

If you have experienced sexual harassment at work

You may instantly know and feel it has happened

Or you might feel something is off, icky, or not right

Or you might be secondguessing yourself

Or in shock

Or denial

(All of these are normal and OK)

The actions might have been subtle

Or very overt and obvious

They might have been verbal

Or physical

Or in an email or text or image

You felt deeply uncomfortable, perhaps even scared

Some examples of sexual harassment given by the Equality and Human Rights Commission are:

Sexual comments or jokes

Displaying sexually graphic pictures, posters or photos

Suggestive looks, staring or leering

Propositions and sexual advances

Making promises in return for sexual favours

Sexual gestures

Intrusive questions about someone's private or sex life

Discussing their own sex life

Sexual posts or contact on social media

Spreading sexual rumours

Sending sexually explicit emails or text messages

Unwelcome touching, hugging, massaging or kissing

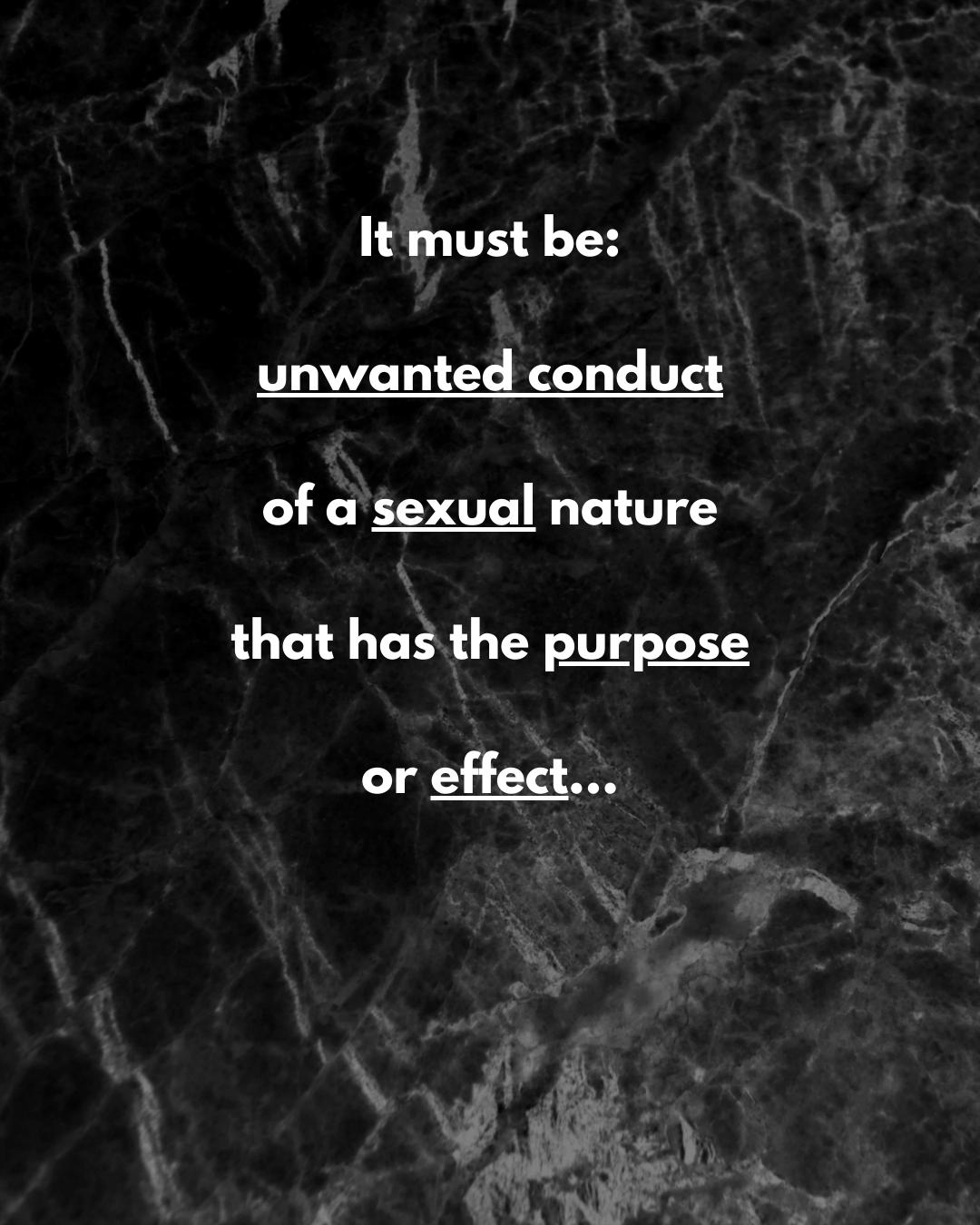
Criminal behaviour, including sexual assault, stalking, indecent exposure and offensive communications

(this is not a finite list, just some common examples)

There is a legal test for it to be considered unlawful sexual harassment at work:

