

RAPE: Should you withdraw a rape case?





You look terrible.
What happened?

I was raped.



What!
Who?
Where?



My brother's friend,
Simon. You know the guy who is
called "Mr Cool" at school? It happened
about an hour ago. I don't know what
to do. Should I report him
to the police?



He can't
get away with
this! You have to
report him! What
he did was
a crime.



I am so glad I
have you to talk to.
It really helps. I thought
about seeing a counsellor
but I was not sure where to
find someone. Even talking
to a friend helps, it is
better than hiding the
problem away.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE RAPED

Keep the evidence:

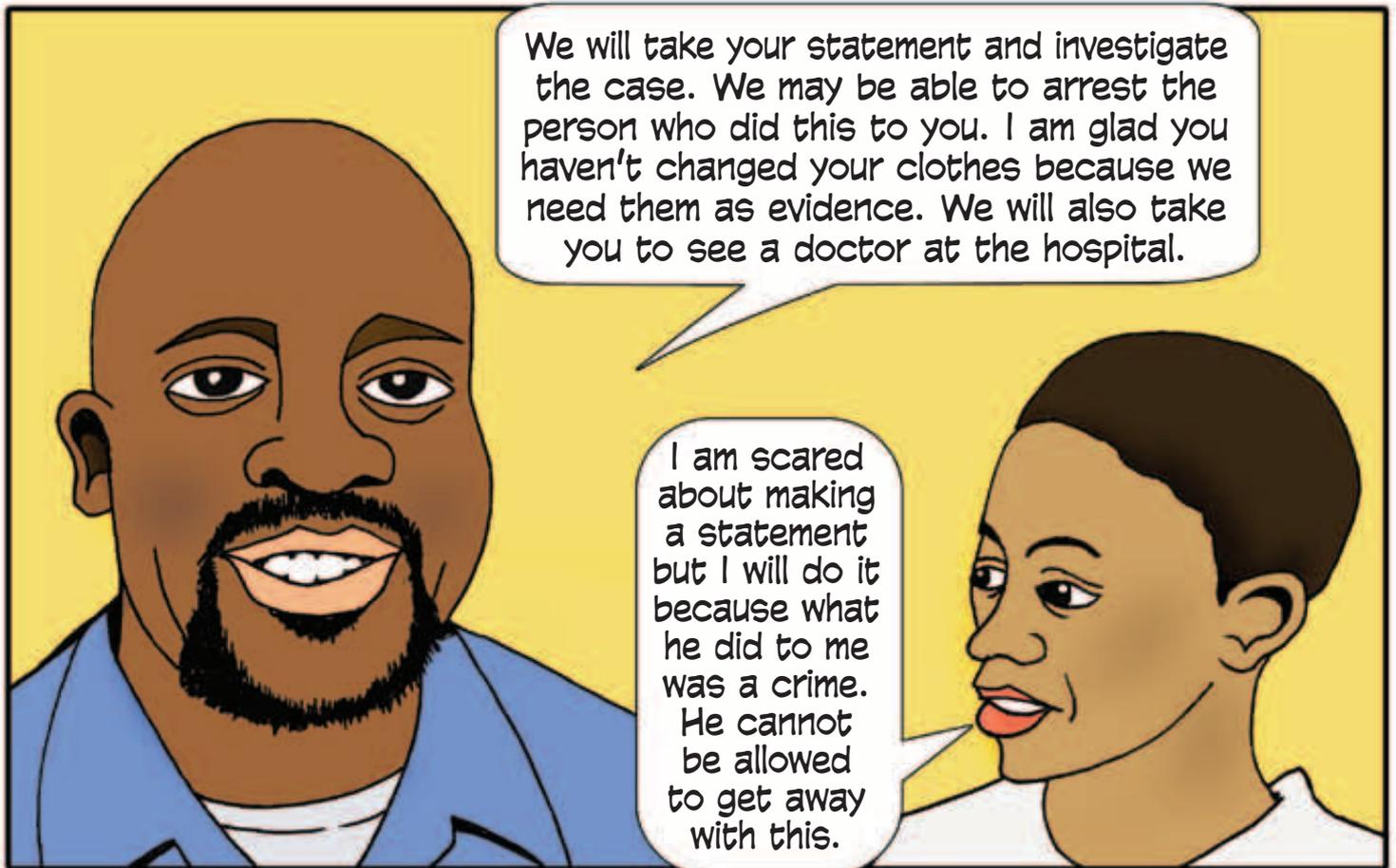
- Do not wash yourself.
- Do not change your clothes.
- Do not tidy up the place where the rape happened.
- Wrap any evidence in paper. Do not put it in a plastic bag.

