

# Does a Rape Culture Really Exist on College Campuses?

an open letter to the female victim:

*You were failed by a culture on our college campuses where one in five women is sexually assaulted—year after year after year. A culture that promotes passivity. That encourages young men and women on campuses to simply turn a blind eye.*

*The statistics on college sexual assault haven't gone down in the past two decades. It's obscene, and it's a failure that lies at all our feet.*

blogger wrote in 2014:

*Let's make something clear right from the start: Rape is caused by rape culture. ... Rape culture is so entrenched in our society, and its components so ubiquitous, we may sense that something doesn't taste right, but be at a loss to pinpoint the problem.*

Wendy McElroy will have none of this. She says that the chances of being raped are more like one in a hundred per year for college women (or 4 percent during a student's four years).

In addition, the prevalence of rape is on the decline, and "rape culture hysteria" is destroying the lives of male students by denying them due process and damaging women by teaching them not to protect themselves.

*Rape Culture Hysteria, to make her case.*

She contends that "social justice warriors" are creating hysteria about a non-existent rape culture in order to "impose

a specific ideology that legally disadvantages one class of people (white males) in order to benefit others.” The rape culture, she says, is a Big Lie (a reference to George Orwell), and a popular delusion (a reference to Charles Mackay’s book *Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*).

thcentury. Those feminists “championed human rights while insisting that people shoulder responsibility for themselves,” she says. “The current movement is a mockery of itself.”

To puncture the claims that rape is frequent, McElroy presents an exhaustive analysis of available statistics. Four major studies and three minor ones, all produced by federal agencies, have attempted to calculate the prevalence of rapes. The definition of rape varies widely—one of these studies even counts “rape by deception,” or having sex “with someone because he or she lies to you.” And the study techniques range from a review of police statistics to online surveys.

Certainly, there are rapes on campus. The famed 1-in-5 statistic (more precisely, the claim that 19.8 percent of female seniors have been raped during their college years) comes from an online survey conducted at two universities by the National Institute for Justice (part of the Justice Department).