



**APRIL 29, 2026**

# DENIM DAY

Wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors, and educate yourself about sexual assault.

## History Behind Denim Day

In Italy 1992, an 18 year old girl was picked up by her 45 year old driving instructor for her first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car and rapes her. Later that night she tells her parents and they help and support her to press charges. The perpetrator is arrested and prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail.

The instructor appeals the sentence and the case makes it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court. Within a matter of days the case against the driving instructor is overturned, dismissed, and he was released. In a statement by the Chief Judge, he argued "because the victim wore very very tight jeans, she had to help remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

Women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans to work. In April 1999, a social service agency in Los Angeles established the first Denim Day in the United States. Denim Day was developed in response to this case and wearing jeans during this annual event has become an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes and myths surrounding sexual assaults.

Please check with your Command or Supervisor for approval to participate



99th RD SHARP Hotline  
(24/7)  
609-410-7670

DoD Safe Helpline  
(24/7)  
877-995-5247

**STEP FORWARD  
PREVENT. REPORT. ADVOCATE.**