Go to the police or a Woman and Child Protection Unit

You should report the rape to the police so that the person who raped you can be caught. Your information will be kept private. Even the trial is private.

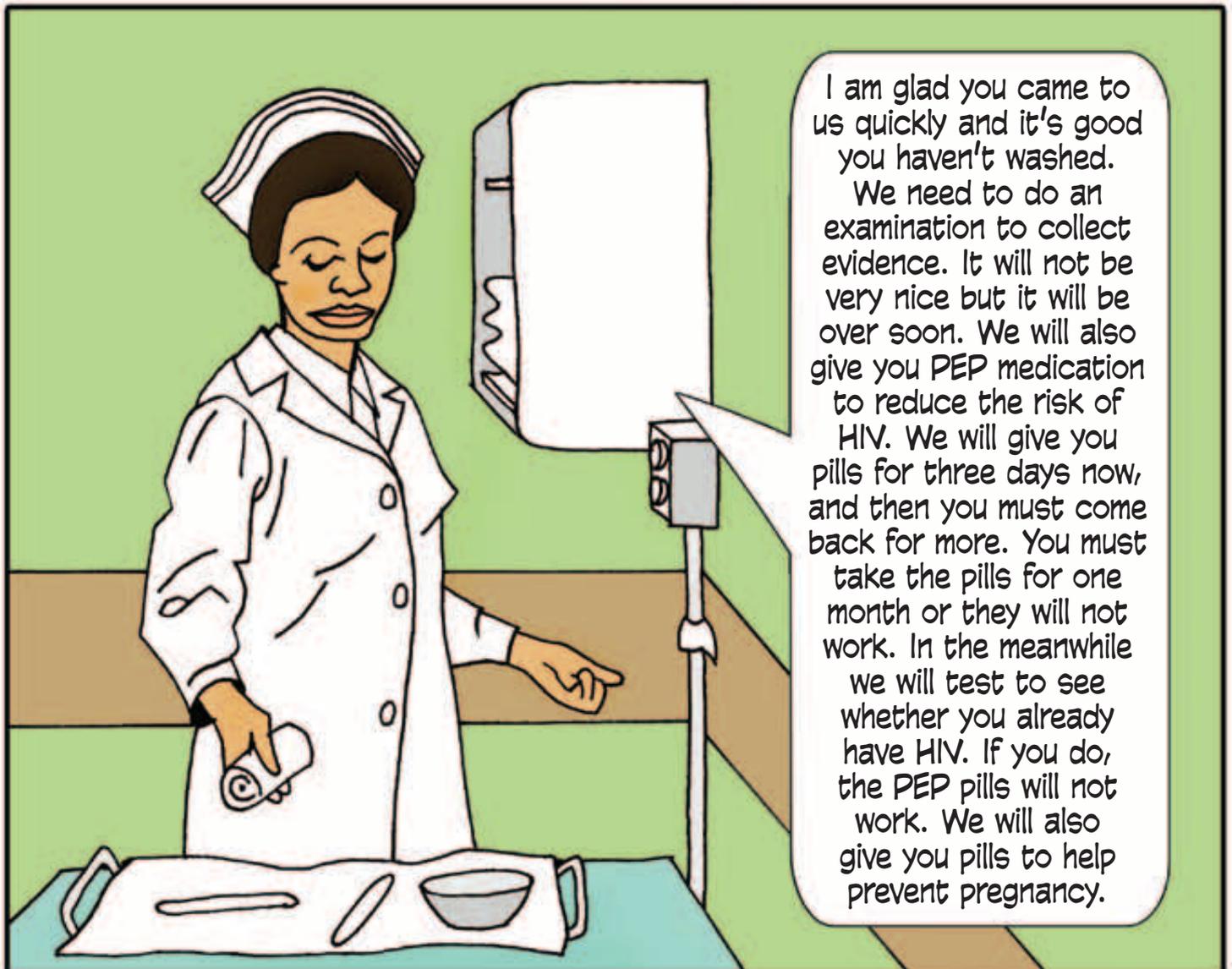
Go to a doctor, clinic or hospital

You should see a doctor or nurse as soon as possible. The doctor can give you medication to prevent HIV infection and sexually transmitted infections, and medication to prevent you from becoming pregnant from the rape.



We will take your statement and investigate the case. We may be able to arrest the person who did this to you. I am glad you haven't changed your clothes because we need them as evidence. We will also take you to see a doctor at the hospital.

I am scared about making a statement but I will do it because what he did to me was a crime. He cannot be allowed to get away with this.



