



Yesterday I Cried

EXPLORING THE BARRIERS AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN FACE WHEN REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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Objectives

- ▶ Review Stats of African American Women and Sexual Assault
- ▶ Discuss cultural barriers African American Women face when reporting Sexual Assault
- ▶ Discuss Campus barriers African American Women face when reporting Sexual Assault
- ▶ Discuss and Offer solutions for African American Women on campus



The Stats

- ▶ Women of African ancestry often do not call the police for fear of police brutality against their mates or against themselves.
- ▶ Women of African ancestry are also more likely to be arrested after calling the police than women of other racial and ethnic groups.
- ▶ Women of African ancestry often do not report domestic violence for fear that such reporting would be a betrayal of the race or would contribute to negative stereotypes.

More Information

- ▶ Black Women are more likely to be blamed and less likely to report their assault as a result of racist and sexist treatment (Donovan and Williams 2002).
- ▶ Sexual Assault prevention education lacks culturally specific information (Wooten 2017).
- ▶ Campus Assault and rape of African American women has not been sufficiently studied (Wooten 2017).

Why the Tears?



▶ "my spirit is too ancient to understand the separation of soul & gender"

— Ntozake Shange

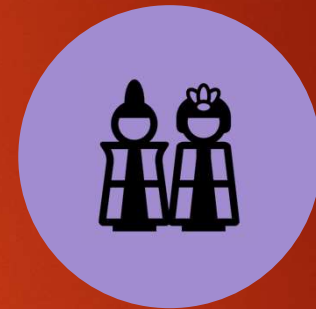
Three Challenges



THE ANGRY WOMAN,
"IT DOES NOT HAPPEN TO YOU"



THE STRONG WOMAN,
"YOU CAN TAKE IT"



INVISIBLE WOMAN,
"WE TREAT EVERYONE THE SAME"

Superwoman Schema

- ▶ Perceived obligation to Present an image of strength
- ▶ Perceived Obligation to suppress emotions
- ▶ Resist to vulnerability or help from others
- ▶ Motivation to succeed despite challenges
- ▶ Prioritizing caregiving, putting Self last

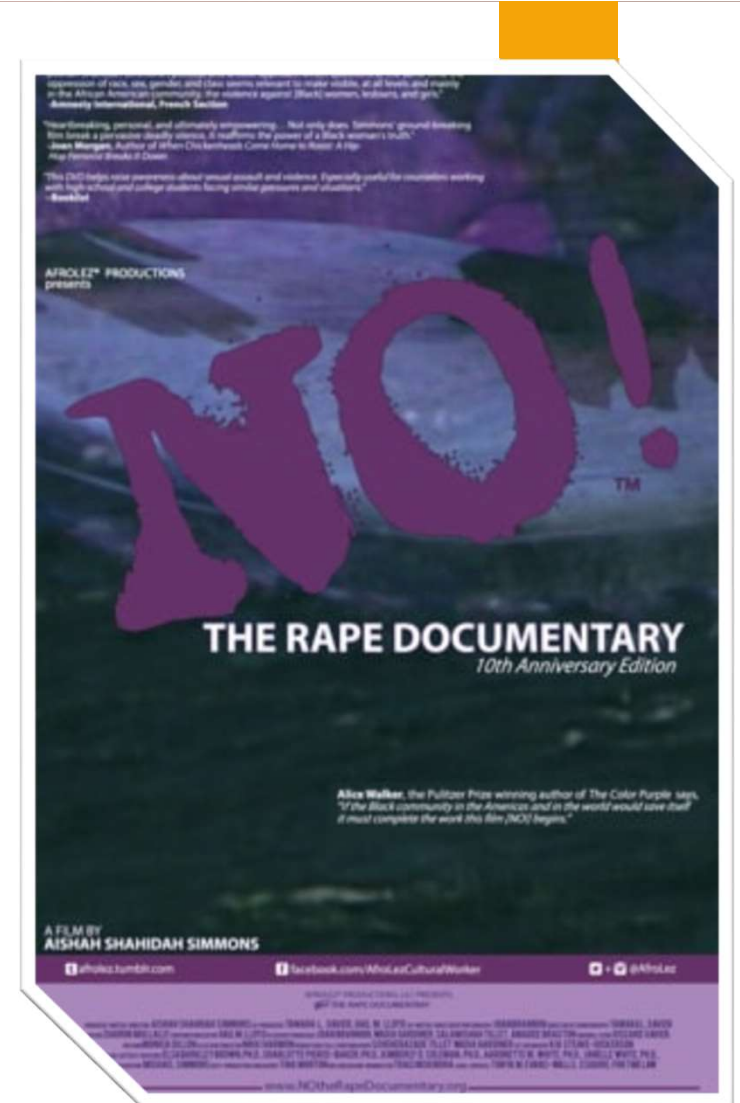
(Woods-Giscombe 2008)



“Black women were and continue to be sorely in need of an anti-rape movement.” — Angela Davis



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRGESU0Cuvi>



ME TOO Movement!

Tarana Burke founded the Me Too movement in 2006, Burke began using the phrase "Me Too" on social media to raise awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual abuse and assault among women of color in society.



What can College Campuses do?



Develop prevention programs that address cultural concerns.



Implement culturally responsive professional development for faculty, staff, and students.



Bystander training should also contain culturally specific distinctions.



Provide "Social Justice" Ally training to tear down barriers in institutional policies and traditions that create barriers to access to support.



Show *NO! The Rape Documentary* and have an open discussion.



Create Sister Circle groups.

My Sister, My Self: Baylor University

- ▶ Baylor University's "My Sister, MySelf" is a unique series of monthly meetings dedicated to addressing contemporary issues facing Black Women and Women of Color. Our goal is to share information on ways in which we can improve ourselves individually and collectively in the community, home, and professional world.
- ▶ We desire to create a comfortable environment where in-depth discussion can encourage self-improvement, community and cultural awareness and global thinking. Most importantly, My Sister, Myself seeks to facilitate a casual space where participants can be encouraged and refreshed through fellowship.

M.I.S.T.E.R.

- ▶ MISTER (Males Inspiring Success Through Education and Relationships) aims and seeks to find ways of supporting, nurturing, and bolstering persistence of social, religious, and academic performance among minority males at Baylor University. Through the Department of Multicultural Affairs, MISTER provides a place for minority males to explore issues impacting them as they conceptualize positive features for themselves. This organization is open to all students, friends, and allies who are interested in being a supportive presence in the lives of these young men.

Because Yesterday, I Cried With An Agenda

A few Resources

- ▶ National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
- ▶ The Status of Black Women in the United States
- ▶ Cheryl L. Woods Giscombe, PhD, RN, PMHNP
- ▶ Dr. Carolyn West, Professor of Psychology at the University of Washington
- ▶ Dr. Nancy Boyd-Franklin

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