

---

## True or False? Myths and misconceptions about rape (15-20 minutes)

In small groups, ask students to sort the 'True or false?' cards (Activity 2) into three piles: True, False and Not sure. Afterwards, go through each statement in turn and discuss the groups' placings. After the feedback for each statement, read the true information about it to the class (this can be found in **Session 2 Appendix 1**).

Does anything surprise students in particular?

A rapist is usually a stranger who rapes someone in a dark alley

The majority of rapes are committed by people known to, and often trusted by, the person who is raped. They could be friends, partners, family members or known from school, college or work.

If two people have had sex before, it's always OK to have sex again

Even if two people have had sex before, they must both be consenting each time they subsequently have sex and consent can be withdrawn at any time.

People who are raped 'ask for it' by wearing revealing or provocative clothing.

The clothes a person wears never mean they are 'asking for it'. Rape or sexual assault are never the victim's fault. It is always the fault of the attacker. People who are assaulted and attackers can be any age, sex, religion, gender identity and sexual orientation; and come from any culture or background.

If someone is raped while drunk, they are also somewhat responsible

If someone is drunk, they may not be able to give consent to having sex (they must have the 'ability' or 'capacity' to consent. It is not acceptable for an attacker to blame drink or drugs for their actions.

---

People often lie about being raped as they regret having sex with someone

Research suggests that very few cases of rape complaints are false – most people who have been raped tell the truth. Many people also do not report rapes – sometimes because they are scared, or embarrassed, or because they are unsure how to do so, or what will happen if they do. Explain that in fact it is more common for rape cases to go unreported than be falsified.

It is only rape if someone is physically or violently forced into sex

Rape happens when someone doesn't consent to sex. Rapists may threaten violence, or may take advantage of their target being unable to consent (for example because they're drunk or asleep).

Boys and men don't get raped

While the majority of rapes and sexual assaults are committed against females, it also happens to a significant number of males.

