

HIP-HOP AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE OF WOMEN PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

The *Hip-Hop Against Sexual Abuse of Women (HASAW) Project* and the *Women And Girls 4 Empowerment (WAGE) Campaign* were created to educate students, youth and young adults about Sexual Abuse and the importance of **Respecting, Protecting** and not **Neglecting** Women. We will address the widespread nature of misogynistic behavior, especially in music and film, which impact how women are viewed and treated. Women between the ages of 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault. Female college students ages 18-24 are 3 times more likely than women in the general population to experience sexual violence. A recent USA TODAY survey of 843 women in the entertainment industry found 94% experienced harassment or assault. 82% of all juvenile rape victims and 90% of adult rape victims are female.

We must take a “Public Health” approach to find real solutions to the problem. To support our mission the project will be involved in a host of initiatives including: “**#MeToo**” – a movement that gives abused women a platform to express themselves and speak out about denigrating and abusive acts they may have experienced (such as sexual misconduct, harassment, assault, and rape); “**TIME’S UP**” – a unified call for change from women in entertainment for women everywhere that addresses the systemic inequality and injustice in the workplace that have kept underrepresented groups from reaching their full potential; and the *Commission on Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace*, led by **Anita Hill** and composed of some of the most powerful names in Hollywood, was created to tackle widespread sexual abuse and harassment in the media and entertainment industries.

Our goal is to be a voice here in the U.S. and abroad for girls and women that have no outlet to convey their issues or report their complaints. By working with the United Nations and their 193 member countries through the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and focusing on **#5, Gender Equality; Achieve Gender Equality And Empower All Women And Girls**, we can accomplish our task and provide women with the protection and tools to “Fight for Women’s Rights.”

Since the beginning of time, societies have treated women as second-class citizens. If the world is going to become a better place, we must provide resources, opportunities and tools to help our women and girls reach their full potential. Through this project and the help of celebrities, we will reach out to these courageous women and see how we can use their stories to collaborate on projects that compromise the safety, growth and rights of women.

We must recognize “*Women’s History Month*” (March), “*International Women’s Day*” (March 8th), *National Sexual Assault Awareness Month* (April), *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* (October), “*International Day of the Girl Child*” (October 11th), and the “*International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women*” (November 25th). Each initiative, along with Hip-Hop, can be used as a platform to help students and young citizens understand Sexual Abuse and the Rights of Women through Education, Prevention and Awareness.

LET’S DEFINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

Sexual Abuse and Harassment, also referred to as molestation, is defined as *undesired sexual behavior and unwelcome sexual advances by one person upon another*. When the act is forced and immediate, it is a sexual assault and the offender is referred to as a sexual abuser or molester. The term also covers any behavior by an adult or older adolescent towards a child if the child is violated sexually. Involving a child, or other individuals younger than the age of consent, in a sexual act is referred to as child sexual abuse or statutory rape. Sexual Abuse is also associated with: Domestic Abuse; Physical Abuse; Emotional/Psychological Abuse; Economic/Financial Abuse; Intimate Partner Violence; Domestic Violence; and Stalking.