

Thisisnotconsent Campaign

In a rape trial in 2018, Ireland the man's defence lawyer, held up the victim's underwear in court and said, "Does the evidence out-rule the possibility that she was attracted to the defendant and was open to meeting someone and being with someone? You have to look at the way she was dressed. She was wearing a thong with a lace front."

The implication that the 17-year-old plaintiff consented to sex with the defendant because she was wearing a lacy thong set off an immediate wave of criticism, including from Ruth Coppinger, a member of the Irish Parliament. At a meeting of Dáil (one of the houses of Parliament), Coppinger similarly raised up a thong, but used the opportunity to denounce victim-blaming and call for a better legal approach to sexual violence.

Following the trial, a viral campaign saw women posting images of their own underwear on social media, with the hashtag #ThisIsNotConsent. All around the UK and Ireland institutes banded women's underwear around businesses and cities with the hashtag #Thisisnotconsent.

When researching #thisisnotconsent consider

- How did it start?
- Where and when did it take place?
- Who were some of the key people involved?
- What was its conclusion?
- Did any laws or policies change, or were new ones introduced?

Recommended reading and viewing;

<https://www.thisisnotconsent.com/> Campaign's homepage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXtuy27wirE> TedTalk about rape culture at American universities

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-zmV_GvzT8 Cynthia Nixon – Be a lady they say

<https://scholarship.law.umn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1412&context=lawineq> – Is Clothing Probative of Attitude or Intent - Implications for Rape and Sexual Harassment Cases