

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Sexual Assault

- 1 *If I wear sexy clothes does that mean I am asking to be sexual assaulted?*

No. You do not provoke sexual violence by dressing like how you want to. Perpetrators are responsible for their own actions.
- 2 *Is it true that men can't be sexually assaulted because they can defend themselves?*

No. Both men and women are sexually assaulted. Many people who are sexually assaulted freeze up and are unable to react, even if they are physically strong.
- 3 *Can a man be sexually assaulted by a woman?*

Yes. Although men are usually sexually assaulted by men, some men are assaulted by women.
- 4 *If a man sexually assaults another man does that mean he's gay?*

No. Men who sexually assault other men are usually straight and in a relationship with a woman.
- 5 *If a man is sexually assaulted does that make him gay or will he become gay?*

No. Both straight and gay men are sexually assaulted and it does NOT change their sexual preference.
- 6 *If a man became erect and ejaculated then he must have wanted and enjoyed the sex?*

Erection and ejaculation are normal bodily responses to physical stimulus that can **NOT** be controlled. It does not mean he wanted or enjoyed the experience.
- 7 *Do sexual assaults usually occur at night in dark alleyways?*

No. Many sexual assaults occur during the daytime and in the home of the victim.
- 8 *If I have been drinking or taking drugs am I asking to be sexually assaulted?*

No. Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs can prevent you from being able to consent to sex. However, remember that drinking and taking drugs does influence good decision making, while this does not make you responsible for being assaulted, you can reduce your risk of harm by managing how "out of it" you get. Stay with your friends and look after each other.
- 9 *Do victims usually know who sexually assaulted them?*

Yes. Almost 8 out of 10 sexual assault victims are attacked by someone they know.
- 10 *Do women enjoy being sexually assaulted?*

No. Any form of sexual violence is frightening and humiliating and no-one enjoys an experience like that.
- 11 *Do men only sexually assault others because they are frustrated or they can't control themselves?*

No. The majority of sexual assaults are well planned in advance and do not involve a loss of control on the perpetrators part.
- 12 *Was I really sexually assaulted if I didn't scream or fight and I don't have any injuries?*

Most people don't scream or fight, despite what you see on TV. You may not have screamed or fought during the sexual assault because you were frozen with fear. This is a common reaction for many sexual assault victims.

- 13 *Is it possible for a man to assault a woman without a weapon?* Yes. A weapon is not needed to make you feel scared of being hurt or killed. You might comply with demands just to try to prevent being hurt.
- 14 *Can a man sexually assault his wife?* Yes. Every woman has the right to say no to anyone, regardless of whether she is married.
- 15 *Can a prostitute be sexually assaulted?* Yes. Every woman has the right to say NO to anyone.

## **Sexual Abuse**

- 16 *Are children who dress sexy like adults asking to be sexually abused?* No. A child's appearance and behaviour does not and never does excuse an adult's abusive behaviour.
- 17 *Do some children let the abuse go on for so long because they like it?* No. A child may not tell anyone about the abuse for many reasons. For example:
- the perpetrator has threatened them
  - they feel ashamed
  - they feel guilty
- 18 *Do many children pretend to be sexually abused?* No. Studies have shown that 94% of reported child sexual abuse cases are confirmed by police.
- 19 *Should parents 'just know' when their child is being sexually abused?* No. Most non-abusing parents have no knowledge about their child being sexually abused. These parents should not feel guilty or at fault for the abuse. However, there are some non-abusing parents who are fully aware of the sexual abuse, but do not or can not stop it. There could be many reasons for a parent not stopping the abuse.
- 20 *Is having sexual contact with a child another way of showing them love?* No. People who love children do NOT have sex with them. Child sexual abusers use threats, intimidation and manipulation to keep children from telling anyone about the abuse. That is not love.
- 21 *If I was sexually abused will I become an abuser?* No. Most children who have been sexually abused do not grow up to be abusers. In addition, girls are more likely to be sexually abused, but men are usually the perpetrators.
- 22 *Are sexual abusers usually strange old men who are drunk and smell?* No. Children are more likely to be sexually abused by young heterosexual males who they know.
- 23 *If I was sexually abused by someone who is the same gender, will I grow up to be homosexual?* No. Your sexual orientation is not determined by the gender or sexual preferences of your abuser.
- 24 *Do sexually abused children ever recover from their experience?* Yes. Many sexually abused victims heal and go on to live normal lives.

## Date Rape

- 25 *What is date rape?* It is when someone you are dating or going out with forces or manipulates you into having unwanted sexual contact. It is sexual assault.
- 26 *Is it date rape if you kiss? Maybe I led them on?* Just because you kissed does NOT mean that you wanted to have sexual contact. Everyone has the right to say what they are comfortable doing and not doing.
- 27 *If accept a drink or dinner from someone does that mean I have to have sex with them?* No. Just because someone bought you a drink or you went out for dinner, it does **NOT** entitle them to have sexual contact with unless you consent.

## Drink Spiking

- 28 *What is drink spiking?* It is when somebody puts a drug into your drink without you knowing. Alcohol is the most common drug used to spike drinks.
- 29 *What will happen to me if my drink is spiked?* Depending on the drug that was used you might:
- Look like you have gotten drunk very quickly
  - Have trouble trying to remember things that happened
- 30 *What can I do to prevent my drink being spiked?*
- Do not leave your drink unattended
  - If someone offers you a drink, watch them pour it
  - Stay close to your friends and leave together
  - Drink from cans or bottle that have not been opened
- 31 *What should I do if I think my drink has been spiked?* Go to the police and/or emergency department as soon as possible. They may be able to do a test to see if you have been drink spiked.  
If your drink has been spiked, remember that it is not your fault. You cannot always prevent these things from happening.  
Please remember to take care when drinking. In some cases, it is not that a person's drink has been spiked, but they have just drunk more alcohol than they thought they had.
- 32 *What should I do if my friends drink has been spiked?* Stay close to your friend and take them to a safe place. If you believe that your friend is unwell, you should go to your closest emergency department.

Good friends can make a difference