

#ConsentIs...

Q: What is consent?

A: Someone consents only if they agree by choice and they have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. Consent may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.

Victims of rape are often selected and targeted because of ease of **access** and **opportunity**.



Did someone have the capacity to consent? Were they...



Under the influence of drink or drugs?



Asleep or unconscious?



Suffering from a medical condition or mental health problem, or did they have a learning disability?



Old enough to consent?



There are many further situations to consider.

Did they have the freedom to consent?



Was there an abuse of power or trust?



Was one person dependent on the other?



Did a partner or family member use force or power?



Myth-busting



Wearing certain clothes **doesn't mean** someone wants sex.



Being drunk can make someone **vulnerable**. It **doesn't mean** they're 'up for it'.



Trauma after rape can affect **memory** of even recent events.



The **majority** of rapists know their victim.



Most victims **don't** fight. Resistance and **defence** can be through **freezing** or even trying to **befriend** the rapist – in fact any effort to prevent, stop or limit the event.



Delayed or inconsistent reporting may be due to trauma or fear.

If you would like further information, have questions or have been affected by these issues, please go to:
cps.gov.uk/news/articles/consent_is

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