Treat false rape charges seriously

Reporter Rita Poliakov writes of a woman who falsely reported to police that she was sexually assaulted at knife-point on Second Avenue.

Even after the woman admitted that her story was a fabrication, Poliakov refers to her as a "victim." Other than her own dishonesty, of what is the woman a victim? Most perplexingly, Poliakov writes that "While the woman could be charged with public mischief, police must also work to avoid re-victimizing a victim."

How can the police re-victimize a woman who is not a victim but a perpetrator?

Poliakov bolsters her victim narrative by quoting a feminist who "hasn't seen many fabricated cases of abuse," but nobody really knows what percentage of sexual accusations are false.

Two (female) senior editors of the liberal online publication Slate wrote in 2009 that "most of the good studies converge at a rate of about 8% to 10% for false rape charges" in the U.S.

That would mean that 20,000 men are falsely accused of rape each year. But as the editors note, "the literature isn't quite definitive enough to stamp out the far higher estimates" of false rape accusations.

That is, it is possible that much more than 8 to 10% of rape accusations are false. In one 1980s study, the U.S. Air Force studied 556 rape accusations by Air Force women. Twenty-seven percent of the women either admitted that their accusations were false or failed polygraph tests to determine their veracity.
It benefits neither men nor women when reporters weave narratives that cast woman as perpetual victims and men, even in cases where they are blameless or fictionalized, as perpetrators.

Women who are victims of real sexual assaults are harmed by women who make false accusations and bring into doubt all such claims. Why should jurors vote to convict a man when, offered only he said/she said evidence and knowing that false accusations are made, it is possible they may be destroying the life of an innocent person?

Simply being false accused of sexual assault can destroy a man's life, even if he is never prosecuted.

False rape accusations should be treated seriously and the accusers prosecuted. Reporters should cover such stories without ideological bias.

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