

# Sixth Sense - Awareness Compendium

*Sixth Sense is a non-profit organization inspired by the ten principles of Burning Man, plus consent, that acts through educational workshops, support for arts and artists, and the creation of an inclusive and open-minded community.*

## How to Gather the most important information

When responding to reports of consent violations, the awareness team needs to approach the situation with empathy, sensitivity, and a commitment to supporting the individuals involved. Asking the right questions can help gather essential information, understand the context of the incident, and determine the appropriate response. Here are some of the most important questions to ask in case of a report of a consent violation:

### 1. Can you tell me what happened?

Encourage the individual to share their experience of the incident in their own words to understand the nature and severity of the violation.

### 2. When and where did the incident occur?

Gather details about when and where the incident took place to establish the timeline of events and the specific location within the event.

### 3. Who was involved in the incident?

Identify the individuals who were directly involved in the violation and any bystander/s or witness/s. Assess if the reporter is the victim and therefore if the reported qualifies as the offender/s.

### 4. Were there any witnesses to the incident?

Inquire about any witnesses who may have observed the incident and can provide additional information or corroboration of the reported violation.

### 5. How did you feel during and after the incident?

Explore the emotional and psychological impact of the violation on the individual to assess their well-being and immediate support needs.

### 6. Did you communicate your boundaries or consent during the incident?

Understand whether the individual communicated their boundaries or consent clearly during the incident to clarify any misunderstandings or misinterpretations.

### 7. Have you received support or assistance since the incident occurred?

Determine whether the individual has accessed any support services or resources following the incident and offer assistance in connecting them to appropriate support.

### 8. What outcome or resolution are you seeking?

Discuss with the individual their preferences for resolution, support, or any specific actions they would like to see taken in response to the violation.

### **9. Are there any other factors or information that you believe are important to share?**

Invite the individual to provide any additional details, context, or concerns related to the incident that they feel are relevant for a comprehensive response.

### **10. Do you have any specific safety concerns or immediate needs?**

Inquire about any safety concerns or urgent needs that the individual may have as a result of the incident and take appropriate measures to address them promptly.

By asking these important questions compassionately and respectfully, the awareness team can gather necessary information, validate the experiences of the individuals involved, and navigate the response to a consent violation with sensitivity, empathy, and a commitment to supporting the well-being and safety of all attendees at the event.

## **How to Approach the Offender**

When approaching the offender/s in response to a report of a consent violation, the awareness team needs to prioritize accountability, education, and support while also ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals involved. Here are some key principles and strategies for how the awareness team should approach the perpetrator:

### **1. Remain Calm and Professional:**

Approach the offender/s in a calm and composed manner to facilitate a constructive and respectful interaction. Maintain a professional demeanor and avoid aggression or confrontation.

### **2. Acknowledge the Report:**

Communicate that a report of a consent violation has been received and that an investigation is being conducted to address the incident. Encourage the offender/s to listen and engage in the process.

### **3. Provide Support:**

Offer the offender/s access to support services, resources, and information on consent, boundaries, and respectful behavior. Empathize with their perspective while maintaining accountability for their actions.

### **4. Seek Understanding:**

Allow the offender/s to share their perspective on the incident, including their understanding of what occurred and any contributing factors. Encourage open communication and active listening.

### **5. Clarify Consent and Boundaries:**

Communicate the importance of consent, boundaries, and respectful behavior within the event community. Reinforce the understanding that all individuals are responsible for obtaining clear consent in all interactions.

## **6. Address Misconduct:**

If the offender/s' actions are found to constitute a violation of consent, clearly communicate the impact of their behavior on the victim and the community. Emphasize the need for accountability and the importance of learning from the incident.

## **7. Encourage Reflection and Accountability:**

Guide the offender/s to reflect on their actions, understand the impact of their behavior, and take responsibility for the harm caused. Encourage them to consider steps for accountability and growth.

## **8. Educate and Correct Behavior:**

Provide education on consent, boundaries, communication skills, and respectful behavior to help the offender/s understand and internalize these concepts. Offer resources for further learning and self-improvement.

## **9. Establish Boundaries and Consequences:**

Communicate the boundaries that must be respected moving forward and the potential consequences of further violations. Emphasize the commitment to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all attendees.

## **10. Follow-Up and Monitoring:**

Conduct follow-up conversations with the offender/s to assess their understanding, progress, and adherence to agreed-upon boundaries. Monitor behavior and provide ongoing support and guidance as needed.

Approaching the offender/s with a combination of accountability, education, support, and respect can contribute to promoting awareness, growth, and a culture of consent and respect within the event community. The awareness team must handle these interactions with professionalism, compassion, and a commitment to upholding the safety and well-being of all individuals involved.

# **How to Ask the Offender to Leave**

When it becomes necessary to ask an offender/s to leave an event due to a consent violation or inappropriate behavior, it is crucial to do so in a firm, clear, and respectful manner while prioritizing the safety and well-being of all attendees. Here are some guidelines on the best way to ask the offender/s to leave the party:

## **1. Ensure Safety:**

Before approaching the offender/s, assess the situation and ensure that the safety of the victim and other attendees is not compromised. If there is any immediate threat or danger, prioritize removing the offender/s swiftly and discreetly by invoking the support of the security staff.

## **2. Team Approach:**

If possible, involve other members of the awareness team and always include the security staff in the process to provide support and reinforcement. Having additional team members present can help maintain a calm and controlled environment.

## **3. Calm and Clear Communication:**

Approach the offender/s in a calm and composed manner and communicate the reason for asking them to leave the party. Use firm and direct language to convey the seriousness of the situation.

## **4. Maintain Boundaries:**

Emphasize that the decision for them to leave is non-negotiable based on their behavior and the event's code of conduct. Reinforce the expectation that all attendees must adhere to the rules and respect boundaries.

## **5. Limit Attention:**

Avoid escalating the situation by engaging in prolonged discussions or arguments with the offender/s. Keep the interaction brief and focused on the directive for them to leave the party immediately.

## **6. Offer Support:**

The primary focus is on asking the offender/s to leave and providing information on available support services or resources. Provide them assistance or guidance if needed. Reiterate the importance of seeking help if necessary.

## **7. Escort Assistance:**

If the situation requires, escort the offender/s out of the party to ensure their departure and prevent any further disruptions. Maintain a non-confrontational approach during the escort process.

## **8. Maintain Professionalism:**

Throughout the interaction, maintain a professional demeanor and avoid engaging in personal attacks or aggressive behavior. Focus on resolving the immediate issue and upholding the safety and integrity of the event.

## **9. Document the Incident:**

After the offender/s has left the party, document the incident, including the reason for their removal, actions taken, and any follow-up steps that may be necessary. Keep detailed records for future reference.

## **10. Follow-Up and Support:**

Follow up with the victim, other attendees, and the awareness team to address any concerns or provide additional support as needed. Reiterate the event's commitment to a safe and inclusive environment.

## **Conclusion**

By following these guidelines and approaching the situation with professionalism, clarity, and respect, the awareness team can effectively address instances of misconduct or consent violations at the event and maintain a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees.

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