



**UNHRC**

**BACKGROUND GUIDE UNHRC**

**AGENDA: CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS TO END THE RAPE CULTURE.**

## **THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**



Shivani views the world from a different perspective, one that makes you feel inferior to how limited your understanding is. She's currently in her third year pursuing her bachelor's at Monash University, Melbourne. Shivani has always been a keen participant of MUNs as she participated in her first MUN when she was merely 15. UNHRC is a committee that represents the promotion and protection of human rights globally. Intending to accomplish what the

committee stands for, establishing effective solutions, and empowering young minds. We are honoured to have Shivani Bedi on board with us as the chairperson of UNHRC.

Noopur Jaiswal has always been a bright student, currently pursuing BA LLB from Symbiosis law school, Pune. She has an inquisitive mind to explore socio- legal issues. Along with this she has always proved to be responsible and dedicated towards every task bestowed to her. She has also served beyond her capacity in both roles as an organising member as well as a delegate. Moreover, we are happy to have her heading UNHRC as the vice chairperson.



Signing in as the rapporteur of UNHRC, Hiya Sanganeria, a student of standard 12<sup>th</sup> Mody school is a person with an imaginative and artistic soul. Along with a keen interest in art and literature, she adores establishing interpersonal relations learning diplomacy through the world of MUNs. Ever curious and authentic in her work, she promises to deliver the deliberations and outcomes of the committee as expertly possible. Well, in these trying times, she wishes to emerge as a more enlightened human and wishes the same for all.



**WE CORDIALLY WELCOME YOU TO ENGAGE IN HEALTHY DEBATE !!**

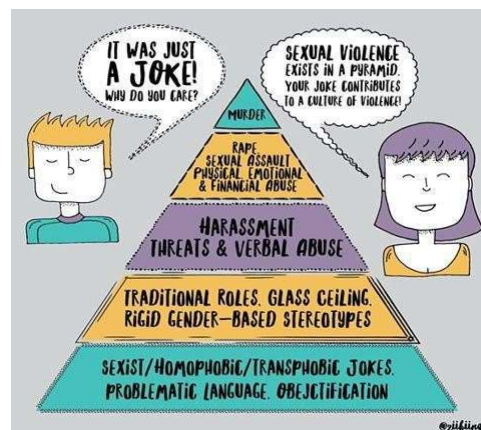
## Introduction of the agenda

What is rape culture? How do we put an end to it?

Rape Culture is an environment in which rape is normalized and considered preventable, sexual activities such as harassment and violence are excused in the media and in the popular culture. Anything that contributes to disregards in women's rights and safety, such as objectification of women's bodies, and the glamorization of sexual violence, use of misogynistic language is part of the rape culture.

Listed below are some examples of rape culture;

- Blaming the victim ("She asked for it!")
- Trivializing sexual assault ("Boys will be boys!")
- Sexually explicit jokes
- Tolerance of sexual harassment
- Inflating false rape report statistics
- Publicly scrutinizing a victim's dress, mental state, motives, and history
- Gratuitous gendered violence in movies and television
- Defining "manhood" as dominant and sexually aggressive
- Defining "womanhood" as submissive and sexually passive
- Assuming only promiscuous women get raped
- Assuming that men don't get raped or that only "weak" men get raped
- Refusing to take rape accusations seriously
- Teaching women to avoid getting raped instead of teaching men not to rape





Rape culture refers to the normalisation of rape, sexual assault or harassment that may be implicit or explicit. It is the pervasiveness of rape to the point that it is so normalised, it becomes a societal “culture” and is prevalent in our everyday lives. It is often the result of generalised ideas of gender and sexuality stemming from patriarchy.

Rape culture exist as it is generalised to be normal despite of it being a problem, accepting misogyny in our day to day lives, attempts of rape jokes, objectifying women, telling them what is considered to be right and what is considered to be wrong, understanding that a skirt can get you raped whilst covering your skin might prevent it, we accept and contribute to the rape culture. Accepting degradation of women via partially justifying it with men’s uncontrollable hyper sexuality.

Rape culture is a culture in which sexual violence is treated as the norm and victims are blamed for their own assaults. It's not just about sexual violence itself, but about cultural norms and institutions that protect rapists, promote impunity, shame victims, and demand that women make unreasonable sacrifices to avoid sexual assault. Rape culture pressures women to sacrifice their freedoms and opportunities in order to stay safe, because it puts the burden of safety on women's shoulders, and blames them when they don't succeed. As a result, certain opportunities are left unavailable to women, and still others are restricted by expensive safety precautions, such as not traveling for professional networking unless you can afford your own

## WHAT “RAPE CULTURE” MEANS

**1 OUT OF 5 AMERICAN WOMEN HAS SURVIVED AN ATTEMPTED OR COMPLETED RAPE. BUT SURVIVORS ARE DOUBTED, SHAMED, AND HARASSED**



**Rape cases  
are not being  
reported...**

ONLY A THIRD OF ALL  
RAPES ARE ACTUALLY  
REPORTED



**If a survivor does  
report, police might  
not investigate.**

TENS OF THOUSANDS  
OF RAPE KITS ARE  
SITTING UNTESTED  
ACROSS THE U.S.



