

- 1) Onus — responsibility / (سزاوار)
- 2) Temptation — فتنہ
- 3) Lest — نہ ہو
- 4) Cloistered (pronounced as "koistered") — w

Dawn Editorial

"Victims - Blaming"

To Sent

One of the perpetrators of the gang rap in Islamabad's F-9 park, told the women not to come to the park at night — a classic case of victim-blaming among public and their leaders). The incident took place last week in Islamabad when a woman with a male colleague went to the park at around 8pm. According to the FIR, both were waylaid by two men at gunpoint and taken towards a wooded area. When the woman put resistance and raised voice to attract passersby for help, the perpetrator subjected the woman to rape.

The mentality of society sees that the woman is in any way responsible for violence inflicted upon her — public spaces as an male dominant in which

women must be careful not to present any temptation lest men ^{lose} control. But how this 'temptation theory' explains the child rape, ~~both~~ girls and boys? The onus of men's bad, criminal behaviour, is on men alone.

The unacceptable behaviour among the men who believe that men are inherently programmed to prey on women, whether on work place or in a park. Women being cloistered inside the home is not guarantee of the safety either. Around the same time as the park incident took place, a woman was subjected to rape in a rural area of Islamabad. The men who rape do so because of criminal mentality or bent of mind, not because they can. It is an insult to the decent men in ~~the~~ midst who could not consider a woman's appearance or conduct as giving men license to prey women / visit sexual violence. Hence, the state must ensure that public areas are safe for women, and the men who prey are held to account for such crimes.