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

1. First, it starts with systems of oppression.

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

4. 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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