

What is Sexual Assault?

- Plain and simple, sexual assault is sex without consent, but it's not really about sex. It's an act of violence, of control and power and domination.
- Submission (out of fear, guilt, or confusion) is not the same as consent. Consent is based on choice. It's possible only when there's equal power. If you can't say/accept "no" comfortably, then "yes" has no meaning.
- Coercion ("If you love me, you will") is not the same as consent. Again, if you feel that saying "no" will bring negative consequences, "yes" has no meaning.
- Minors cannot legally give consent to have sex.
- Someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot legally give consent to have sex.
- Most sexual assaults are committed by acquaintances rather than strangers, but are no less a crime than rapes committed by strangers.