

## Mission

- ▶ To provide a secure network of support for those who have experienced or are experiencing assault, abuse, and/or harassment
- ▶ To inspire people to come forth and tell the story of their journey through trauma and recovery, particularly as it relates to cosplay convention culture
- ▶ To encourage inclusivity of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability; it doesn't matter who you are or how it happened. **We believe you.**
- ▶ To provide resources for those in crisis or those helping people in crisis: mental health and physical wellness as well as long-term solutions and other support groups
- ▶ To encourage qualified programs and trained individuals to respond to situations of this nature at conventions
- ▶ To treat survivors, their bodies, and their cosplay work with utmost respect and spread positivity

## Resources

If you are in immediate danger, call 911 or your local emergency number.

### In the United States

**National Sexual Assault Hotline:**  
800-656-HOPE (4673)

**National Street Harassment Hotline:**  
855-897-5910

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:**  
800-799-SAFE (7233)

**State Dept. Emergency Hotline  
(for Americans abroad):**  
1-888-407-4747

**Uplift Together:**  
uplifttogether.org

**Rape, Abuse, & Incest  
National Network:**  
rainn.org

Learn more at [cosplayer-ssn.org](http://cosplayer-ssn.org)  
[info@cosplayer-ssn.org](mailto:info@cosplayer-ssn.org)

Help support the CSSN at:  
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To see how your money is used, visit:  
<https://cosplayer-ssn.org/faq.php>

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## Convention Harassment Policies

*We Believe You.*

## Convention Harassment Policies

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We've taken a look at harassment policies for conventions all across the United States and Canada and evaluated them on the six criteria listed on the next page.

Unfortunately, there aren't too many with a perfect score, but with your help, we can change that. We encourage you to reach out to conventions and ask them to update their policies. If you're unsure how to start, we have suggestions in this pamphlet as well.

If you're invited as a guest to a convention that doesn't have a good score, make your appearance contingent on them improving their policy! You can refer them to Uplift ([uplifttogether.org](http://uplifttogether.org)) or our webpage for a sample policy.

If you're curious how your favorite convention's policy ranks, the complete list is on our website:

<https://cosplayer-ssn.org/policies.php>

## Policy Criteria

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- \* Does the policy exist? Unfortunately, there are still too many conventions who don't have a harassment policy in place.
- \* Is it easy to find on their website? It shouldn't take someone more than ten seconds to find a con's harassment policy on their website.
- \* Does it define harassment? It's impractical to try to list everything that might go wrong at a convention, but it should explain that harassment is defined by the target, and list examples.
- \* Does it list consequences? Just saying "we will deal with it" isn't enough. People need to know there are firm consequences in place for offenders.
- \* Does it address issues with staff? A good policy has to acknowledge staff may be the offenders. It needs to explain what to do and who to go to if that happens.
- \* Does it have contact info? Saying "find staff" isn't enough. There should be a phone number and/or email address available for reporting issues.

## Suggestions for Contacting Conventions

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- \* Be polite! You're much more likely to get a positive response. They may truly believe their policy is sufficient, or that saying "Cosplay is Not Consent" is enough. Don't assume malice.
- \* Be selective! Focus on your local cons, ones you attend, and/or ones you have thought about attending. Con chairs are going to be more invested in listening to their customers or potential customers than someone who may never go to their convention.
- \* Be honest! Along those lines, don't say you're from another state or you're a current attendee if you're not.
- \* Be diplomatic! Start your conversation with a friendly greeting, and compliment them on something regarding the convention—like variety in panels or the ease of getting a hotel room. If possible, address what qualities of their policy are already pretty good.
- \* And finally, if (and only if) you're comfortable talking about your own experiences, that may help. It may get them to understand that this is a very real issue that impacts the entire community.