

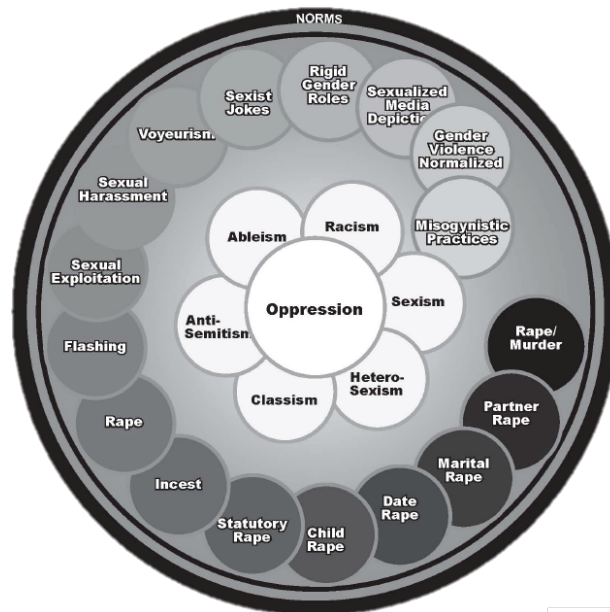
Sexual Violence: A few points to think about

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Sexual Violence

Aggressive act
Underlying factors are power and control, not sexual desire
Sex is merely the medium to express anger, hostility, a need to control, dominate, degrade, humiliate, terrorize, and assert power over
Threatens victims' sense of self; of privacy, safety, and well-being



Lydia Guy 2006

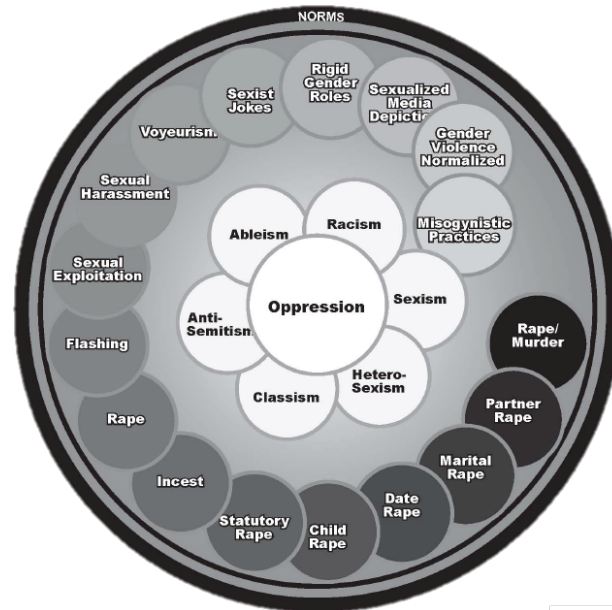
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Sexual Violence

Majority of victims female,
most perpetrators male

Predictable consequence of
power differential

During loss of control/power:
Can **compensate** for
helplessness, reassure
offender of adequacy, assert
offender's power and identity,
retain status among peers,
discharge frustration



Lydia Guy 2006

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Myths

Sex is the primary motivation for sexual violence.

Only certain types of people experience sexual violence.

Only certain types of people perpetrate sexual violence.

Sexual violence involves a great deal of physical and the use of a weapon.

Sexual violence leaves obvious signs of injury.

Many are false reports.

“It wasn’t really sexual assault”.

Victim is responsible for not preventing or resisting successfully; or for contributing to their victimization.

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Victim Blaming

Find victim at fault for unsuccessfully resisting or refusing
 Find victim at fault for not being “more careful” in protecting self
 Assume victim provoked violence by actions, words, or dress
 Question victim’s response to violence
 Just world hypothesis – “*My world is safe*”
 Empathy for perpetrators
 Disgust for and distancing from victims

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Sexual Violence in Political Conflict

Rape has been used as a strategy in many conflicts

- Korea WWII
- Bangladesh War of Independence
- Algeria
- Kashmir
- Indonesia
- Liberia
- Rwanda
- Uganda

Marginalization increases victimization; Victimization increases marginalization

- Discrediting, undermining, distracting
- Women under 25 years more likely victimized
- Way to destabilize social order, undermine men

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