

SAPR



**Sexual Assault
Prevention & Response™**

OCTOBER EVENTS

Bystander Intervention Training
At
Building 87 Room 125
At
1300-1430hrs

Male Class

Nov 9, 2011

Female Class

Nov 2, 2011

White Ribbon Week

October 24-28

Wear Your White Ribbon during this week to show you are an active bystander who intervenes

Survivor Psalm

**I have been victimized
I was in a fight that was not a
fair fight
I did not ask for the fight
I lost
There is no shame in losing
Such fights
I have reached the stage of sur-
vivor and am no longer a slave
of victim status
I look forward with hope
rather than hate
I look forward with hope
rather than despair I may
never forget, but I need not
constantly remember
I was a victim
I am a
SURVIVOR**

OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

SARC- CHERYL JONES 481-7428

DEPUTY-ANDERAL WARD 481-7835

Office: Building 87 Room 174

Crisis Hotline:
580 649-0656



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month- The SAPR Office dedicate this issues to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This article discusses marital rape. If you or someone you know has experience dthis horrific act of violence please be aware that you have support. Marital Rape victims may report to the Family Advocacy Program for assistance. As with all reported sexual assaults we will ensure that all re-sources are made available to you. You are never alone!

Marital Rape

Spousal Sexual Assault is a Human Rights Violation

By Karen Stephenson

Marital rape is unwanted sexual acts by a spouse or common law partner that are committed against a person's will. These unwanted acts include any forced sexual behavior.

Rape by a stranger or by a marital or common law partner is a criminal offense in numerous countries. Although there are laws in place to protect women, there are cultural norms and perceived social stigma attached to rape that often discourage the reporting of martial rape and prosecution is rare in any countries. Bottom line, husbands raping wives is a horrible crime and victims need help.

Historical Overview

In the United States, rape in a marriage was considered legal in every state until 1976. Even though this is a crime in all states, some states don't consider marital rape to be a serious as stranger rape.

Bill C-127 came into effect in January 1983 making sexual assault against a wife an of-fense in Canada. A woman can also charge her husband with aggravated sexual assault if the rape included a beating. Rape was removed from the Criminal Code and re-placed with sexual assault. The intention behind this decision was to avoid the moral stigma connected to rape. This terms also stresses the violent nature of this sexual act.

In 1993 the United Nations High Commis-sioner for Human Rights established marital rape as a human rights violation.



Article Continues

Effects of Marital Rape

The issues around recovering from marital rape are complex. The most difficult factor is that the attack was committed by a person who is supposed to be trusted and is loved. Healing can take a long time and is difficult.

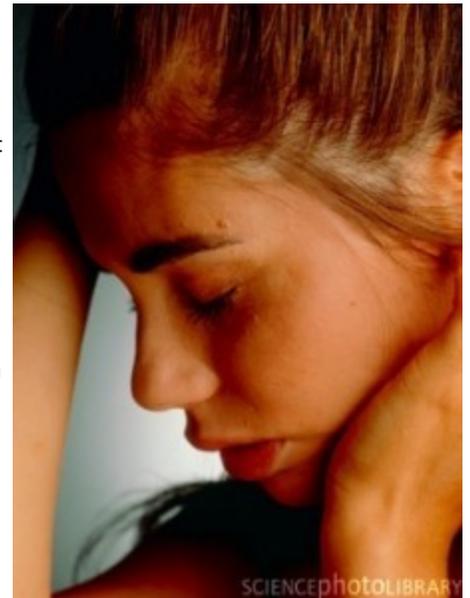
In some cases, a woman does not recognize that she was sexually violated because the perpetrator is her spouse. Her feelings get thrown into a vortex and she doesn't know what to think anymore. Chances are, the wife still loves her husband but there's hate, anger, bitterness, broken trust, denial, a deep sense of loss and fear for the future.

The loss of control over her life becomes an issue. If forced sex becomes an ongoing pattern the feeling of powerlessness becomes intense and being able to feel safe in the confines of the home is totally shattered.

Marital rape receives little public attention and is the most serious form of violence between spouses. According to Raquel Kennedy Bergen, Ph.D, she states in a research paper entitled, "Marital Rape: New Research and Directions" that research indicates that women who are raped by their partners are likely to experience multiple assaults and often suffer long-term physical and emotional trauma.

Getting Help

According to Bergen, despite the prevalence of marital rape, this form of violence receives relatively little attention from social scientists, practitioners and the criminal justice system. No matter how much information is available on marital rape, it does not negate the fact that rape is rape. If you are a woman who has been raped by her spouse, talk to a trained counselor at sexual assault hotline as soon as possible. Local hotline phone numbers can be Googled or found in the front of the phonebook.



Hurts One...Effects All...
Preventing Sexual Assault is
EVERYONES Duty!!

RESOURCES

SAPR Office	580 481-7428
SAPR Hotline	580 649-0656
Family Advocacy	580 481-5376
ACMI House	580 482-3800
Chaplin	580 481-7485
OKC Rape Crisis Center	800 522-7233
National Sexual Assault Hotline	

800 656-HOPE

Books Related to Marital Rape

License to Rape by David Finkelhor
Rape in Marriage by Diana E. H. Russe
Real Rape, Real Pain by Patricia Easteal