

Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Prevention

Hachette Book Group does not tolerate and prohibits discrimination or harassment of or against our job applicants, contractors, interns, volunteers, or employees by another employee, supervisor, vendor, customer, or any third party on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, sex or gender (including pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions), gender identity or gender expression (including transgender status), sexual orientation, marital status, military service and veteran status, physical or mental disability, protected medical condition as defined by applicable state or local law, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local laws and ordinances (referred to as “protected characteristics”). The Company also prohibits retaliation as defined below.

The Company is committed to a workplace free of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. These behaviors are unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related settings such as business trips and Company sponsored social functions, regardless of whether the conduct is engaged in by a supervisor, co-worker, client, customer, vendor or other third party. In addition to being a violation of this policy, discrimination, harassment or retaliation based on any protected characteristic is also unlawful pursuant to applicable federal, state, or local laws and ordinances. For example, sexual harassment and retaliation against an individual because the individual filed a complaint of sexual harassment or because an individual aided, assisted or testified in an investigation or proceeding involving a complaint of sexual harassment are unlawful.

Discrimination Defined. Discrimination under this policy means treating differently or denying or granting a benefit to an individual because of the individual’s protected characteristic.

Harassment Defined. Harassment generally is defined in this policy as unwelcome verbal, visual or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards an individual because of any protected characteristic when:

- Submission to that conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; or
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Harassment can be verbal (including slurs, jokes, insults, epithets, gestures or teasing), visual (including offensive posters, symbols, cartoons, drawings, computer displays, text messages, social media posts or e-mails) or physical conduct (including physically threatening another, blocking someone’s way, etc.). Such conduct violates this policy, even if it is not unlawful. Because it is difficult to define unlawful harassment, employees are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the intended purpose of this policy.

Sexual Harassment Defined. Sexual harassment can include all of the above actions, as well as other unwelcome conduct, such as unwelcome or unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, conversations regarding sexual activities and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to that conduct or those advances or requests is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; or
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct or advances or requests by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or
- The conduct or advances or requests have the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Examples of conduct that violates this policy include:

- unwelcome sexual advances, flirtations, advances, leering, whistling, touching, pinching, assault, blocking normal movement
- requests for sexual favors or demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment
- obscene or vulgar gestures, posters, or comments
- sexual jokes or comments about a person's body, sexual prowess, or sexual deficiencies
- propositions, or suggestive or insulting comments of a sexual nature
- derogatory cartoons, posters, and drawings
- sexually-explicit e-mails or voicemails
- uninvited touching of a sexual nature
- unwelcome sexually-related comments
- conversation about one's own or someone else's sex life
- conduct or comments consistently targeted at only one gender, even if the content is not sexual
- teasing or other conduct directed toward a person because of the person's gender

Retaliation Defined. Retaliation means adverse conduct taken because an individual reported an actual or perceived violation of this policy, opposed practices prohibited by this policy, or participated in the reporting and investigation process described below. "Adverse conduct" includes but is not limited to any action that would discourage an employee from reporting discrimination, harassment or retaliation; shunning and avoiding an individual who reports discrimination, harassment or retaliation; express or implied threats or intimidation intended to prevent an individual from reporting discrimination, harassment or retaliation; and denying employment benefits because an applicant or employee reported discrimination, harassment or retaliation or participated in the reporting and investigation process.