

Rape Culture: where rape, sexual assault & abuse are an accepted and expected societal norm.

1

First, it starts with systems of oppression.



AGEISM • CLASSISM • POVERTY • SEXISM • ABLEISM
STATE VIOLENCE • WHITE SUPREMACY • HETEROSEXISM
CISGENDERISM • RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION • COLONIALISM

2

What connects those systems of oppression to sexual assault & abuse?

Victim Blaming

3

HERE ARE SOME WAYS THAT RAPE CULTURE INFLUENCES OUR LIVES:

Sexual Violence	Legal	Media	Body Autonomy	Sexuality & Gender	Trauma	Education	Public Space
sexual assault & abuse; stalking; harassment; incest; sex trafficking; online sexual harassment; intimate partner sexual violence; 80% of survivors know their perpetrator	low reporting & prosecutions; Prison Industrial Complex; high incarceration rates of people of color; immigration status discrimination; multiple barriers to justice	rape jokes & imagery in advertising & media; objectifying & tokenizing images of people of color; victim-blaming survivors in the news	youth, people with disabilities & undocumented folks often unable to leave abusers; eugenics; reproductive coercion; barriers to healthcare; medical abuse	definitions of gender, gender expression & sexuality are affected by trauma histories; invisibility of queer, trans & disabled people; slut-shaming	historical trauma (Native Amer. boarding schools, slavery, Jim Crow, etc.); mental illness; medical sexual abuse; gaslighting; intergenerational trauma	lack of comprehensive sex education; campus sexual assault; school dress codes; barriers to Title IX; School to Prison Pipeline; school violence; lack of youth resources	rape jokes; workplace harassment; street harassment; hate crimes; gentrification; accessible housing; Stranger Behind the Bushes myth; prevention "tips"

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What this all comes down to is:

Denial of Autonomy

"Denial of Autonomy" means denying people the ability to make choices for themselves and this is at the center of rape culture.



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