Why is it that rape victims are the subject of victim blaming much more often than victims of other crimes? While I nor anyone I know of has been raped, rape is a disgusting, vile act and I can no longer view those who do commit it as human, they are monsters. Despite this, so many people blame the victim (“You should have defended yourself, you shouldn't've be wearing such clothing, etc…) and it's horrible. Rape survivors should not have to be subject to this at all. It was not there fault they were raped, and I want the victim blaming to stop.

An anonymous person tells her story of victim blaming on everydayvictimblaming.com. She had been out all day with her boyfriend and an old friend. As the day came to a close she got on a bus to go home. During the ride this group of guys came and sat next to her, calling her beautiful and other things. After a few more actions, one of the guys starts trying to kiss her and starts feeling her breasts. Eventually more of the guys wanted to “have a go at her”. She felt disgusted and violated but was afraid to do anything because she was outnumbered. She made clear signs to the other passengers but no one helped. Eventually she got the courage to jump off at a random stop, but right before she gets off one of the guys grabs her butt very tightly, she runs off crying and panicked. Her close friends tell her to report it, so she tries reporting it online but all she gets are stupid comments that didn't help her. Eventually her boyfriend blames her saying that she did it or allowed it to happen on purpose. She now feels like she cheated on her boyfriend, despite being out of control, outnumbered, and being very afraid of the situation, she has been conditioned to feel guilty about a situation she had no control over. She's feels guilty because she was too afraid to stop it.

According to rainn.org, out of every 1000 rapes *994* perpetrators will walk free, which is much less than other crimes such as robbery or assault. On top of this, only 310 out of every 1000 rapes are ever reported, with major reasons for not reporting them including fearing retaliation, believing that it is a personal matter, and thinking that the police will not help them. All of these reasons involve fear of being blamed for the rape, either by the police or by the general populace, despite the fact it is never the survivors fault.

So my research question is, why is it that victims of sexual assault and rape are the victims of victim blaming so much more often than victims of any other crime?

Works cited

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