

Talking about Consent with Peers

As a community, it's important to develop a culture where we openly speak and talk about consent. This can help prevent instances of sexual gender-based violence. But talking about consent can feel awkward, especially in the South Asian community, this topic can be considered a taboo.

Below are some conversation starters that can help you initiate the conversation with your peers.

- The kids are getting older now. How do we talk to our kids about awkward topics?
- When is the right time to start talking to kids about consent?
- What do you consider age appropriate and why?
- How do you talk to your partner about consent?
- Why is consent important to safe sexual activity and healthy relationships?
- Who is responsible for communicating consent? Does consent need to be established every time?
- Some people think asking for consent spoils the mood. Are there some more natural ways to check for consent?
- Is asking for consent more important in a new relationship than in a committed long-term relationship?
- I recently read/watched/attend a workshop on consent, I learned about.....What do you think about this topic?
- Discuss movies, media, or TV which can spark conversations on consent.

You don't have to start the conversation with sexual consent if that feels awkward. There are many situations in which consent is necessary. You can discuss scenarios such as the following, and shift the conversation to discussing sexual consent.

- I read in the news about a young girl who agreed to arranged marriage due to constant pressure from elders. What is your opinion on this topic?
- Would you be worried if your kids came home late at night?
- How do you feel about your children having a boyfriend/girlfriend?
- Do you feel comfortable publicly showing affection towards your partner?
- What do you think about the portrayal of relationships in today's movies and media?



Resources

- Consent Can't Wait Adult Conversation Guide: <https://www.consent.gov.au/conversation-guides>
- Talking to Kids about Consent: <https://www.consent.gov.au/conversation-guides>
- South Asian SOAR Consent Zine <https://www.southasiansoar.org/consentzine>
- Punjabi Community Health Services Videos on Healthy Relationships <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-Jl6XPWz6OL689pnfkjUDKbl2J83jkdz>

