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Beer Pong Rapist Sentenced To 150 Years – Every Rape Should Be Treated This Seriously

MAY 2, 2015 BY AMBER FULLERTON — 4 COMMENTS

Once again there is a major rape case in the news. It seems like this happens every couple of months, and honestly, the frequency of these cases is incredibly disturbing. Especially in this particular case, because the perpetrator, **Joey Poindexter**, is a serial rapist. We know this because he filmed himself violating his victims, most of whom he met at beer pong tournaments. Despite this horrifying detail, the circumstances of this case spool out in a mostly familiar pattern. The victim was drinking, probably drugged and then violated, and left to pick up the pieces. There is one key difference, though. In this case, the **victims were all male**.

We don't often see cases of male rape in the news. This is partially due to a lesser frequency of this type of case. But the fact that males are shamed when they do come forward, because of the false belief that "men don't get raped," is another huge factor. Obviously, that's bullshit, and incredibly minimizing to men who have been violated. ALL cases of rape should be treated seriously, no matter what gender the victims happen to be. Luckily for the prey of this predator, the law is taking this case very seriously. According to the *Washington Post*, the perpetrator has been sentenced to **150 years in prison** for his crimes.

Great! It's good to see such a harsh sentence.

Rapists are scum, and get off far too lightly, far too often. It made me think, though. Looking through the article, there was a noticeable absence of certain characteristics that I've grown used to seeing in male on female rape cases in the media. Where was the drunk shaming? Where was a description of what these men were wearing? Where were the questions about why these men were even at a beer pong tournament? It was confusing! Like these men were actually truly victims, instead of at fault! I mean, gosh, I felt sympathy instead of contempt and smugness that something like this would never happen to me, because of course I would never put myself in that position. So, to ease my discomfort, I've re-written a few choice portions so that they sound a little more familiar. You know, as if this had happened to a woman.

"Joey Poindexter, a Montgomery County real estate appraiser convicted of raping women he met at beer-pong events, was sentenced to five years in prison Wednesday by a judge who said that Poindexter was able to drug his victims, who put themselves in a vulnerable position by drinking to excess.

"There was much talk at trial about alcohol and intoxication, and whether or not these women consented and later regretted it. Luckily there was video, or it really would have been a he said/she said situation."

The Circuit judge told Poindexter, recalling his conviction earlier this year. According to the judge, the victim who wore a wire was only doing what was right. This kind of accusation could ruin a man's life."

Seem kind of silly and exaggerated? I. Wish. Time and time again, the victim-blaming narrative is trotted out. As long as the victim is a woman, of course. The **examples** are **endless**. A quick Google search will bring up **example** after **example** after **example**. Enough examples to fill a **book**. Remember **Steubenville**? Those attacks were on video, too. Where is the harsh sentence for those rapists? At least one of them is already out of juvie and **playing football** again.

Look, **nobody** is saying that male rape isn't a serious and horrific crime. It is, and an under-reported one at that. I just wonder why female rape isn't treated with the same seriousness that we've seen in the Poindexter case. Could prevailing attitudes about women be the culprit? Women are supposed to be the gatekeepers – allowing or denying sex (preferably denying it). Therefore, the thinking goes that they obviously should have stopped the attack. Or they shouldn't have put themselves in a situation where they weren't in total control. **Rehtaeh Parsons** was hounded **literally to death** by the slut shaming she endured after her attack. Nobody called the victim of the UVA rape a hero for her piece in *Rolling Stone*. Instead she was vilified as a liar.

I am **not** saying this kind of treatment and coverage is what male rape victims should be experiencing. Obviously. What I am saying is that if we can treat male rape victims with compassion, trust and respect, then we can and should be doing the same for female rape victims. It's clear that we can do better, so we *should* do better.

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