

January 2016

THE CONSENT EDITION

For this edition of our Impact Newsletter we have decided to focus on the theme of consent and the 16 Days of Action. We deal with consent in many areas of our work. From working with young people in schools and youth groups, to working with survivors and professionals, understanding consent is key.

"I never knew that having sex with someone when they are sleeping is rape, nobody has told us that but people should know"

– 16 year old attending a Consent Session

"I didn't know I could say "No" to my husband" – RASAC Survivor

"Consent is a difficult subject to speak about with young people especially as I'm not sure about the details myself" – Youth Worker



Consent Table Top Training Event

On the 10th of December 2015, as part of the 16 Days of Action in partnership with Perth and Kinross Violence Against women Partnership, we facilitated a consent training event in Perth Prison.

The event focussed around the Channel 4 docu-drama 'Consent' enabling participants to see first-hand the impact of rape on survivors in terms of reporting and the court process. The event was attended by 40 individuals from statutory and non-statutory agencies including Police, Social Work, Criminal Justice, Education, Youth and Community Development.

The participants had a chance to discuss the key point and issues raised within each chapter of the docu-drama as well as make a final decision on whether the jury would find the accused guilty or not guilty of rape. In addition we welcomed guest speakers from Police Scotland and the Procurator Fiscal explaining their role in the reporting process and prosecution of sexual offences.

We would like to thank Craig Kelly and Esther Bigham from Police Scotland and John Malpass from the Procurator Fiscal for speaking at the event as well as Perth Prison for hosting the event and providing lunch.

Consent Evaluation Participant's feedback

73% of participants told us their knowledge in the subject area of consent, reporting to police and/or the court process increased due to the training

"I will be better informed should I be working with people requiring support around sexual violence"

"A very worthwhile day. Excellent"

"Very good and informative session"

"(what I liked about the day was the) useful information, in particular about RASAC"



Other 16 Days of Action events...

Reclaim the Night March – Dundee City

Our Youth Ambassadors, staff and volunteers battled the rain and wind to reclaim the night! The Youth Ambassadors created a wonderful banner and everyone enthusiastically marched around the city centre with lots of other groups and organisations letting everyone know that sexual violence must end!



Pilot Training Session – The Effects of Pornography on Young People and Society

We delivered our first ever training session looking at the harmful effect of pornography to our Youth Ambassadors. The feedback from the young people was enthusiastically positive with 'very powerful', 'has made me really think' as comments from the young people. The session has been tweaked due to feedback from the young people and we are set to deliver it in a range of youth settings, with 2 session already booked. If you are interested in the training session or finding out more then call Catriona at RASAC - 01738 626290. Training also suitable for parents and carers.

Visit from Ben Atherton - Zeman

As part of the Rape Crisis Scotland touring visit Ben came for a visit! Ben is a campaigner on VAWG and sexual violence prevention issues and the chair of the National Organization for Men Against Sexism in the U.S. He's a supporter of Rape Crisis and White Ribbon and vocal about issues around men engaging in the Violence Against Women sector. We were very excited to have him visit and he was an inspiration to the young people and staff who attended. Ben performed a fantastic short performance on youth sexual violence issues and then a question and answer session with our Youth Ambassadors. Thank you Ben for inspiring us all!



Consent

Our work with Young People in Schools

A 2013 report "Sex without consent, I suppose that is rape": How young people in England understand sexual consent by the Children's Commissioner highlights the key finding as;

- *In the main young people understand what is meant by giving consent to sex, but have a very limited sense of what getting consent might involve.*
- *Young people can describe what consent means in theory but real life contexts make a significant difference to their perceptions of what non-consensual sex looks like.*
- *The most significant influence on young people's understanding of consent is constructions of gender, particularly of masculinity. All young people referred to the sexual double standard which rewards young men for having sex while passing negative judgment on young women who do so.*

These 3 key findings are very much reflected in our work with young people in schools and in youth settings. We feel it is crucial to address these issues and support young people to understand what consent is and how society's gender expectations pressurise young people to behaviour in particular ways, which do not necessarily reflect their own personal feeling and choices.

We address these issues in a number of ways including by delivering a Choices and Consent Session as part of our Prevention Programme in Schools across Perth and Kinross. In the last 12 months we have delivered this session to 5th Year pupils in six schools and two specialist educational centres. The session looks at what consent is, what the law says and how we can all ensure we have consent when involved in any sexual activity.

We believe that by delivering sessions looking at choices and consent we can increase young people's awareness of their rights and responsibilities and work towards a society without sexual violence. Ultimately if everyone respected full consent no one would have to experience sexual violence.

Young People's Feedback

What's the most important thing you've learned today?

