

# How Oppressive Systems Connect

a few examples...

## Racism/ White Supremacy

Gender-based violence has been used historically to maintain white supremacy. One example is the frequent rape of enslaved Africans by white plantation owners.

Survivors of color who experience violence may experience racism from advocates or allied professionals when they seek help, making them less likely to seek help and therefore more vulnerable to continuing abuse. In particular, racism within the criminal justice system, such as higher conviction rates and average sentences of people of color, makes many survivors of color reluctant to call the police.

## Capitalism

In media/advertising, women and feminine people are frequently objectified, their sexuality and body parts used to sell products. This dehumanization makes it easier for people to commit violent acts against cis and trans-women, and nonbinary people.

## Gender- Based Violence

All oppressions are perpetuated by the belief that power must be power over, rather than shared power.

Layers of oppression make some people more vulnerable to sexual and intimate partner violence.

Young people growing up in homes where intimate partner violence is happening learn that it is acceptable for men to dominate women and feminine people, reinforcing a sexist belief system.

## Heterosexism

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, nonbinary, and trans people frequently experience harassment and violence from homophobic and transphobic men. Heterosexism also contributes to the violence many people experience at the hands of abusive partners (eg., threatening to "out" their partner to family, work, etc.).

## Sexism/ Male Supremacy

Sexist beliefs about the role of perceived femininity influence the behavior of many perpetrators. This shows up in beliefs like women and feminine people should always be available sexually, should serve men, should be passive and agreeable, etc.