The Consent Iceberg
Personal & Social Impacts of Power

Consent is most often thought of as a negotiation between two or more individuals but, consent is impacted by systems of power. An unequal balance of power influences the negotiation - making it difficult to know if consent is freely given.

EXAMPLES

Gender norms teach that men should be sexually aggressive and that women should be passive and always ready for sex.

A person with a disability propositioned by a support person may fear that saying no will mean losing essential assistance.

Sexual harassment in the workplace: the victim/survivor may not be able to do or say something for fear of losing their job.