

► → A CHALLENGE TO MY BROTHERS FROM A LAKOTA MAN

RAPE is a violent, selfish, degrading, and illegal act. As a man, if your sister, mother, daughter, girlfriend, wife, niece, aunt, friend, co-worker, grandmother, daughter/niece of a friend, or close acquaintance is RAPED, you feel anger and compassion. As a Lakota man, the RAPE of any woman should bring about the same feelings. As a Lakota man, you should be working to make sure this problem in our communities is taken seriously by police and the Court. You should take a stance to protect our women from some of us who have no respect for the sacredness of women and their rights to the security of their own bodies. I challenge you to take that stand and have the courage to tell those of your brothers who need to be reminded that **RAPE is not right and not the way of our people.** RAPE is a weapon that has been used against our women. **It is not our way.** For those who make inappropriate jokes about RAPE or feel that a woman is responsible for what happens to her, tell them that no woman asks to be RAPED. Remind them that:

WE AS MEN CAN MAKE WOMEN SAFE FROM RAPE BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:

- If a woman is drunk, don't rape her.
- If a woman is walking alone at night, don't rape her.
- If a woman is drugged and unconscious, don't rape her.
- If a woman is wearing a short skirt or shorts, don't rape her.
- If a woman is jogging in a park at 5 a.m., don't rape her.
- If a woman looks like your ex-girlfriend you're still hung up on, don't rape her.
- If a woman is asleep in her bed, don't rape her.
- If a woman is asleep in your bed, don't rape her.
- If a woman is doing her laundry, don't rape her.
- If a woman is in a coma, don't rape her.
- If a woman changes her mind in the middle of petting or sex, don't rape her.
- If a woman has repeatedly refused a certain activity, don't rape her.
- If a woman is not yet a woman, but a child, don't rape her.
- If your girlfriend or wife is not in the mood, don't rape her.
- If your step-daughter is watching TV, don't rape her.
- If you break into a house and find a woman there, don't rape her.
- If a woman smiles at you and walks out with you at the powwow, don't rape her.
- If you find a woman broke down along the highway, don't rape her.
- If your friend thinks it's okay to rape someone, tell him it's not, and he's not your friend.
- If your friend tells you he raped someone, report him to the police.
- If your friend or relative at the party tells you there's an unconscious woman upstairs and it's your turn, don't rape her. Call the police and tell the guy he's a rapist.

Tell your friends, sons, god-sons, nephews, grandsons, and brothers, it's not okay to RAPE. Don't imply that the woman could have avoided rape if only she'd done or not done something. Don't imply that it was in any way her fault. Don't be silent when he boasts he "got some" while she was passed out. Don't perpetuate a culture that tells you that men who RAPE have no control over or responsibility for their actions.