

Recognizing Sexual Assault

1. Drunkenness is not consent.

An intoxicated woman is not an opportunity for sex.

2. A woman is never "asking for it."

A woman is not asking for it because of what she wears.

A woman is not asking for it if she stays out late.

A woman is not asking for it if she gets drunk.

A woman is not asking for it if she accepts a ride home.

Women should be as free as men to leave their home at night, to go out drinking with friends, to wear what they want, and to flirt with a man without fearing rape.

3. No means no.

If you are unsure about how far a woman is willing to go, ask her. If she says no, say ok. Crying and silence may mean no too, and you won't know until you ask her.

4. Only yes means yes.

Just because she's friends with you, dating you or is your wife does not mean she consents to sex. Also, a woman's sexual history (or rumored sexual history) does not indicate her willingness to have sex with you.

5. Understand that rape is a violent assault.

The phrase sexual assault can be misleading because rape is not really about sex. Rape is a violent assault and sex is the weapon. If someone gets hit with a frying pan no one calls it a cooking assault. Rape is about power over and humiliation of the victim.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

