

What are sexual rights? A thematic analysis of portuguese people's definitions

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Objective: To explore the definitions and perceptions regarding sexual rights in Portuguese adults through an online qualitative study.

Design and Method: Participants (n=148, aged 19-75 years) were asked the open-ended question "In your opinion, what are sexual rights?". Data was analyzed through reflexive thematic analysis.

Results: The data was conceptualized into three themes: "Government and Society", "Experience of Self" and "Uncharted Territory", which respectively refer to external and societal factors such as implementing human rights, as well as the social context surrounding the individual; internal factors such as identity and the boundaries of the self; and a series of other factors that may outright endanger sexual rights (such as violence and conservatism) or make their definition and implementation more difficult through a lack of consensus on what constitutes those rights.

Conclusions: In their replies, participants gave large emphasis to healthcare, education, legal protection, freedom, autonomy, identity and consent, which largely fall under the different declarations of sexual rights found in existing literature.