

Do Now

Stalking and harassment; the impact and the law



Keely had 74 WhatsApp messages off Gary today and 41 missed calls. After blocking him as a contact, she then received another 25 calls from an 'unknown number.' When Keely returned home, she found flowers and a love letter on her doorstep.

On top of this, Keely seemed to be bumping into Gary everywhere. Why couldn't he just take 'no' for an answer?

Discuss: How do you think Keely feels?



What is stalking? Explain what you believe this to mean in your own words.

I think stalking is when...

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Learning outcomes:

Recognise unwanted attention (such as harassment and stalking including online), the law regarding these crimes and how to seek help.

Understand the law in relation to stalking and harassment and how to access support.



Stalking - To follow someone around without their consent, sometimes consistently and sometimes taking photos or footage.

Harassment – When someone behaves in a way which offends you or makes you feel distressed or intimidated. Harassment is a form of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.

Keely is definitely being harassed – the fact Gary is everywhere she goes, and has been to her house, indicates she is being stalked too. Keely needs to report Gary’s behaviour to the police, as although she hasn’t come into any physical harm yet – she is being emotionally distressed and having her privacy invaded. This is evidence enough for the police to start an investigation.

Fortunately, Keely has kept screenshots and documented everything that has happened to her – as she knows she will be asked by the police for proof.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPoCBkIIGRs>



Did you know?

Statistics show that the majority of stalking victims (80.4%) are female while the majority of perpetrators (70.5%) are male. However, many men are stalked too, and this can severely impact their lives.

How does stalking impact lives?

Watch the clips carefully and complete your table. We'll go through the answers together as a class afterwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATym2s6gZM4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNJn7Ow2nW>

A



What happened to the victim?	What happened to the perpetrator?

How does stalking impact lives?

We'll go through the answers together now as a class. Be sure to complete any parts of the table you missed.



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A

What happened to the victim?

Chris says he ruined her life. She received message after message for six years. She was sent disgusting offensive messages and was contacted over 2000 times.

He threatened violent abuse and Chris was scared for her life. She wasn't taken seriously by the police.

Imre's stalker began to get aggressive. He had to keep calling the police. Eventually his girlfriend had to leave him as she couldn't cope with the fear and threats.

Imre was tracked down on social media after the police let his full name slip. He had to start wearing a stab proof vest. He feels he'll have to leave the UK.

What happened to the perpetrator?

He was caught on CCTV and was arrested but let out on bail.

There were big delays in handling this case, it being passed to at least ten officers over time.

She kept following Imre, wherever he went, crying at his rebuttals. She didn't stop after the first police visit. After prison she sent death threats and visited him with a knife.

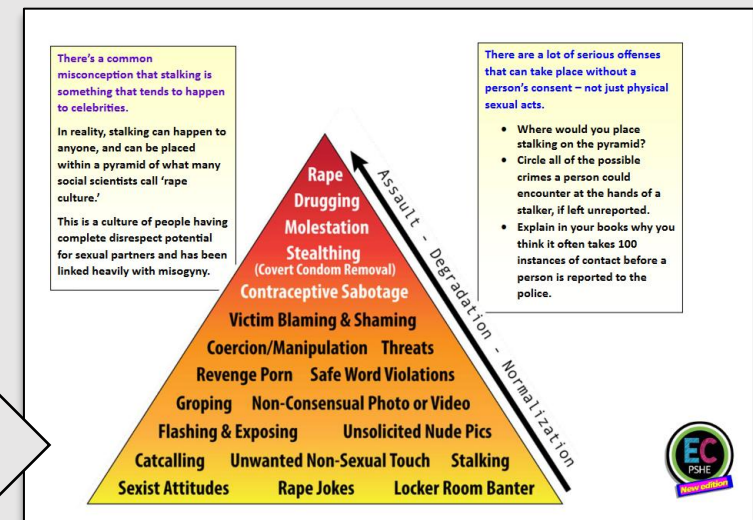
She has a restraining order against her and was banned from Oxford, but she broke this and was eventually sentenced to prison time.

What is stalking and why is this a criminal offense?



