“Black women were and continue to be sorely in need of an anti-rape movement.”

— Angela Davis
Barriers to Disclosure

- Inadequate sexuality socialization
- Rape myth acceptance
- Secondary victimization
- Racist images
- Cultural mandate to protect black men
Barriers to Disclosure

• Culture of Silence
• Expectation of Strength
• Internalized Images of Black Women
• Racial Loyalty/Political Gag order
Racial loyalty

I felt responsible for upholding the image of the strong black man for our young son, and for the white world with whom I had contact... I didn’t want to confirm the white belief that all black men rape. Better not talk about it... So I’d kept silent about what happened to me.

Expectation of Strength

In a lot of cases Black women are accustomed to hard times. The attitude is Just endure this one

---Dottie

Internalization of Stereotypes

• Black college women who endorsed beliefs such as “people think Black women are sexually loose” reported more victim blaming, which was related to lower self-esteem.

Political Gag Order

- Self and community imposed silence to avoid reinforcing negative stereotypes
What NOT to do…

• Victim blaming
• Ignoring her history
• Making her invisible-Race, Size, Age, etc.
• Negating her experience
• Assuming she is always angry
• Not fostering self-determination
• Ignoring environmental factors
Culturally Sensitive Techniques

- Story Telling
- Humor, Irony, Satire
- Prayer, Meditation, Quiet Time
- Music, Dance, Art
- Cousins and Dozens
- Writing, Journaling
- Food, Gardening, Sustainability
- Hula Hooping, Biking, Running
- Ancestor Reverence
- Crystals, Water, African Centered Exercise
- Talking Hair, Healing, and Hope
- Accountability
- Urban Legends