

Preparing for harassment-free workplaces as employees return to office

More than 11,000 sex-based harassment allegations [filed last year](#).

April 2021, Austin, Texas — Companies are planning for post-COVID times. For many local businesses, that means people are starting to return to work in person. To restart successfully, companies need a plan to prevent workplace harassment.

The SAFE Institute is offering new trainings to give businesses the tools they'll need to successfully restart.

People are returning to the office with a wide range of expectations and worries. Some want to hug everyone in sight and others wish they could work at home forever. On top of that, we've all experienced trauma in the last year and we all have our own responses to that trauma. The teams returning to work now are not the same teams that went home "for a few weeks" in March 2020.

"The great opportunity of our return to work is the chance to set a new, better precedent about how to be with each other safely," said Josh Jones-Dilworth, CEO of JDI and longtime SAFE Institute Advisor. "Just the simple issue of who's ready for hugs and not is worth addressing proactively so that folks can feel totally seen, taken care of, and ready to bring their best. These new trainings are a must for anyone who wants to return to work right."

A successful transition back means not only planning for COVID safety, but also giving people the tools they need to set and respect boundaries, recognize their own unconscious biases, and intervene when they see any form of harassment happening.

New training options from the SAFE Institute

With all of our experiences over the last year, how do we set expectations about physical contact and shared spaces? How do we support our employees to set boundaries while also re-bonding as a team?

Who Wants a Hug? Navigating the Back-to-Business Transition

To help with the post-COVID Big Reset, the SAFE Institute has expanded our training content to give your team new skills for a successful return to the office—including training on boundaries, consent, trauma, and microaggressions. Our credentialed trainers will conduct a two-hour training session customized for your team.

Addressing Microaggressions and Unconscious Bias in the Workplace

We are excited to announce that SAFE has taken elements from our successful sexual harassment training and expanded it to directly address other forms of harassment that can happen at work in relation to gender, racial, or other identities. Our credentialed trainers will conduct a two-hour training session customized for your team.

About SAFE Institute

SAFE Institute is the professional services division of SAFE. We created the SAFE Institute to scale our mission and deploy our expertise into companies, institutions, and communities. In addition to inspiring safe cultures, we are determined to create a sustainable funding source to expand our direct services to survivors. Learn more at safeinstitute.org.

About SAFE

At SAFE, we strive to provide safety, stability, and healing for children, adults, and families who have experienced violence and abuse. We do this by providing shelter and housing, support services, and prevention programs to stop the cycle of violence. Learn more at safeaustin.org.