

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

*— Angela Davis*





# Barriers to Disclosure

- Inadequate sexuality socialization
- Rape myth acceptance
- Secondary victimization
- Racist images
- Cultural mandate to protect black men



# Barriers to Disclosure

- Culture of Silence
- Expectation of Strength
- Internalized Images of Black Women
- Racial Loyalty/Political Gag order



# Racial loyalty

*I felt responsible for upholding the image of the strong black man for our young son, and for the white world with whom I had contact... I didn't want to confirm the white belief that all black men rape. Better not talk about it... So I'd kept silent about what happened to me.*

Charlotte Pierce-Baker (1998). *Surviving the silence: Black women's stories of rape*. New York: W. W. Norton.

# Expectation of Strength

*In a lot of cases Black women are accustomed to hard times. The attitude is Just endure this one  
---Dottie*

Washington, P. A. (2001). Disclosure patterns of Black female sexual assault survivors. *Violence Against Women*, 7, 1254-1283.



## Internalization of Stereotypes

- Black college women who endorsed beliefs such as “people think Black women are sexually loose” reported more victim blaming, which was related to lower self-esteem.

Neville, H. A. et al. (2004). Generally and culturally specific factors influencing Black and White rape survivors' self-esteem. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 28, 83-94.

# Political Gag Order



- Self and community imposed silence to avoid reinforcing negative stereotypes



# What NOT to do...

- Victim blaming
- Ignoring her history
- Making her invisible-Race, Size, Age, etc.
- Negating her experience
- Assuming she is always angry
- Not fostering self-determination
- Ignoring environmental factors



# Culturally Sensitive Techniques

- Story Telling
- Humor, Irony, Satire
- Prayer, Meditation, Quiet Time
- Music, Dance, Art
- Cousins and Dozens
- Writing, Journaling
- Food, Gardening, Sustainability
- Hula Hooping, Biking, Running
- Ancestor Reverence
- Crystals, Water, African Centered Exercise
- Talking Hair, Healing, and Hope
- Accountability
- Urban Legends

