

## **Sex without consent is rape**

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

- Rape is never the victim's fault.
- Stranger rapes are extremely rare.
- Around 90 per cent of victims of the most serious sexual offences knew the perpetrator, compared with less than half for other sexual offences (ONS 'An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales' Jan 13)
- Rape can happen to anyone male or female of any age
- A third of teenage girls in a relationship suffer an unwanted sexual act (NSPCC 2009)
- 1 in 7 women students (14%) had been the victim of serious sexual assault or serious physical violence. 90% did not report serious sexual assault to the police, of whom 50% said it was because they felt ashamed or embarrassed and 43% because they thought they would be blamed for what happened. (National Union Of Students survey 'Hidden Marks' 2010)
- Rape in marriage was criminalised as recently as 1989, and some people still believe that husbands/ partners have some kind of 'right' to sex.
- Around 25% of rapes are committed by current or ex partners (British Crime Survey stats)
- Rapes usually take place in private premises (British Crime Survey 2002)
- Sexual assault is about power and control not sexual attraction
- Acting in a 'safe way' is no guarantee that a woman won't be raped, as rape is the decision of the perpetrator.
- Most rapists are males aged 16-25 (British Crime Survey)
- Most victims are females aged 16-25 (British crime Survey)
- Young people can be at risk of sexual grooming – being made to believe they are in a loving relationship when really they are being exploited
- The majority of sexual assaults are committed by men against women, but anyone can be sexually assaulted and emotional, physical and sexual abuse does happen in same sex relationships.
- Women who are sexually assaulted in same sex relationships often fear they will not be believed. It is important to realise that women who are assaulted by other women are able to access support and are believed.