How serious is stalking? Let's refer back to our pyramid we first studied in our consent lesson. In some cases, stalking can include or end in many of the other crimes and unpleasant acts included here, if not reported to the police.

Study the pyramid slide on the next page. Then complete the questions on the right hand-side in your books.



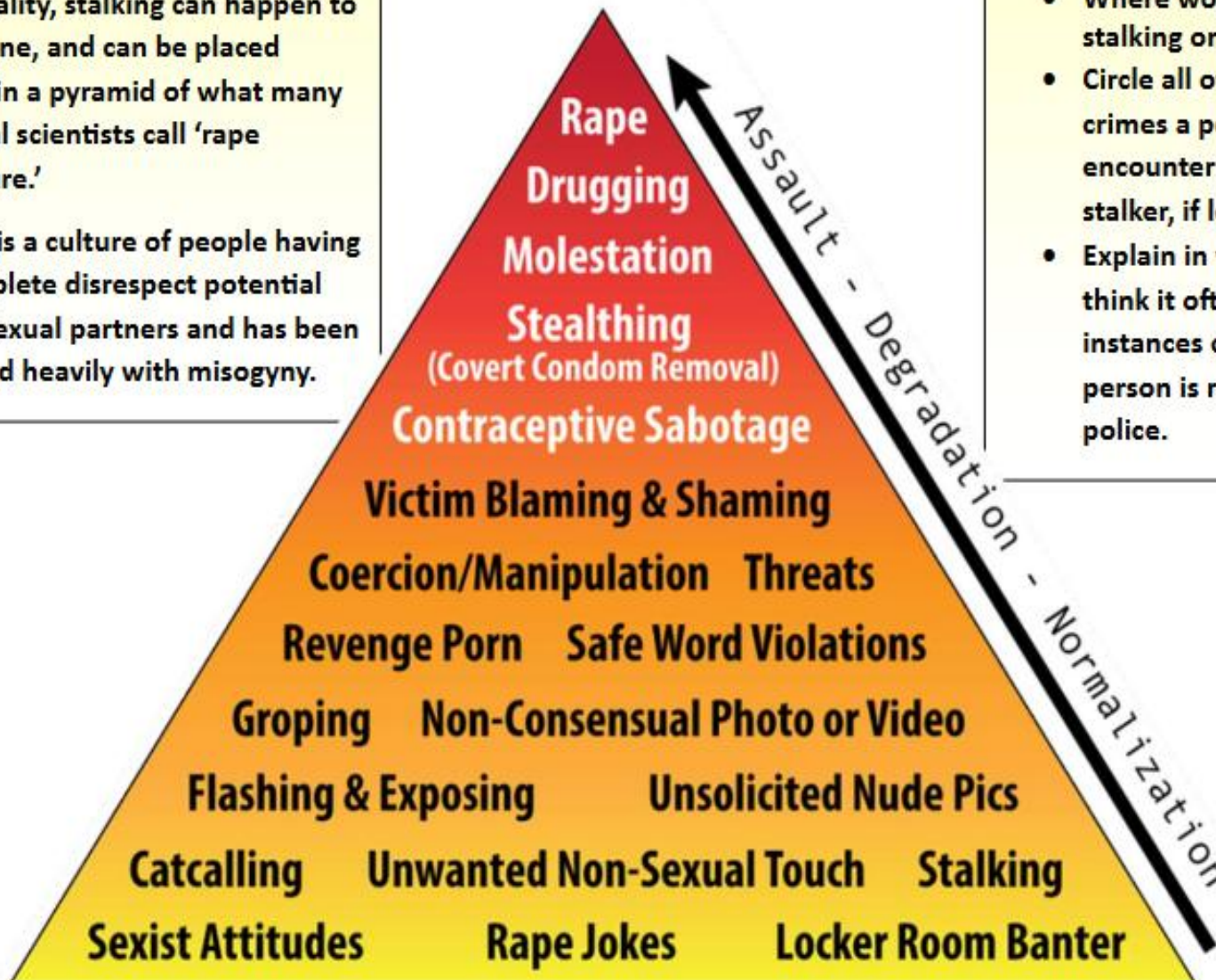
There's a common misconception that stalking is something that tends to happen to celebrities.

