

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Denim Day, April 27, 2016

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, it also includes April 27, Denim Day, which is a day set up to bring awareness to misconceptions about sexual assault. Denim Day is about one girl's story of sexual assault. In 1998, a teenage girl in Italy was raped by her driving instructor. The case went to court and her perpetrator was convicted. The case was appealed to the Italian Supreme Court and her perpetrator was found not guilty. The defense pleaded the event was not considered to be rape because the girl was wearing tight jeans and had to assist in removing her jeans. Thus, the court determined the sex to be consensual.

This case clearly demonstrates the misconceptions behind sexual assault and the common desire to blame the victim. Other misconceptions such as there being a correct way to respond to an assault and that it isn't rape if the victim doesn't fight back are also common.

It is important to challenge these misconceptions and to bring awareness to the issues surrounding sexual assault. With a better understanding of sexual assault and the misconceptions behind it we can have a better understanding of survivors and how to empower them. This knowledge is also a start to decreasing stereotypes and discrimination of victims.

In support of this day and to bring awareness to sexual assault, the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center is joining the National Campaign by taking donations to wear jeans to work on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

To make a donation please contact the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center at 989-672-1744. Thank you for your support.

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