Let’s Talk Racism: In Terms of Sexual Violence

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

• define how privilege and forms of oppression intersect with sexual violence.
• compare sexual violence to racism.
• describe racist examples in terms of sexual violence examples.
Ground Rules

- Exercise self-care
- Be respectful
- Challenge yourself to engage
- Speak from your own experience
- Assume good intent and take accountability for your impact
- What said here, stays here. What’s learned here, leaves here.
Our commitment to racial justice

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR)/National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) considers racial justice critical to the movement to address and end sexual violence. We seek to uphold racial equality and oppose racism in all forms. Committing to racial justice propels sexual violence prevention work forward and helps to dismantle power imbalances that have long-existed in the United States.

In the United States, communities of color have experienced systemic prejudice and racism. Sexual violence has historically been used as a tool of oppression. Black women have experienced an “institutional pattern of rape” rooted in slavery (West & Johnson, 2013, p. 1). Additionally, more than 10,000 indigenous children were forced to attend government-sponsored Christian boarding or day schools beginning in the late 1800s, and “rampant sexual abuse at reservation schools” among other abuses by school officials continued until the end of the 1980s (Smith, 2007, p. 13). The effects of institutionalized power imbalances continue to propagate prejudice and racism against communities of color.

Today, crimes of sexual violence are largely intraracial — meaning victims and perpetrators share the same racial and cultural identity — however, system responses to these crimes remain woefully inadequate as experienced by communities of color. Barriers to seeking help remain significant for communities of color and are influenced by racism and other forms of oppression in the U.S. It is important to note American Indian and Alaska Native men and women are three times more likely than non-Hispanic White men and women to have
Pair & Share
1. Name
2. Pronouns
3. Acronym/Jargon
Feminism & Sexual Violence

Aspects of violence against women is rooted in sexism—but violence against all people is rooted in power and control in a patriarchal system.
Murder
Physical Abuse
Economic Abuse
Intimidation
Coercion & Threats
Emotional Abuse
Isolation
Offensive Jokes
Stalking
Street Harassment
Sexual Assault
Trafficking
Incest

Oppression
Sexism
Ableism
Classism
Ageism
Lookism
Nativism
Heterosexism
Racism
Sexual Assault
Rape

Based on Lydia Guy’s Sexual Violence Continuum
PCAR, 2018
Prejudice + Power = Oppression

A pre-judgement based on misinformation or lies of a particular cultural or social group

The capacity to exercise control over others, using social, cultural, or economic power

A system that discriminates against members of some groups and benefits other groups

Women of Color Network, 2007
Racial and Sexual Violence Pyramid

Death

Violence

Institutional Discrimination

Individual Acts of Prejudice

Attitudes & Beliefs

Sexual Violence

Racial Violence

Adverse Childhood Experiences  Murder  Lynching  Genocide  Neglect in Healthcare

Rape  Hate Crimes

Sexual Assault  Police Brutality  Physical Assault  Verbal Abuse
“She’s so nice and kind. She didn’t mean it that way. She couldn’t possibly be racist.”

“I’ve known him forever. He wouldn’t hurt a fly. He’s no nice. He couldn’t have raped her.”
I believe

I’m sure it was a misunderstanding

You’re overreacting

Do you have any proof?

You need to move on

I believe you
When we use this tool

In the moment

Justification

To get buy-in

Something doesn’t feel right
With your group, read the scenario and think of how it connects to sexual violence
Giving and Receiving Feedback
What else do you need?

- Organizational buy-in
- Familiarity with racism & oppression
- Shared language
- Direct communication
- Giving & receiving feedback
- Culture statement
CHANGE
SAME
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