

# SAFE NOT SEXUALIZED:

## Protecting Black Girls and Gender Expansive Youth from School Police Sexual Violence

MODERATED BY TARANA BURKE AND ANDREA RITCHIE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 | 6-9PM EDT



### KEY TERMS

*The following are key terms that may be used throughout our discussion on October 18, 2023. These terms may be useful for building the analysis of members of youth organizations and advocacy organizations who are committed to creating safe, healing, and supportive environments for Black girls and gender expansive youth. The definitions offered are not exhaustive, but they can be useful in making tonight's discussion more accessible to everyone.*

Term	Definition	Sources
Police Sexual Violence	We use this as an umbrella term to include all forms of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and the practices that create a culture of dominance, control, and coercion based on gender, gender presentation, and sexuality.	Advancement Project
Criminalization	Criminalization is a political process beyond the passage and enforcement of criminal laws. It extends to the categorization and treatment of specific types and groups of people as inherently “criminal” and therefore unworthy of human dignity, resources, and protection from violence.	Interrupting Criminalization
Sexualization	Sexualization is a term often used to describe the way people’s bodies, behaviors, or existence is interpreted as sexual or inviting sex, even when the person is just existing. For example, when Black girls dance in a playful way, and adults say that they are “acting fast” or “grown.” Scholars in Georgetown’s Girlhood Interrupted report have written about the way educators perceive Black girls as older than their actual ages and perceive them as knowing more about sexual topics than their peers.	<a href="#">Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood.</a> <a href="#">Jamilia J Blake,</a> <a href="#">Rebecca Epstein,</a> <a href="#">Thalia Gonzalez,</a> <a href="#">Center on Poverty</a>

		<a href="#">and Inequality Georgetown Law</a>
State Violence	<p>State violence can be defined as the use of government or political power to repress, control, surveil, or restrict a group of people, often through policing and military efforts. It can also be defined as the state (government)'s abandonment of the social safety net of the people. Public schools, police, and law enforcement are all part of the system of government; when they cause harm or violence using their power, it is a form of state violence.</p>	<p>M. Gabriela Torres, <i>State Violence</i>, in 2 THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS 381, 381-398 (A. Javier Treviño Ed. 2018), <a href="https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-handbook-of-social-problems/state-violence/CB1CD884DD53026BC4DD7C1F1FD70DD3">https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-handbook-of-social-problems/state-violence/CB1CD884DD53026BC4DD7C1F1FD70DD3</a>.</p>
Gender Expansive	<p>This is an umbrella term used for individuals who broaden their own culture's commonly held definitions of gender, including expectations for its expression, identities, roles, and/or other perceived gender norms. The term may be used to describe someone whose gender presentation (the way they dress, speak, move, or express themselves) or their gender identity goes beyond the limits of cultural norms.</p> <p>This term can be used for people who don't exist inside the man-woman binary (the idea that there are just two genders). When we use this term we are often referring to people who are non-binary or gender non-conforming.</p>	<p>University of California Davis glossary: <a href="https://lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu/educated/glossary">https://lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu/educated/glossary</a></p>
Bodily Autonomy	<p>The United Nations defines bodily autonomy as: "the power and agency to make choices over our bodies and futures, without violence or coercion. . .</p>	<p><i>What is Bodily Autonomy?</i></p>

	<p>[bodily autonomy and dignity] are violated when a person is forced to exchange unwanted sex for a home and food. They are violated when people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities cannot walk down a street without fearing assault or humiliation. Bodily autonomy and integrity are violated when people with disabilities are stripped of their rights to self-determination.”</p> <p>Bodily autonomy is also the right to make choices about one’s body, reproductive health care, and the right to be free from violence, critique, and judgement about one’s body.</p>	<p>UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, <a href="https://www.unfpa.org/sowp-2021/autonomy">https://www.unfpa.org/sowp-2021/autonomy</a> (last visited June 27, 2023).</p>
<p>Anti-Carceral Feminism</p>	<p>Anti-carceral feminism is an analysis rooted in avoiding or abandoning the use of the carceral state - police, criminal courts, detention facilities, and prisons specifically - as response mechanisms to gendered violence. This framework looks to tools like transformative justice and community accountability processes to respond when harm has occurred and works to build people’s capacity to <i>prevent</i> sexual and gender-based violence from happening.</p>	<p>Girls for Gender Equity, <a href="#">This Moment. The Movement. Our Mission</a>, 2019</p> <p>See, Incite! Resources for Organizing, <a href="https://incite-national.org/resources-for-organizing/">https://incite-national.org/resources-for-organizing/</a></p>
<p>Adultification</p>	<p>“(1) A process of socialization, in which children function at a more mature developmental stage because of situational context and necessity, especially in low-resource community environments; and (2) A social or cultural stereotype that is based on how adults perceive children “in the absence of knowledge of children’s behavior and verbalizations.”</p> <p>This concept is specifically applied to Black girls and Black youth who are often perceived as older than their age and thus denied the protections that are often associated with youth and adolescence.”</p>	<p><a href="#">Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls’ Childhood</a>, Jamilia J Blake, Rebecca Epstein, Thalia Gonzalez, <a href="#">Center on Poverty and Inequality Georgetown Law</a></p>

Additional resource(s):

- National Black Justice Coalition Gender Justice Toolkit, <http://nbic.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Words-Matter-Gender-Bias-Toolkit-2019-vFINAL.pdf>
- Andrea J. Ritchie, Invisible No More Study Guide and Toolkit, <http://invisiblenomorebook.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/INM-Study-Guide.pdf>
- Interrupting Criminalization, Cops Don't Stop Violence, <https://www.interruptingcriminalization.com/resources-all/cops-dont-stop-violence>
- Research showing that police presence does not make schools safer:
  - James H. Price and Jagdish Khubchandani. School Firearm Violence Prevention Practices and Policies: Functional or Folly? Violence and Gender. Sep 2019.154-167. <http://doi.org/10.1089/vio.2018.0044>
  - Sorensen, Lucy C., Montserrat Avila Acosta, John Engberg, and Shawn D. Bushway. (2023). The Thin Blue Line in Schools: New Evidence on School-Based Policing Across the U.S. (EdWorkingPaper: 21-476). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: <https://doi.org/10.26300/heqx-rc69>