

Focus group interview schedule

I. Welcome & Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this project. My name is [*Name*] and I will guide our discussion today. The goal of this study is to learn what teens like yourselves think about communicating sexual consent and where and who these ideas about consent come from. To remind you, what I mean by *communicating or negotiating consent* is expressing wanting or not wanting to engage in a sexual activity. Please answer the questions honestly and remember there are no right or wrong answers, only differing opinions. You do not have to answer any questions that you don't want to and if you want to withdraw from the group at any point, just tell me. Remember that the session is being audio-recorded. Try not to talk at the same time or over each other. All names will be changed to fake names when our discussion is written out, so don't worry if any real names are mentioned during the session. Also, the topics we discuss in the session are private. So, please do not talk about what other people say in the discussion outside of the session. My role is to guide the conversation, but you can talk to each other.

Does anyone have any questions? [Answer any questions.] **Let's begin.** [Start tape recorder.]

II. Behavioural beliefs [Use vignette cards.]

To start, I have some stories which describe different situations that involve consent. Who wants to pick one? You or I can read it out loud.

- How would you describe this situation?
 - Is there anything wrong with what happened?
 - Where did things go wrong in this situation?
- How was consent communicated?
- How could or should consent be communicated for this activity?
- How important is consent for this activity?
- How do people your age decide to negotiate or not negotiate consent for this activity?
- Who is responsible for communicating consent in this situation?
- How often do situations like this happen for teens your age?
- Where do situations like this happen most often?

Probes:

"Would you explain further?"

"Would you give an example?"

"I don't understand."

- What do you think would happen if the two people your age did negotiate consent?
- What happens when people your age don't negotiate consent?

- III. Normative beliefs [Use images of possibly relevant people: friends, family, boyfriends/girlfriends, and religious leaders to get the subjects to think about different people in their lives.]

Now before we continue, let's look at these images. These pictures show people who are often involved in teens' lives. Who do you think these picture represent? [Don't spend a lot of time on this. The activity is just a prompt.]

Probes:

"Would you explain further?"

"Would you give an example?"

"I don't understand."

- Where do people your age hear about or see people negotiating sexual consent?
- Who do people your age consider when they think about whether or not to talk about sexual consent?
- What makes these people [*address each group of people mentioned*] important?
- How do you think [these people] negotiate sexual consent?
- Who would want you or people your age to negotiate consent?
- What sexual activities would these people think need consent?
- What are the differences between what these people want you to do (e.g. friends vs parents vs a partner)?
- What makes teens more or less likely to do what these people want them to do?
- What are the differences between what these people think you should do and what they actually do or would do?
- How do people your age communicate consent?
- Do you think your friends talk about consent with their partners?
- What sexual activities do you think they negotiate consent for?

- IV. Control beliefs [Distribute pens and scrap paper.]

Now, think about how easy or hard it is for people your age to negotiate consent. Write down two things that make it easy or hard.

- Think about someone who would think asking for consent is easy, what is that person like?
- Now, think about someone who would think asking for consent is hard, what is that person like?
- Think about someone who would think giving consent is easy, what is that person like?

- What about someone who would think giving consent is difficult, what is he or she like?
- What sexual activities would be easier to negotiate consent for?
- Is it easier for some people your age to communicate consent?
- What makes it easy or comfortable for people your age to negotiate consent?
- What makes it difficult or uncomfortable for people your age to negotiate consent?

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about negotiating sexual consent. To summarize we have talked about communicating consent for different sexual activities, the people teens think about when they decide whether or not to negotiate consent, and what makes it easier or harder for people your age to communicate sexual consent.

- Does anyone have any questions about what we've talked about today?
- Is there anything else anyone would like to add?

[Stop tape-recorder and distribute debrief sheet.]

Before we end, I would like you to understand that negotiating consent is important for any sexual activity. Negotiating consent is necessary for people to feel safe and respected. This goes for all intimate contact, whether it is between two people who are just getting to know each other or people who are in a relationship. Also, it is important to remember that consent must be *asked for* and *given* without pressure.

At the bottom of the sheet I've given you, there is a list of contact information for organisations in the area that can help if you or anyone you know has experienced sexual violence.