

Submission 7

I was sexually assaulted by a senior management colleague at a staff function. There were witnesses all evening to his repeated verbal sexual harassment and there was one witness to the assault. He said he needed to show me what a real man was so he could 'unlesbian' me. I reported the assault to the police the next day once I had begun to come to terms with what had happened. I was frightened and felt ashamed to speak about it to anyone. I was asked by police if I would be able to ascertain witness statements as it would strengthen my case. Witnesses claim to "not remember" anything happening as they were scared reporting it would result in loss of employment. At that stage I didn't take the police report any further. I reported it to my HR manager at work the next day and was offered money to keep quiet and not go to the police. I didn't accept any money from the company and instead tendered my resignation as I felt unsafe and unsupported. My two weeks notice was insanely trying, despite asking management to work in areas removed from my perpetrator, I was forced to work alongside him where he continued to make sexual comments. This was reported and I told not to worry as I had only a short time left. It took me a month or more to tell my partner at the time what had happened. It took me 18 months to tell any family. Still to this day I feel ashamed of what happened and have not taken the matter any further legally.