

SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRIKES ACROSS ALL CULTURES

Women of non-English speaking backgrounds experience language and cultural barriers as part of their everyday life.

Those who have suffered sexual violence face further barriers of silence and exclusion from help and information.

Women and children suffer 90% of sexual violence.

The majority of sexual violence occurs within the home.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT

- to feel safe
- to be believed
- to be listened to
- to be allowed the time and space to make their own decisions about how to deal with the experience.

WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Sexual violence is against the law.

The impact of sexual violence is great. It may often result in long term physical and mental health problems.

Sexual Violence includes:

- *sex without consent*
- *incest*
- *sexual harassment*
- *child sexual abuse*
- *rape*
- *ritual abuse*

Sex without consent

Consent means a free and voluntary agreement. The law takes account of the fact that a woman might appear to consent or submit under certain circumstances. Just because a woman is married, she does not have to have sex without her consent.

Sexual harassment

Any unwelcome sexual attention - including unwanted patting or touching, humiliating and suggestive comments about one's body, appearance or private life, displays of offensive materials or exposure. This includes your place of employment - you are protected by the law.

Incest

Sexual activities imposed on a young person/child by any person in their direct or extended family. The offender is either a family member, including father, uncle, brother, grandfather, or nephew, or someone with the care of the child such as a step parent, de facto spouse, or foster parent.

Child sexual abuse

Sexual activities imposed on children up to the age of 17 years old by people who are not family members. These activities could include intercourse, penetration with a finger or object, forced masturbation, observation in a sexual or intimidating way, kissing, touching or fondling.

Rape

Legally rape means vaginal and/or anal penetration with the penis without consent. Rape also means penetration with another body part or foreign object, and forced oral sex. This is defined as Sexual Assault under the law. Rape is about control and power, not about sex.

Ritual abuse

Is a brutal form of abuse of children, adolescents, and adults. Consisting of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and involving the use of rituals. Ritual abuse usually entails repeated abuse over an extended period of time.

IWSS SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM PROVIDES...

To communities from non-English speaking backgrounds - community education and information on sexual assault, the relevant laws and services
talks, seminars, fact sheets, information on the phone.

To sexual assault service providers - resources, service development and training to increase access to services of women from non-English speaking backgrounds ...
information and training sessions on improving access and equity in services for women who have been sexually assaulted.

To women - if you have been sexually assaulted and are from a non-English speaking background...
advocacy and support with health and counselling services and going through the legal processes if you choose to report the sexual assault.

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