

# Alcohol: Why it's not an excuse

*"If we were both drunk, then how could I have raped her?"*

## The answers:

If you are drunk and choose to drive resulting in an accident that hurts someone, should you be held accountable? Hell, yes!

When you get drunk, will you stick your penis in a pencil sharpener or in the window of a police car? Probably not.

Why? Because you have made the decision ahead of time to never ever do that because it would hurt. So why can't men learn to not place our penises in or on women who are not consenting? If we as men make that decision before we drink, just like the decision to not maul our penis in a pencil sharpener... **Then it won't happen when we are drunk!**

Women do not report rapes or feel they have been raped after consensual "drunk" sex. They do report rape after their bodies have been violated.

Being drunk does not cause men to rape. However, society does set men up to think they have certain rights to sex. Assumptions men make while sober carry over when they are drunk. Both sober and drunk men use invalid excuses such as a woman wearing revealing clothing or behaving flirtatiously as reasons for assault. BUT REGARDLESS of whether a person is drunk or sober, NONE of these ridiculous excuses make the act of rape acceptable. Men do not have a right to sex no matter how drunk they are or how drunk the woman is! It is men's responsibility to understand this and be responsible for their actions.

## Alcohol does not cause rape...men and male culture do

And if this still doesn't make sense then listen up. Sex with a woman who is too drunk to consent is rape. **If you're not sure...then don't do it!** No matter what, if she doesn't say "yes" or is too drunk to say "yes" then you can be charged with rape, whether or not you think it's "fair."

# Sexual Violence & Rape Culture

## In the U.S.

- Between 1 in 4 and 1 in 6 women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime
- Between 1 in 7 and 1 in 9 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime
- 76% of all sexual assaults will be committed by someone the person knows (84% on college campuses)
- 90%-98% of all sexual assaults will be committed by a man
- 1 in 10 men will commit sexual assault in their lifetime
- Between 5%-10% of sexual assault survivors will report the crime

## A Rape Culture...

- Encourages male sexual aggression and violence against women
- Makes violence seem sexy and sexuality seem violent
- Exposes women to threats of violence and violation ranging from sexual remarks, to sexual touching, to rape.
- Condone the objectification and dehumanization of women
- Ostracizes survivors when they come forward
- Places responsibility for preventing sexual violence on women
- Creates a “vocabulary of adjustment” for rapists, which allows them to rationalize their actions

## How to Help Survivors of Sexual Violence

- Believe them
- If someone comes forward and tells you they’ve been sexually assaulted say:
  - I’m so sorry this happened to you
  - It’s not your fault
  - What can I do to help
- End rape culture by using different language, calling on men to hold each other accountable for their behavior, and challenging all forms of oppression. This will make it easier for survivors to heal and come forward
- Remember that not everyone benefits from “reporting” or is comfortable “going to the police”

# Together We Can

## Eliminate Gender Discrimination and Violence from our Classrooms and Campuses

### Challenge Language

- Say **no** to **any** language that insults someone based on their gender
- Say **no** to words like, bitch, fag, slut, pimp, pussy, sissy, loser, tease, & dyke
- Say **no** to phrases like, “You cry like a girl,” “You play ball like a girl,” & “Don’t be such a little girl.”
- Say **yes** to critical thinking about why insults based on gender are so common & so hurtful

### Encourage a Healthier Culture

- Discuss how women & men are represented in popular culture, & actively challenge those limiting images
- Encourage boys and men **not** to see women as objects, & **demand** they not treat women as inferior
- Challenge ideas (especially those about masculinity) that encourage toughness, aggression, and non-compassionate behavior

### Respond to Violence and Discrimination

- **Openly challenge** the ways that our culture accepts discriminatory & violent behavior — especially towards women
- Respond to victims of violence & discrimination by saying:
  - I’m so sorry this happened to you
  - It’s not your fault
  - What can I do to help
  - **NEVER** allow discriminatory or violent behavior to go unchecked

sex • good sex • sloppy sex • regretted sex • sexual assault

# SEX and SEXUAL ASSAULT

- 1 Sex** is something which happens between two or more consenting people. All of the parties involved want to be there, and they have complete control over their decision. Sex is a consensual act of free will that can occur between people of any gender. People typically have sex because it's fun, it feels good, it's exciting, and it's a way of expressing love. People also have sex in order to have children/reproduce.
- 2 Good sex** is something that results from individuals working together effectively. It most often occurs between two sober people who are considerate of each other's needs. Most often good sex leaves the participants pleased with their decision. Open communication, sex toys, or natural talent can all contribute to good sex. People can experience good sex in a variety of ways and with a variety of people. Hopefully everyone who wants to has a chance to experience good sex.
- 3 Sloppy sex** can be a positive or negative experience. Sometimes sloppy sex happens because one of the parties has no knowledge of what they are doing; more often sloppy sex happens because one of the parties pretends like they know what they're doing, but clearly does not. Sloppy sex can also result from a lack of communication, or a lack of consideration toward the other participant's needs. The most common form of sloppy sex happens when alcohol or other drugs are involved. Erections fail, coordination is degraded...it is just messy. Sloppy sex can be upsetting, frustrating, and disappointing.
- 4 Regretted sex** can be a painful event. Regretted sex happens in all types of scenarios. Some common scenarios include: the sex is terrible (sometimes sloppy sex is regretted); two close friends have sex and it's detrimental to their friendship; a couple breaks up and has sex while separated. Regretted sex may be followed by crying, disappointment, frustration, and even depression; however, it is not sexual assault. Regretted sex is regretted because the parties involved made a choice that proved to be a mistake. In sexual assault there is no choice.
- 5 Sexual assault** is not sex. It is not consensual, it is not fun, and for one of the participants it will be a life altering experience. Sexual assault is ANY unwanted sexual contact. Consent must be given with free will and from a sound state of mind for the act to be sex and not sexual assault. Regretted sex is not sexual assault, and people who experience sexual assault can tell the difference. In sexual assault there is no ability to choose, there is an assailant and a victim, not a willing participant who regrets their decision.

**WHAT WILL**  
**YOU DO**  
**TO**  
**STOP** sexual  
violence<sup>SM</sup>