

## HANDOUT 8.1: DEFINITIONS

### **Consent**

Agreement freely and thoughtfully given, through mutually understandable words or actions, to participate in a specific sexual activity. If *no* is not an option, *yes* is meaningless. If a person is underage to give consent, too impaired by drugs or alcohol to give consent, or developmentally unable to give consent, *yes* is meaningless.

### **Sexual harassment**

Any unwelcome verbal or physical sexual advances or conduct, including requests for sexual favors.

### **Sexual assault**

Any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.

### **Rape**

The U.S. Department of Justice's legal definition, as of 2012, is "The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." The terms *acquaintance rape* and *date rape* are used when a person forces someone they know to have penetrative sex against their will.