In reality, stalking can happen to anyone, and can be placed within a pyramid of what many social scientists call 'rape culture.'

This is a culture of people having complete disrespect potential for sexual partners and has been linked heavily with misogyny.

There are a lot of serious offenses that can take place without a person's consent – not just physical sexual acts.

- Where would you place stalking on the pyramid?
- Circle all of the possible crimes a person could encounter at the hands of a stalker, if left unreported.
- Explain in your books why you think it often takes 100 instances of contact before a person is reported to the police.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zouUum-iydWk>

Harassment

COURT HEARING

to the Sheriff of

Case No.

County

What are the maximum sentences for harassment and stalking?

If the offence is harassment or stalking:

The maximum sentence is **six months' custody**. BUT - if it is racially or religiously aggravated, the maximum sentence is **two years' custody**.

If the offence is harassment (with putting people in fear of violence) or stalking (involving fear of violence or serious alarm or distress):

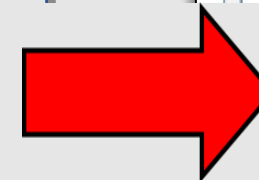
The maximum sentence is **10 years' custody**.

BUT - if racially or religiously aggravated, the maximum sentence is **14 years' custody**.

Freda thinks the criminal penalties for stalking are nowhere near harsh enough. She's heard of the damage stalkers can do to innocent people's lives.

Andy disagrees. He says stalking needs to be taken very seriously and people may need to be locked up on many occasions – but it depends on the acts they've committed. He says some stalkers may need treatment for severe mental health issues.

Using your mini whiteboards write an answer to which side you agree with and why




For or against the idea?

Today's idea:
'The penalties for stalking need to be harsher. Stalking ruins people's lives and no one should be in fear for their safety once a perpetrator's prison sentence is over.'

Write five ideas that back up Freda and Andy.

Freda For-It

Andy Against-it



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Useful helplines and charities:

[Childline](#). Support for people under 19 in the UK. Call: 0800 11 11

[Young Minds](#). Child and adolescent mental health charity. Call: 0808 802 5544

[Teen Line | Teens Support hotline - Connect, talk, get help!](#) Teen Line's highly trained teen listeners provide support, resources and hope to any teen who is struggling.

<https://www.gov.uk/report-stalker> Report a stalker - Gov UK crime page

<https://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sh/stalking-harassment/what-is-stalking-harassment/> Advice from the UK police about stalking

<https://www.suzylamplugh.org/pages/category/national-stalking-helpline> National stalking helpline and charity.



Reporting a Concern at Thornden School

- It is important to us that all of you feel safe, happy and belong at Thornden.
- We also know that sometimes it is not as easy as simply telling a member of staff
- It could be:
 - A friend you are worried about
 - Someone being unkind to you
 - Something you have heard and think we should know



How can you report anything you are worried about?

- Speak to a member of staff or parent / carer
- Visit the Well Being Den or Head of Year area
- On Satchel each week you will be sent a link to a form to share any worries you have
- On our school website homepage there is a 'Report a Concern' link.
- In the Student Bulletin there is a 'Report a Concern' link
- On all school desktops there is a 'Report a Concern' logo to click and report anything

Need Support? You're Not Alone



If anything in today's lesson has affected you, or you want to talk to someone, there is help available.

Mental Health & Low Mood

YoungMinds – <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

Kooth – <https://www.kooth.com>

Mind – <https://www.mind.org.uk>

Apps That Can Help

Calm – For mindfulness and sleep.

Headspace – Meditation and stress relief.

Clear Fear – Manage anxiety (designed for young people).

MeeTwo – Anonymously talk to other teens, moderated by experts.

Talk to Someone

Your Tutor or Head of Year – We're here to help.

Wellbeing Team and School Nurse

Report a Concern on Satchel

Safeguarding Team with the Purple lanyards

Eating Concerns

Beat Eating Disorders –

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk>

NHS Live Well – Eating Disorders –

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/eating-disorders/>

Healthy Lifestyle

NHS Every Mind Matters – <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters>

Change4Life – <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>