

# UNDERSTANDING RAPE CULTURE IN SCHOOLS

## Campus Safety Guide for High School Students

In schools, students often experience an environment in which sexual violence is normalized and excused, also known as Rape Culture. It is a schools responsibility to provide a learning environment where a student's safety and access to education is safeguarded with clear protocols to protect students.

### Thinking of Consent

**Consent:** an affirmative, cautious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity, which can be revoked at any time. (Ongoing, Active, Informed, Voluntary)

**Non-Consent:** It is invalid if a person is impaired, coerced, or doesn't fully understand what's happening. **The absence of no does not mean yes** (Resistance, Coercion, Protest, Incapacitated)

### Mini Glossary

**Gender:** A set of cultural identities and social expressions based on interpretation of bodies and reproductive anatomy, that can be adapted to align with one's true self and desired characteristics.

**Sex:** Classification assigned at birth based on characteristics such as sex chromosomes, genitalia and primary sex characteristics, and secondary sex characteristics and hormone levels.

**Gender identity:** How an individual identifies in terms of their gender. Gender identities may include, "male," "female," "androgynous," "transgender," "genderqueer," others, and/or a combination thereof.

**Gender Queer:** When someone's gender identity does not fit within the traditional binary categories.

**Sexual Orientation:** A person's feelings of emotional or physical attraction to another individual in relation to their own gender identity. Some people identify as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual, among others.

**Gender Expression:** The various behaviors an individual may choose to communicate their gender, such as way of dress, demeanor, activities, or social roles.

**Intersectionality:** A concept in which individuals hold multiple identities and can experience multiple forms of discriminations due to their overlapping identities, such as race and gender.

## Gender Based Violence (GBV)

**WHAT** GBV is any harmful act or threat directed at a person or group based on gender identity, expression, sexual orientation, sex, or perceived gender.

**WHO** GBV disproportionately affects women and girls. However, it also affects gender queer, transgender, and non-binary individuals.

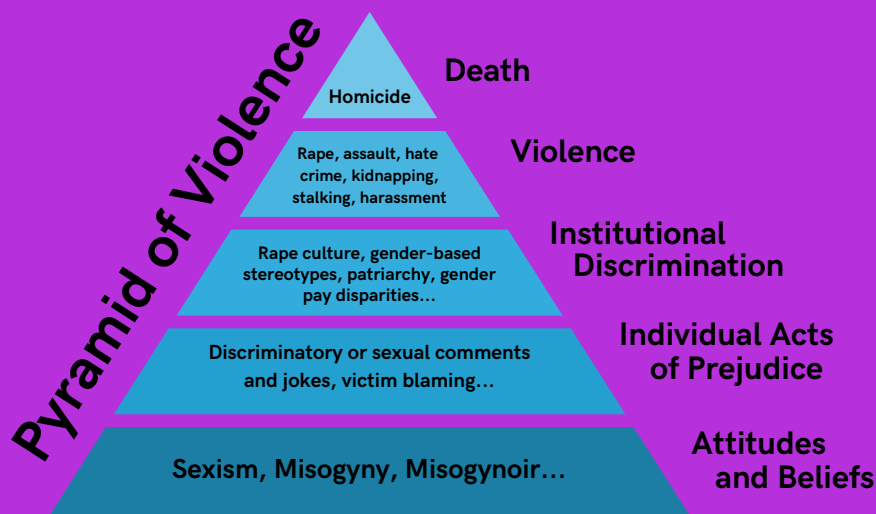
**HOW** GBV limits access to education and opportunities, is detrimental to mental health, and perpetuates a cycle of violence and abuse within communities.

**WHY** GBV is one of the many results of the patriarchy, a social hierarchy in which men hold predominant power, that our society was set up on. Whether it be in the workplace, at home, or in politics, men have historically and systemically held power and dominance over women. With generations of discrimination against non-males and people of color come various belief systems and attitudes such as misogyny, misogynoir, and sexism. See definitions below:

**Misogyny:** perpetuates hatred and/or prejudice against women.

**Misogynoir:** the dislike of, hatred, or prejudice toward Black women.

**Sexism:** Stereotyping, discrimination, or prejudice based on a person's sex.



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