BARRIERS TO REPORTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A survivor’s ability to report what happened is impacted by: victim-blaming, experiences of social marginalization and prior sexual violence, complexities of identity (e.g. citizenship, race/ethnicity, age), the normalization of sexual harassment, a lack of effective responses, retaliation from the harasser and others, and social misconceptions that minimize the impact of harassment and excuse perpetrators for their actions.

Repercussions to Disclosure
“Everyone will find out.”

Perpetrator Known to Victim
“...But we work together.”

Myths & Misconceptions
“It’s just innocent flirtation.”

Experiences Minimized/ Ignored
“It’s not a big deal - they do it to everyone.”

Bystanders who recognize sexual or gender-based harassment has occurred but choose to ignore it are complicit in silencing the survivor.