**Prosecutors often  
refuse to take up  
cases that the police  
DO recommend.**

FEWER THAN 4 IN 10  
CASES ARE EVER  
PROSECUTED



**If a rape case does go  
to trial, survivors are  
often re-traumatized  
by the process.**

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS  
OFTEN BLAME AND SHAME  
SURVIVORS ON THE STAND



**People think rape  
survivors are  
making it all up.**

6% OR LESS OF CHARGES  
MAY BE FALSE, BUT  
STUDENTS THINK UP TO  
50% OF RAPE REPORTS  
ARE FABRICATED



**And even if a  
rapist is convicted,  
he can receive an  
extraordinarily  
light sentence**

ONLY 3% OF RAPISTS  
SPEND EVEN A DAY IN JAIL

hotel room. That amounts, essentially, to a tax that is levied exclusively on women. Over time, the cost of that tax adds up to opportunities lost and progress not achieved. When women give up social and economic opportunities in order to stay safe, that affects their progress overall, which in turn affects society's progress overall. Rape culture tasks victims with the burden of rape prevention. It encourages women to learn self-defence as a solution to prevent rape. It blames victims for lacking common sense, being irresponsible, avoiding dangerous places and dressing in certain ways. It fails to caution perpetrators to not commit rape.

Rape Culture Rooted in Patriarchy, Media Portrayal, and Victim Blaming Sexual violence is a major issue affecting women around the world. It occurs within homes, on college campuses, in times of conflict, and in times of peace. Society has developed a certain attitude towards sexual assault. It has been embedded within culture that women are lesser than men and viewed as subordinate. Sexual violence has been normalized by media, desensitizing society to actual assault and hindering action against it. Women often bear the responsibility and blame of their assault rather than their attacker. This failure to protect victims of sexual assault and shifting of the blame to women for their own assault is termed rape culture; it is when the traumatic assault of a woman is trivialized, when men are given a pass and women are scolded for what they were wearing at the time of the attack, and when a woman would rather stay silent than seek the prosecution of her assailant. Sexual violence and the consequences of rape culture are violations of human rights in which the dignity and equality of women are not recognized. Rape culture is a human rights issue rooted in patriarchal societies, the normalization of sexual violence in media, and victim blaming.

UN has calculated some statistics about women which withheld information regarding women safety, and will help you understand the importance to take an action against rape culture. (UN Women, 2021)

- 1) Globally, an estimated 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (30 per cent of women aged 15 and older).
- 2) Most violence against women is perpetrated by current or former husbands or intimate partners

- 3) Of those who have been in a relationship, almost one in four adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 (24 per cent) have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband
- 4) Globally, 6 per cent of women report they have been subjected to sexual violence from someone other than their husband or partner.
- 5) One hundred thirty-seven women are killed by a member of their family every day.
- 6) Adult women account for nearly half (49 per cent) of all human trafficking victims detected globally.
- 7) 15 million adolescent girls worldwide, aged 15–19 years, have experienced forced sex
- 8) One in 10 women in the European Union report having experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15.

***What is expected out of you in this committee?***

UNHRC stands on the grounds of strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. Every country shall:

- Be aware of most common forms of delivery of rape culture in daily routines
- Actions promoted to prevent rapes, amendments being made to uplift women
- Laws of the country, that define what is considered a crime or offence, example: marital rape.
- Stance of your government regarding women rights
- Solutions that are compatible with your government's policy

**NOTE-** Often delegates represent agenda subjectively, in this committee we encourage you to represent your country's views and provide solutions that do not contradict your country's laws. We will require solutions from every country and make sure to find them on the same level of mentality that is represented in your country. **Good luck.**

Listed below are some sites/links that can brief you more about the agenda-

- <https://time.com/40110/rape-culture-is-real/>
- <https://www.vox.com/2014/12/15/7371737/rape-culture-definition>
- <https://www.blackburncenter.org/post/2019/05/15/this-is-what-we-mean-by-rape-culture>
- [https://www.equalitynow.org/the\\_global\\_rape\\_epidemic\\_learn\\_more](https://www.equalitynow.org/the_global_rape_epidemic_learn_more)
- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/11/compilation-ways-you-can-stand-aga-inst-rape-culture>
- <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/ten-things-end-rape-culture/>
- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/7/news-gef-paris-leaders-advocate-formale-accountability-in-ending-violence-against-women>
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