

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CANADA IS ALL TOO COMMON. FOR EXAMPLE, 1 IN 3 WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THEIR LIFETIME.¹

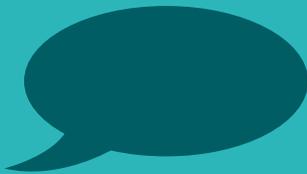
PART OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION INVOLVES UNDERSTANDING AND ENDING RAPE CULTURE. BUT WHAT IS RAPE CULTURE?

RAPE CULTURE IS...



When students at Canadian universities chant pro-rape messages during orientation week.²

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The majority of Canadian post-secondary institutions do NOT have a stand-alone policy on sexual violence³



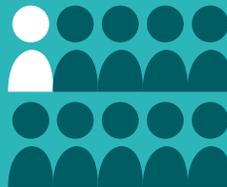
When sexual and gender-based harassment are experienced by many people on a daily basis...

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...and women are accused of "overreacting" when they call it out.⁷



When survivors of sexual violence are blamed, treated with suspicion, or accused of lying.⁴

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Only 2-8% of sexual assault reports are false, which is on par with other crimes (e.g. grand theft auto).⁵



When approximately 460,000 sexual assaults occur in Canada each year, and less than 10% are reported to police.⁸

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The myths and misconceptions surrounding sexual assault can discourage and create challenges for survivors coming forward.



When people make jokes about sexual violence.

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Jokes about sexual violence validate the actions of perpetrators and shame and silence survivors.⁶



When perpetrators of sexual violence are defended on Twitter because they are athletes, artists, or musicians.⁹

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An individuals' fame or fortune does not excuse or justify acts of sexual violence.

When girls and women are taught how to "not get raped instead of focusing on the real issue: the prevailing norms and attitudes that justify, tolerate, normalize and minimize sexual violence – or, rape culture."¹⁰

¹ Government of Ontario. (2011). Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives: Ontario's Sexual Violence Action Plan. Retrieved from: <http://www.women.gov.on.ca/owd/docs/svap.pdf>
² <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/saint-mary-s-university-unveils-frosh-week-changes-in-wake-of-rape-chant-1.2748017>
³ https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/11/20/canadian_postsecondary_schools_failing_sex_assault_victims.html
⁴ http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/Oxfam-Canada/ghomeshi-trial-violence-against-women-no-borders_b_9127000.html
⁵ <http://www.nsvrc.org/publications/articles/false-reports-moving-beyond-issue-successfully-investigate-and-prosecute-non>
⁶ Perez, R. & Greene, V.S. (2016). Debating rape jokes vs. rape culture: framing and counter-framing misogynistic comedy. *Social Semiotics* 26(3), 265-282.

⁷ Piestch, N. (May 2016). Sexual Harassment and Public Space. Learning Network Brief (27). London, Ontario: Learning Network, Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children.
⁸ Ibid
⁹ <http://everydayfeminism.com/2014/03/examples-of-rape-culture/>
¹⁰ Baker, L. (May 2014). Sexual Violence Prevention – Are we increasing safety or reinforcing rape culture? Good Intentions... and Unintended Bad Consequences. Learning Network Brief (21). London, Ontario: Learning Network, Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children.