This is set out in the Equality Act 2010

It's worth knowing this test, because it will help you understand what has happened and your options



of <u>violating</u> your <u>dignity</u>

or creating an

intimidating

hostile

degrading

humiliating

or offensive environment



You decide whether it is unwanted

It doesn't have to be directed at you, it can be witnessed or overheard

Just because your employer condones it

Or they have a "bantery" workplace

Or you haven't complained about it before

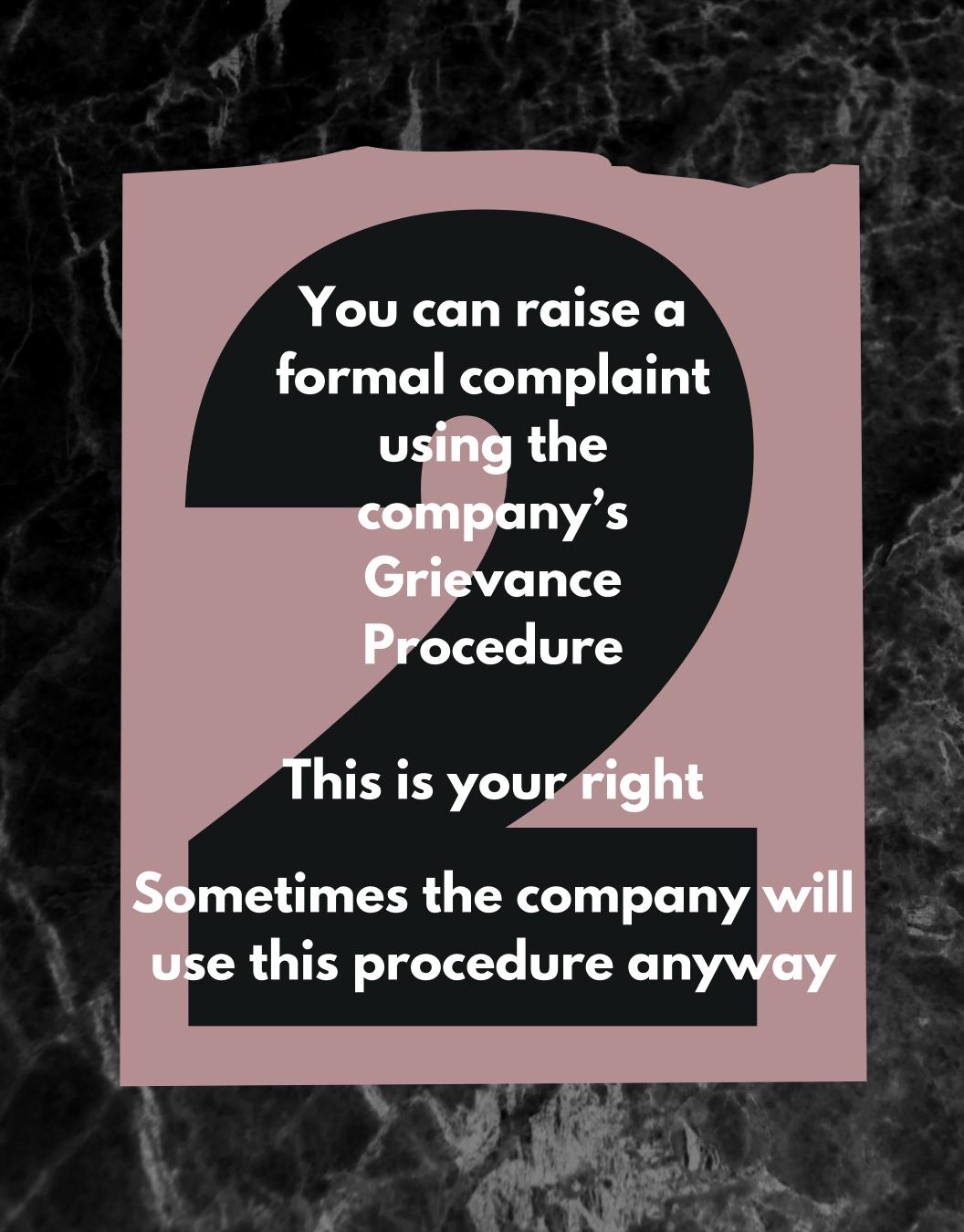
Or you nervously tried to laugh it off in the moment

Doesn't mean it's not harassment



Confide in a trusted manager or HR

Hopefully they will step in immediately and make the behaviour stop



You may choose just to find another job and leave

And not complain about it or do anything further

That is a valid choice if you want to do that

Don't let partners, family or friends (however well-meaning) influence your decisions, but do ask them for support and TLC if you need it

Whether you make a verbal or written complaint

The company have a duty to take it seriously

And investigate properly

So that it doesn't happen again

(and they don't get accused of sweeping it under the carpet)

This process can leave you feeling vulnerable and that it's out of your control

It might not get resolved because they can't undo what has already happened

You might not feel safe or supported at work any more

Sometimes:

The colleague and/or the company denies the harassment

You might be portrayed as "the bad guy" and feel very unwelcome at work

You may become unwell due to stress, depression or anxiety

You may feel like you have to leave your job

You feel that the trust has been broken

If you need:

Support throughout this process

Guidance on what to expect

Someone to advocate for you

Help to manage the outcome

To hold the company to account

To achieve some closure

If you want:

To be recompensed for your salary, pension and career losses if you lose your job over it

For the hurt you have experienced to be acknowledged and compensated

To stand up and say "No, this is not acceptable"...

We love helping people just like you to resolve sexual harassment situations

Don't delay - you have only 3 months less 1 day from the date the harassment took place to take action*

(*we can assess and advise you on your individual circumstances, as calculating time limits can be complicated)

Please know that you don't have to sue the company just because you get legal advice - we focus on resolution

