



# DENIM DAY 2021

## APRIL 28, 2021

**WEAR JEANS WITH A PURPOSE, SUPPORT SURVIVORS, AND EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

Rome, Italy 1997 – An 18-year-old young woman is picked up by her married 45-year-old driving instructor for her very first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans and forcefully rapes her. He threatens to kill her if she tells anyone, and then makes her drive the car home. Later that night she tells her parents, and they support her in pressing charges. The perpetrator gets arrested and is prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail.

He appeals the sentence. 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 and dismissed. The perpetrator is released. The Chief Judge explained the decision in a statement: “Because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex.”

Enraged by the verdict, the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans on the steps of the Italian Parliament building. This call to action motivated the California Senate and Assembly to also wear jeans. Patricia Giggans, Executive Director of Peace Over Violence, was inspired to create Denim Day in LA in April 1999, and it has continued every year.

We can all wear jeans and our “Why Denim?” stickers to work or in the community to educate others and to show our support for rape survivors on Denim Day.



**THIS IS A SENSITIVE TOPIC AND NOT OFTEN SPOKEN ABOUT, BUT WAYMAKERS APPRECIATES YOUR EFFORTS IN BRINGING AWARENESS OF THIS ISSUE; EVERY 73 SECONDS AN AMERICAN IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND EVERY 9 MINUTES THAT VICTIM IS A CHILD.**



To reach a free, confidential rape crisis counselor, please call Waymakers 24-hour hotline at 714-957-2737