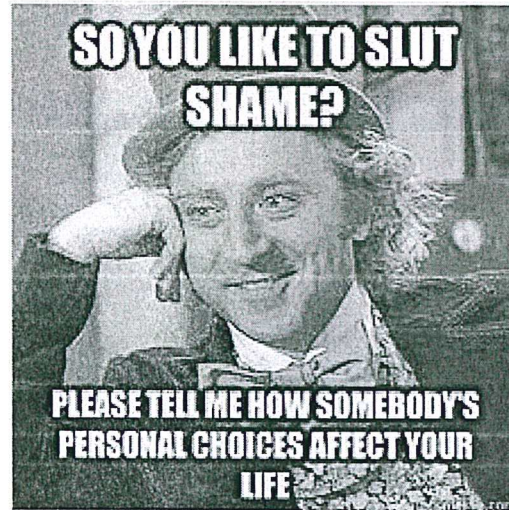
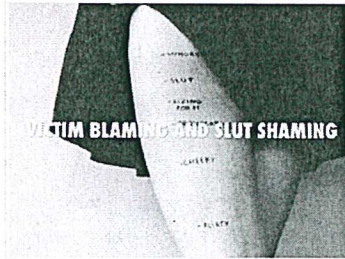


Nov. 14

HOME (/) VOLUNTEER TRAINING FAQs (/VOLUNTEER-TRAINING-FAQS.HTML)  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (/VOLUNTEER-OPPORTUNITIES.HTML) CALENDAR (/CALENDAR.HTML)  
EDUCATIONAL PAGE (/EDUCATIONAL-PAGE.HTML) INTERNSHIPS (/INTERNSHIPS.HTML) MORE...

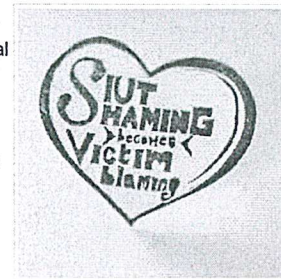
## Slut-Shaming and Victim Blaming Part I



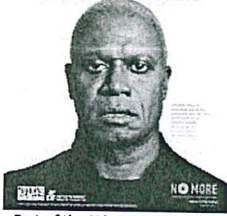
### Defining Slut-Shaming and Victim Blaming

**Slut-shaming:** The act of criticizing a woman for her real or presumed sexual activity, or for behaving in ways that someone thinks are associated with her real or presumed sexual activity.

**Victim blaming:** A devaluing act that occurs when the victim(s) of a crime or an accident is held responsible — in whole or in part — for the crimes that have been committed against them.



## When does Slut-Shaming and Victim Blaming start?



Part of the NO MORE Campaign, which can be found at [nomore.org](http://nomore.org)

Slut-shaming can start as early as before children even reach their teenage years because of society's expectations of girls and women. Girls are given the impression from a young age that their self-worth should come from their looks and bodies so that they can be appealing to men. A good example of this is a study that was done by psychologists at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Sixty girls aged six through nine were given the choice of looking like a doll wearing sexy clothing verses a doll wearing less provocative clothing. A majority of those girls chose the doll with the sexier clothing. The psychologists doing this research came to the conclusion that sexy translates to popular. Unfortunately, even though girls and women have the choice to wear whatever they want, they tend to be criticized and slut-shamed for wearing more revealing clothes.

A lot of studies show that teenagers are slut-shamed in person in both middle and high school, on social media, and through text messages. Some people may say it is just bullying, but it is a very severe form of bullying by belittling someone for their sexual nature. Here are some recent case studies of some of the after effects of teenage girls who were slut-shamed:

**September 9, 2013:** Rebecca Sedwick, 12, jumped to her death after being tormented relentlessly about how far she'd gone with a boy she had dated.

**December 9, 2012:** Jessica Laney, 16, hung herself after being called a slut and whore online.

**October 24, 2012:** Felicia Garcia, 15, threw herself in front of a speeding train after rumors spread about her having sex with members of the school's football team.

**October 10, 2012:** Amanda Todd, 15, hung herself after being blackmailed and called a slut over revealing photos an adult had pressured her to take years before.

**April 29, 2012:** Rachel Ehmke, 13, hung herself after the word "slut" was scrawled across her locker and other kids at school repeatedly called her a "prostitute."

Criticisms of women's sex lives and appearances are often used for control and victim blaming. An example of this is when a woman is questioned about what she was wearing before she was raped, assuming that it was her fault for looking a certain way and not the rapist's fault for their actions.

## Media Buzz on Slut-Shaming and Victim Blaming

There have been many instances in the media of slut-shaming and victim blaming, and I have picked a few to focus on.

### Rush Limbaugh on Sandra Fluke:

Rush Limbaugh is not one to shy away from controversy, especially when it comes to women's rights. In 2012, Sandra Fluke, a Georgetown University Law Student, testified at a congressional hearing on government rules requiring employers to offer insurance coverage for contraception. Rush Limbaugh slut-shamed Sandra Fluke when he publicly called her a whore for taking birth control. In fact, Limbaugh went on to express that any woman wanting free or cheaper birth control just because they want to have more sex. Regardless of if this is true or not, it cannot be justified to slut-shame a woman because she wants more access to birth control.



Sandra Fluke, Georgetown University Law Student, and Rush Limbaugh

The only thing remotely positive that came out of this is that a conversation was started about sexism and regressive attitudes about sexuality in broadcast media and the world at large.

