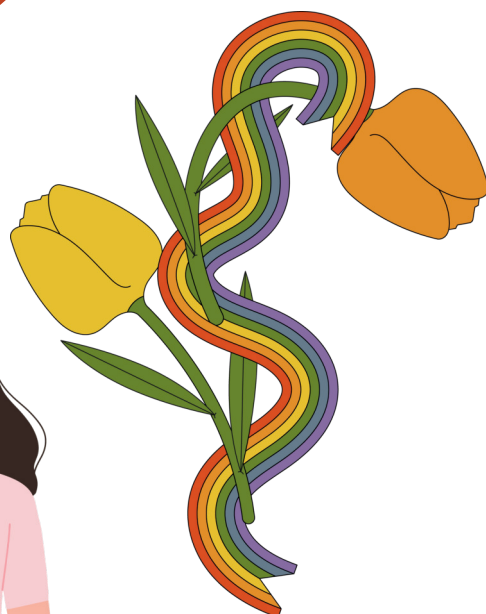
I've had moments in queer relationships where I felt like I couldn't say no... not because I didn't want to, but because I was scared of being seen as cold or un-queer or too uptight. And that's messed up too... we need to talk more about those grey areas.

Aadrika*, Student



With a female partner, I sometimes worry that initiating might come across as creepy, and I end up assigning negative masculinity to my own desire. I navigate this by staying attuned, checking in, and respecting the other person's body language.

Mannat*, Student



*Names have been anonymised

WHAT TO DO IF YOU EXPERIENCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

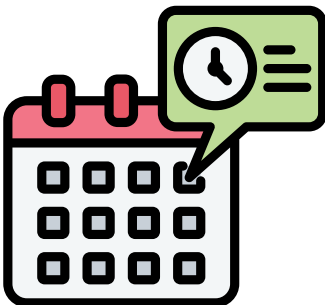
The Committee for Managing Gender Issues (CMGI) is IIMA's Internal Committee that addresses sexual harassment on campus and ensures protection and redressal for members of all genders.

THE PROCESS FOR MAKING A COMPLAINT



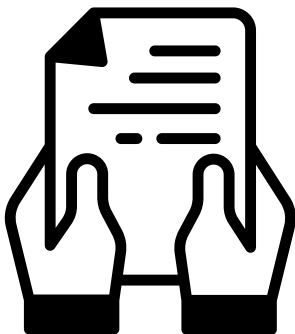
Submit a written, non-anonymous complaint

- The complaint must be in writing.
- If you need help writing it, the CMGI Chairperson or any member will assist you.



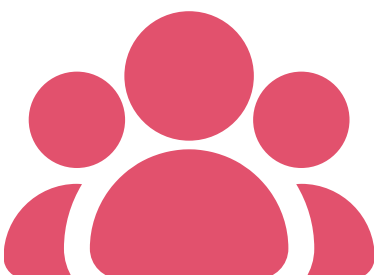
Time frame

- Submit within 3 months of the incident.
- If it's a series of incidents: within 3 months of the last incident.



What to include in your complaint

Describe the incident clearly, with as many relevant details as possible (what happened, when, where, and who was involved).



Who can file the complaint (if you're unable)

A friend, relative, colleague, co-student, psychologist, or associate may file a complaint on your behalf, but only in extreme circumstances such as hospitalization, mental incapacity, or death.

A two-day film festival, Samabhav, is being hosted by Alliance Française de Ahmedabad in collaboration with Men Against Violence and Abuse. The event will feature films on gender equity, diversity, and inclusion, along with expert interactions on 12-13 July 2025.



Alliance Française de Ahmedabad
in collaboration with
Men Against Violence and Abuse
present

SAMABHAV

An exciting 2 days film festival
On gender equity, diversity & inclusion
Screening of outstanding films and interaction with experts

12-13 JULY 2025 | 2 PM - 8 PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION: 9870307748

SCAN TO REGISTER



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#FILMSFORCHANGE

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The monthly newsletter from the Committee for Managing Gender Issues (CMGI) is an attempt to initiate conversations on sexual harassment. We would love to have the community participate. Please reach out to Geetika Sharma at geetikas@iima.ac.in for queries, submissions, and/or feedback.

If you feel you have been subjected to sexual harassment or if you would like to make any suggestions regarding curbing sexual harassment on campus, please reach out to us at: Email: chr-cmgi@iima.ac.in. Please note that any communication with the CMGI is strictly confidential.