



A QUICK GUIDE TO CONSENT

- Sex is not a 'right' and a woman can say no at any point.
- Rape is never the victim's fault.
- If a woman hasn't consented and you still have sex with her, it is rape.
- Men can be raped too: the offence can only be committed by another man but women can be charged with being an accessory to rape or assault by penetration.
- A man equally has the right to say no at any point.
- If you are not sure whether someone is too drunk to consent – assume consent is not given.
- Being drunk / on drugs yourself is not a defence for rape.
- A conviction for rape means a prison sentence and added to sex offenders register
- Any form of unwanted sexual touching is a crime, whether or not it leads to rape, and the police will investigate every rape and sexual assault reported to them.
- Rape is a crime of basic intent where the offender has sex with someone who does not consent.

QUICK FAQs

- 1 in 7 women students (14%) had been the victim of serious sexual assault or serious physical violence. 90% did not report serious sexual assault to the police; 50% of whom said it was because they felt ashamed or embarrassed and 43% because thought they would be blamed for what happened. (National Union of Students survey 'Hidden Marks' 2010)
- A third of teenage girls in a relationship suffer an unwanted sexual act (NSPCC 2009)
- Around 25% of rapes are committed by current or ex partners (British Crime Survey stats)
- Around 90% of victims of the most serious sexual offences knew the perpetrator, compared with less than half for other sexual offences (ONS 'An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales' Jan 13)
- Most rape offenders are males aged 16-25 (British Crime Survey)
- Most victims are females aged 16-25 (British crime Survey)
- Rape can happen to anyone male or female of any age
- Rape in marriage was criminalised as recently as 1989, and some people still believe that husbands/partners have some kind of 'right' to sex.
- Rapes usually take place in private premises (British Crime Survey 2002)
- Sexual assault is about power and control not sexual attraction
- Stranger rapes are extremely rare.
- The majority of sexual assaults are committed by men against women, but anyone can be sexually assaulted and emotional, physical and sexual abuse does happen in same sex relationships.
- Women who are sexually assaulted in same sex relationships often fear they will not be believed. It is important to realise that women who are assaulted by other women are able to access support and are believed.
- Young people can be at risk of sexual grooming – being made to believe they are in a loving relationship when really they are being exploited (CSE)