

Sexual Assault In Pop-Culture

Wanna know something? There is never too much knowledge to build on the topic of sexual assault and domestic violence. In fact, there is new information to take in all the time, and doing so gives us more knowledge as to how to help others in these situations and be an advocate for survivors.

In honor of sex week, we would like to talk about a topic that a lot of people decide to ignore.

The [Me Too movement](#) is very popularly known for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence victims to share their stories and inform people of what can happen to them and to take extra precautions.

Specifically, we are going to be talking about [R.Kelly](#) and the stories of so many girls who were victimized by him. Netflix has a documentary called "[Surviving R. Kelly.](#)" In this documentary, so many women talk about their experiences with R.Kelly. Most of these teenage girls were also underage. 15-year-old Aaliyah was R. Kelly's first underage "love interest." She was told by him that he was going to make her famous through music and people had no idea that they were engaging in sexual actions during this time. R. Kelly and Aaliyah also ran away to Chicago to get married, Aaliyah was underage and therefore she wasn't eligible to get married, but they changed her birth date on the marriage certificate to make it legal. Robert Kelly then wrote and produced Aaliyah's first album named "Age Ain't Nothing But A Number" Aaliyah then later passed away in a plane crash in 2001 and he never spoke of her again.

Once This story surfaced, many other girls came out with their stories of being victimized by R. Kelly. He then was found innocent by the judge in court, even though the whole jury named him guilty which was concerning to the public eye. No one ever wanted to believe that he

could be such a terrible person because he was at one time the most popular pop singer in the world. All of his songs have sexual meanings, especially one of his most famous songs [“Ignition”](#). From that day on he has been in the news very often and in and out of courts for being sued, child pornography, cult allegations, and then when this documentary came out there were more charges.

The key take away from this is to always protect yourself the best you can and never trust a man 100% especially at a very young age like most of the victims. All of those false promises lead to him ruining these young girls lives, leaving them with a life full of trauma. With R. Kelly being such a big public figure people normally think that he can do no wrong, but we need to get rid of that stigma of thinking that people can do no wrong because of the side they show to the public eye, because no matter who it is, you never know their true intentions.

Resources:

“Surviving R. Kelly.” *Netflix*, Kreativ Inc. , 15 Sept. 2019, www.netflix.com/title/81069393.

“Me Too. Movement.” *Me Too Movement*, 1 Jan. 1970, <https://metoomvmt.org/>.

Savage, Mark. “R. Kelly: The History of Allegations against Him.” *BBC News*, BBC, 6 Aug. 2019, www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-40635526.