

# Rape Culture: where rape, sexual assault & abuse are an accepted and expected societal norm.

1

First, it starts with systems of oppression.



AGEISM • CLASSISM • POVERTY • ABLEISM • STATE VIOLENCE  
WHITE SUPREMACY • HETEROSEXISM • CISSEXISM  
RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION • COLONIALISM

2

*What connects those systems of oppression to sexual assault & abuse?*

**Victim Blaming**

3

## HERE ARE SOME WAYS THAT RAPE CULTURE INFLUENCES OUR LIVES:

Sexual Violence	Legal	Media	Sexuality & Gender	Trauma	Public Space	Body Autonomy	Education
sexual assault & abuse; stalking; harassment; incest; sex trafficking; online sexual violence; intimate partner sexual violence; 80% of survivors know their perpetrator	low reporting & prosecutions; Prison Industrial Complex; high incarceration rates of people of color; immigration status discrimination; multiple barriers to justice	rape jokes & imagery in advertising & media; objectifying & tokenizing images of people of color; victim-blaming survivors in the news	definitions of gender, gender expression & sexuality are affected by trauma histories; invisibility of queer, trans & disabled people; "slut-shaming"	historical trauma (Native Amer. boarding schools, slavery, Jim Crow, etc.); mental illness; medical sexual abuse; intergenerational trauma	rape jokes; work harassment; street harassment; hate crimes; gentrification; accessible housing; Stranger Behind the Bushes myth, prevention tips	youth, people with disabilities & undocumented folks unable to leave abusers; eugenics; reproductive coercion; barriers to healthcare; medical abuse	lack of comprehensive sex education; campus sexual assault; barriers to Title IX; School to Prison Pipeline; school violence; lack of youth resources

4

What this all comes down to is:

**Denial of Autonomy**

**"Denial of Autonomy"** means denying people the ability to make choices for themselves and this is at the center of rape culture.



www.stacarecenter.org • 785.843.8985

This grant project was funded by the Protection from Abuse Fund administered by the Office of the Kansas Attorney General. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of the Kansas Attorney General.

Do not reproduce or copy without the explicit permission of GaDuGI SafeCenter. Please contact [support@gadugisafecenter.org](mailto:support@gadugisafecenter.org) with questions or requests.