# slut

*noun*

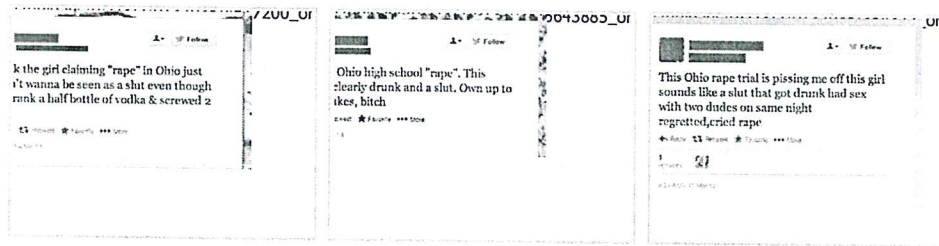
1. a well-educated, politically-aware, usually young woman, who speaks her mind
2. a woman who advocates for a political position, particularly as regards public policy on health insurance and contraception coverage
3. a woman involved in her own family planning via contraception usage
4. a woman who requires medically necessary oral contraception

*Synonyms* : floozy, hoochie, prostitute, tramp, whore, wench

*Hypernyms* : clitoromaniac, Jezebel, Night Walker, nymphomaniac, round heel, saucebox, Welfare Queen, working dog

*Etymology* : Rush Limbaugh Radio Show, 06 March 2012, <http://bit.ly/xzgPuf>

## Steubenville, Ohio Rape Case



[-] [redacted] · 9 points · 19 minutes ago

How the hell can the DA justified ruining these young men's life's with a rape charge. These young men could of went on to the NFL, they could of had full careers and happy families. But not know thanks to this DA. It is just disgusting how our justice system can ruin so many lives, because of a whore who though she did not have enough attention as is. If you ask me lock up the whore for prostitution and wasting government money.

[permalink](#)

These are some of the many posts that came out on social media regarding the Steubenville, Ohio rape trial in 2012.

A sixteen year old girl was sexually assaulted and violated by members of the Steubenville High School football team. They continuously fed her alcohol and then two of the boys took turns assaulting her while the others watched, took pictures and videos of her, and one even allegedly urinated on her. As if this wasn't bad enough, the boys carried her from party to party by her ankles and wrists. She was told to leave a few parties because she had been puking, but no one seemed to acknowledge the fact that something was seriously wrong.

This case hit the media, and the town and society as a whole were instantly divided. Many people slut-shamed and victim blamed the young girl, saying it was her fault for drinking so much and that she got what she deserved. News stations around the country kept bringing up how the football players had such promising futures that were now compromised because of the trial; no one seemed to really acknowledge how the victim feels and how her future was turned upside down from the actions of the boys. And the most unfortunate thing is that media is so influential on peoples' points of view that many people joined in on what they were hearing.

One of the teens found guilty in the case, Ma'Lik Richmond, was allowed to play on the football team again, as of August 2014. Many took to social media in disgust and reiterated what a lot of people think: by allowing a convicted rapist back on the team it shows that the school not only disrespects the victim but also believes being a football star takes more precedence over the serious issue. This is just one of the many cases in the media where people have tried to cover up issues of sexual assault.

## Celebrity Nude Pictures Leak



A big recent buzz in social media was the infamous celebrity nude pictures leak. Around August 2014, news came out that 100 celebrities' phones were reportedly hacked and personal pictures were leaked onto the internet.

A lot of news outlets were slut-shaming the celebrities and asking why people would keep these kinds of pictures on their phones in the first place. Their comments seemed to be stating that these celebrities got what they deserved, and they should have taken bigger precautions of not taking the pictures in the first place (although, in this case, a lot of the pictures had already been deleted). According to an article on CNN.com—trying to justify why people would take nude pictures—they stated: "There may not be one answer for this, but distance from love interests could be a major factor. Actors spend months away from spouses and lovers while making movies. Musicians tour the world for months. Sexting can become a substitute for intimacy when a relationship goes long distance." It should not matter what anyone does in their free time or why they decide to take nude pictures.

It does not matter if it was a celebrity or an everyday person on the street, no one's private matters deserve to be broadcasted to an audience, especially without their consent. Spreading nude pictures is considered a sex crime. Also, no one should be slut-shamed about having pictures on their phone, and everyone should expect a certain amount of privacy for anything on their phones.

People are allowed to do whatever they want with their bodies, and that includes having nude photos on their phones. If we cannot even have freedom of our own bodies, then what can we have control of?

Jon Stewart had a fantastic take on Celebrity Nude Pictures Leak:



The Education Department at The Women's Center offers many educational programs from pre-school to professional, including Internet Safety trainings. If you would be interested in these or any trainings, you can contact the Education Department at 570-784-6632.

After reading the Education Page, please fill out the information below to count it as 30 minutes toward your additional training.

Name \*

First  Last

Email \*

What type of volunteer are you? \*

Direct Service

What did you learn or find interesting about this article? \*

Submit



Please call us for more information.  
Services are FREE & CONFIDENTIAL.

The Women's Center, Inc.

111 North Market Street, Bloomsburg, Pa 17815  
Office: (570) 784-6632  
24-hour Hotline: (570) 784-6631



WE A FREE WEBSITE (HTTP://WWW.WEEBLY.COM/?UTM\_SOURCE=INTERNAL&UTM\_MEDIUM=FOOTER&UTM\_CAMPAIGN=3)

POWERED BY (HTTP://  
UTM\_C