**Phone harassment**

Phone harassment is something which we never think about until it happens to us. The act of phone harassment is illegal and annoying. It also imposes serious threat to personal information, security and privacy. The practice of cell phone harassing is unavoidable, which makes it difficult for those who are affected.

**Types of phone harassment**

1. **Blocked or No Caller ID Calls**

Such types of calls are the ones where the caller ID number is not shown at the time of incoming call. In most of the cases, the callers call through these numbers because they don’t want to reveal their identity or they want to take revenge from the one they are calling. It is difficult to stop blocked phone calls because identity of the actual caller is not determined.

1. **Robocalls & Spam Calls**

Another well known type of phone harassment is robocalls or spam calls. The caller may be the telemarketing company executive or service provider reminding the user of their (phone) plan’s expiry etc. In India, nearly 3 billion spam calls are reported each month.

Illegal spam calls are a form of phone harassment which imposes risk even to the financial security of one’s phone. Some of the spam callers may pose as banks, loan services, IRS etc and extract financial information of the person whom they are calling.

1. **Intimidating or Threatening Phone Calls**

Many times, phone harassers do not play tricks with their caller ID. Callers simply flood your phone with harassing phone calls from their real phone number.

This type of harassment calls come from someone one knows or has ever shared his/her contact details. For example, calls made by the former partners, stalkers, business partners, dissatisfied family members.

Threatening calls can also include calls from kidnappers. Usually, the calls that they make are for ransom purposes. For example, if a child is kidnapped, his parents receive phone that after they pay the kidnapper some amount, then only they will get their son back.

Harassment calls targeted to women

Recently, Trucaller published a report. According to the report, one out of three women in India receives sexual or inappropriate calls or text messages, of these women,

1. 78% received calls with inappropriate sexual content at least once a week
2. 82% received unsolicited videos and pictures with inappropriate and sexual content.
3. On average, 50% of these calls and texts were anonymous
4. 11% were made by stalkers, and
5. 3% were from a person known to them.

**What you can do to report stalkers?**

In India it is a criminal offence if anybody stalks someone either physically or electronically like phone calls, messages, emails etc. Doing such an act is punishable with up to three years of imprisonment. Complain against a stalker can also be filled via internet (online). National Commission for Women (NCW) allows citizen to file complaints online[,](http://ncw.nic.in/onlinecomplaintsv2/frmPubRegistration.aspx) whether for themselves or on behalf of others.

**There are laws in India that punish the acts like harassment through call or hurting the modesty of a woman through calls:**

* **Section 354(D) – Stalking**

In 2013, criminal law amended itself to the changing times and situations of the country. Prior to 2013, understanding of the offense of stalking was limited to physical stalking, but technology has its own ways and means of imposing itself negatively on people. **The Criminal Law Amendment, 2013** inserted [Section 354 (D) to IPC](https://www.kaanoon.com/indian-law/ipc-354d/), making “electronic” stalking offense. This implies that if any person tries to contact a woman, to foster personal communication with her, without her willingness and desire, he commits stalking. A person charged under this section may be imprisoned for a term extending up to three years, and payment of a fine is also imposed.

* **Section 509 – Act hurting the modesty of a woman**

If you are a woman and your harasser has called you and has uttered words which insult your modesty, then you can file a complaint to the police under [Section 509 of the IPC](https://indiankanoon.org/doc/68146/), and your harasser will face a punishment of either imprisonment amounting to a year or imposition of fine. Barkha Dutt had filed an FIR to the police on receiving death and rape threats after the JNU incident. The police tracked down the harasser and charged him under this section.

**Best way to stop phone harassment.**

If you want to stop the phone harassment then the trap call is the best way to stop phone harassment. It is the only web and mobile app service that is specifically designed to solve the problem of phone harassment**.**

This is because other solutions, such as trying to block the phone harasser using default [call blocking on your smartphone](https://www.trapcall.com/), were not developed specifically to stop and hold blocked, spoofed, and spam callers accountable to their actions.

It is typically recommended that you use call blocking app on your Apple or Android smartphone whenever you receive a threatening or unwanted phone call.

**Conclusion**

In India there are many legal ways to fight the serious problem of threat calls, but there are also some methods one can adopt on a personal level to tackle the problem of harassment such as blocking the number. But this method will protect only you it would not prevent a harasser from harassing someone else, it will be like giving your problem to someone else. Therefore, it is advisable that in this age of harassers, you discourage such evil practices by seeking help from the law.