

CONSENT

'Consent' is an extremely complicated concept to pin down because of the diversity of sexual experiences and encounters it encompasses. However, we can identify some of the key features of encounters that can be considered consensual and non-consensual.

Consent is: Informed – Mutual – Active – Communicated – Retractable - An enthusiastic yes

Consent isn't: Forced/Coerced - Assumed or implied - Intoxicated - Lack of physical resistance - Necessarily verbal

Statistics

- 97% of survivors of sexual violence knew their attackers
- 1 in 4 women in the US and Europe will be raped in their lifetime
- 72,000 men are victims of sexual offences every year
- 40% of victims of sexual violence tell no one
- CAMBRIDGE SPEAKS OUT 2014
 - 77% of respondents have experienced sexual harassment
 - 28.55% of survey respondents have experienced sexual assault
 - 10% of respondents have experienced stalking and 9% have experienced physical violence.
 - 80% of assaults and stalking took place in college
 - Over 80% of students, across all types of incidents of sexual and physical violence, did not report the incident.
 - Open to all genders; sample size 2,768

Rape Culture

- Social environment whose values and attitudes enable and normalise the structures underpinning sexual violence
- Rape cultures can lead to **victim blaming**. This places responsibility for sexual violence onto its victims rather than the perpetrator and the structures that enable transgressions of consent.
 - Not all victims of sexual violence are treated equally.
 - Many of us will hold an idea of the typical "victim" of sexual violence.
 - This "ideal victimhood" deems certain characteristics and contextual factors to be qualifications for the category of victim.
 - These attitudes are internalised by victims & can lead to self-imposed guilt and trauma.

Toxic masculinity and lad culture

There is a heavily gendered aspect to sexual violence that is underpinned by the characteristics attached to masculine norms. This is often linked to the idea of the "tough guy", privileging aggression, control and suppression of emotions. Practices such as care, empathy and communication are considered to be weak or "feminine". Men are understood to be inherently sexual and unemotional, leading towards the justification of aggressive behaviours and disregard for boundaries. The fear of being seen as feminine can also make male victims less likely to talk openly about their experiences of sexual assault.

REFLECTION POINT

Which of the statistics particularly stood out to you?
Why is sexual consent perceived as a "particularly hard to pin down" at times? What conditions of sexual consent make reporting difficult for an individual (i.e. within a relationship)?

RESOURCES

- **Resources in college**
 - Porter's Lodge (01223 334900)
 - College Nurse
 - Tutor/Senior Tutor
 - Male/Female Welfare Officers
 - BAME Officer
 - LGBT+ Officer
- **Resources in the university**
 - [Student Unions' Advice Service \(SUAS\)](#)
 - Nightline - open between 7am and 7am, 01222374444
 - [University Counselling Service \(UCS\)](#)
 - Sexual Assault and Harassment Advisor (SAHA), Amy O'Leary (more info on handout)
 - Office for Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals (OSCCA)
 - [CUSU BME Campaign](#)
 - [FLY Cambridge](#)
 - [FUSE Cambridge](#)
 - [Cambridge ACS](#)
 - [third space](#)
 - [King's Traces of Empire](#)
- **In Cambridge**
 - Your GP (incoming Fresher's need to register)
 - Addenbrooke's A&E
 - Lime Tree Clinic
 - Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre (women only)
 - Broken Rainbow (LGBT+ only)
 - Samaritans

BBC iplayer:

- Windrush Scandal
 - Sitting in Limbo 2020: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p08g29ff/sitting-in-limbo>
- Murder of Anthony Walker
 - Anthony 2020: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000lb9c/anthony>

Books:

- **White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism** by Robin DiAngelo
- **Taking up Space** by Chelsea Kwakye and Ore Ogunbiyi
- **Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race** - by Reni Eddo-Lodge 2018
- **Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire** - by Akala 2019
- **How to Be an Antiracist** - by Ibram X. Kendi 2019
- **Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India** by Shashi Tharoor 2017
- **The Cross and The Lynching Tree** - by James H Cone 2013