Choices and Consent Session

"That even if there is consent another time it doesn't mean it's for always"

"It's never a victims fault"

"You can say 'No' at any time"

"Consent can be withdrawn at anytime"



A RESOURCE PACK BY RASAC YOUTH INITIATIVE

GENDER INEQUALITY, GENDER EXPECTATIONS & SEXUALISATION

During our work over the last few years we are told time and time again by teachers and youth workers that they feel unable to provide learning sessions to young people about consent, as well as all the issues that surround this topic.

As a result we have developed a resource pack for anyone working with young people to enable them to confidently deliver 5 learning bite sessions about a range of subjects which focus on gender expectations and consent/sexual violence. Each learning bite has learning materials for the teacher/youth worker to explore as part of their learning and building their knowledge before they deliver the session. The learning bites are suitable for a range of ages starting from High School age

Feedback from professionals has been very positive and if you are interested in finding out more or receiving your free copy of the RYI Resource Pack please call Catriona on 01738 626290.

Below is one of the tools in the pack which is available to explain and explore consent and the issues that surround this topic with young people. Let us know if you would like a copy of this poster and we will pop it in the post.

Why was the resource pack developed...

"I could not have delivered that session myself!"

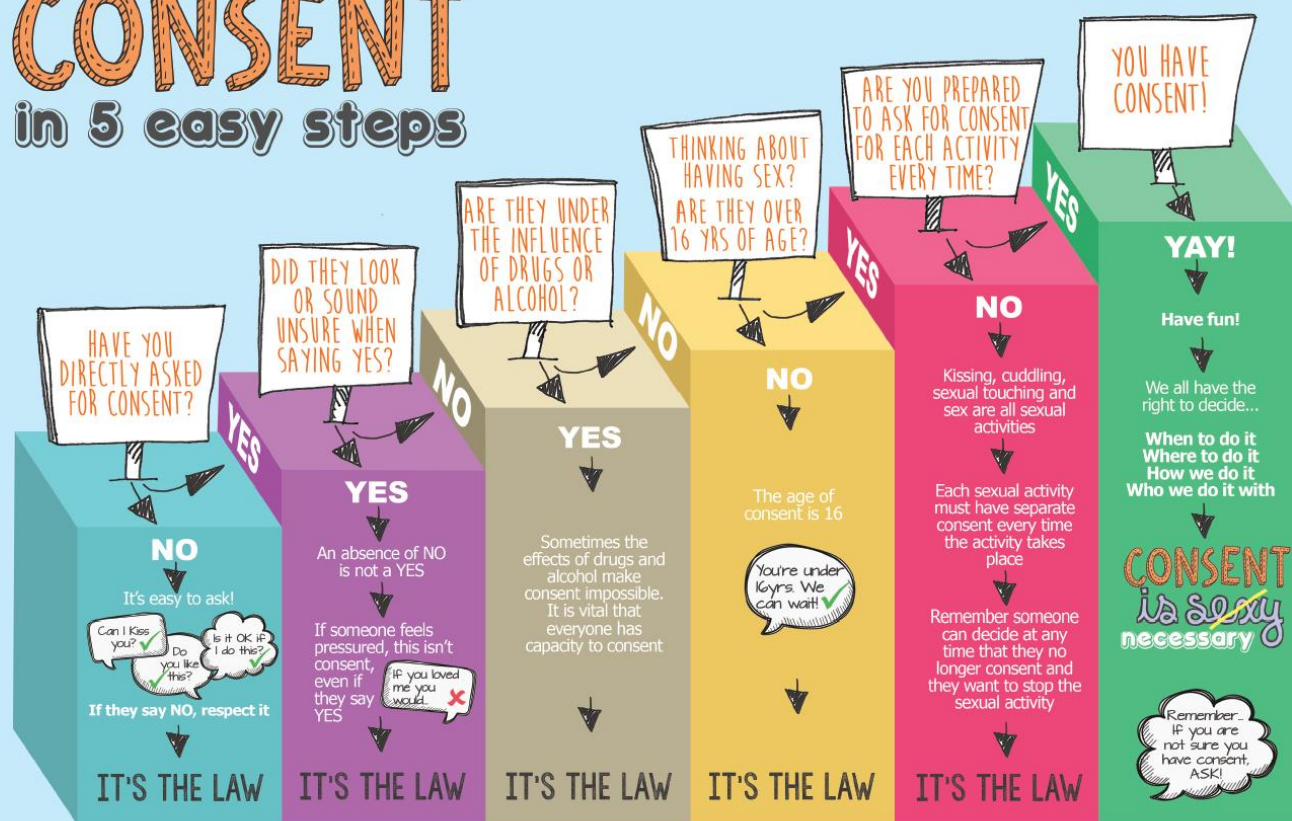
Teacher comment to RYI Staff after a Consent session with 5th Years

"After seeing the resource pack I am really looking forward to using it with the young people I work with"

Youth Worker

CONSENT

in 5 easy steps



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