I am glad you came to us quickly and it's good you haven't washed. We need to do an examination to collect evidence. It will not be very nice but it will be over soon. We will also give you PEP medication to reduce the risk of HIV. We will give you pills for three days now, and then you must come back for more. You must take the pills for one month or they will not work. In the meanwhile we will test to see whether you already have HIV. If you do, the PEP pills will not work. We will also give you pills to help prevent pregnancy.



Hey Sarah.
How are you
today?



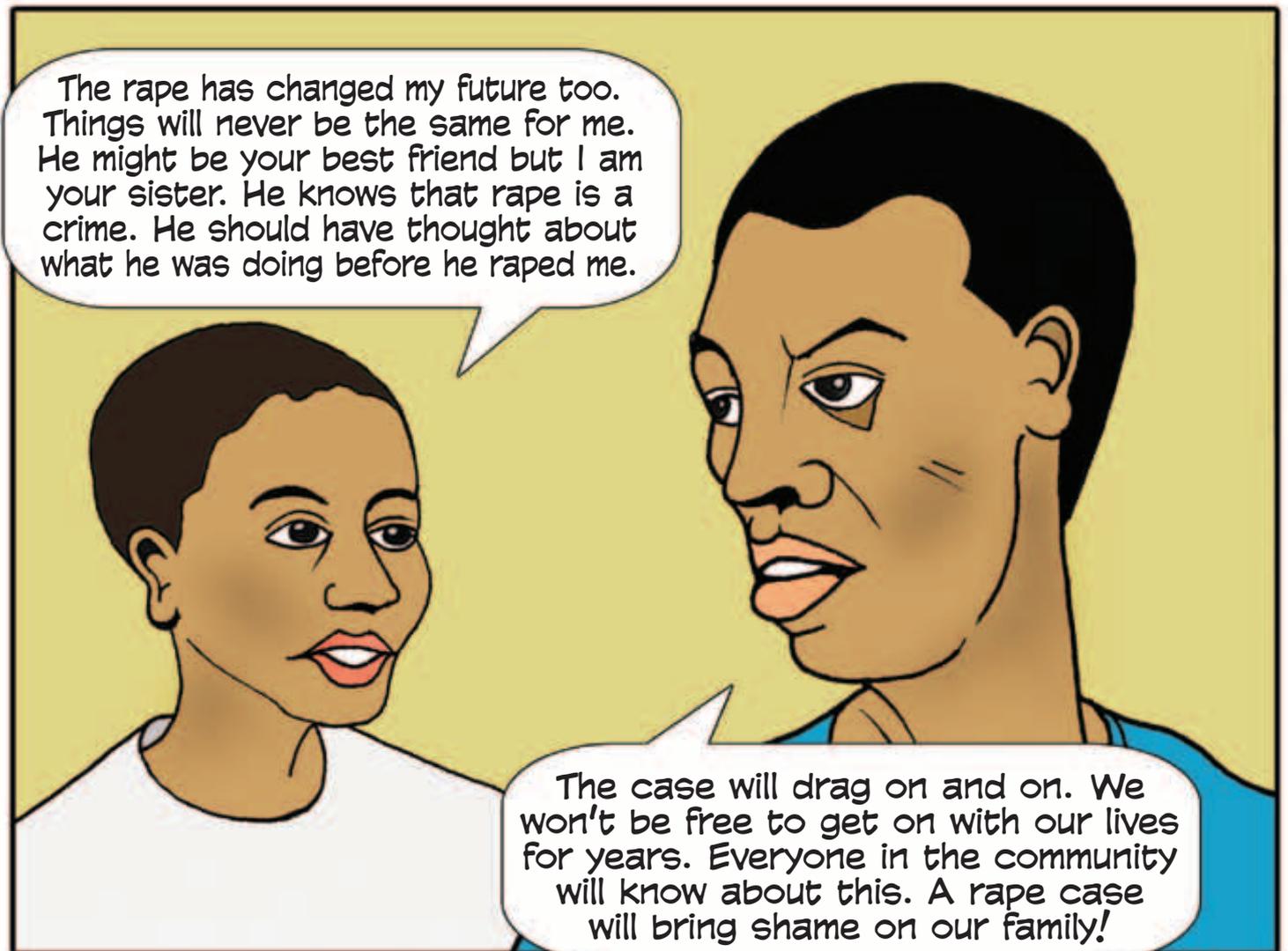
Don't
pretend that
nothing has
happened. I have
been to the police
to report the rape
and I am not
going back
on it.



I have
N\$800,
I could pay
you if you will
withdraw the
case?

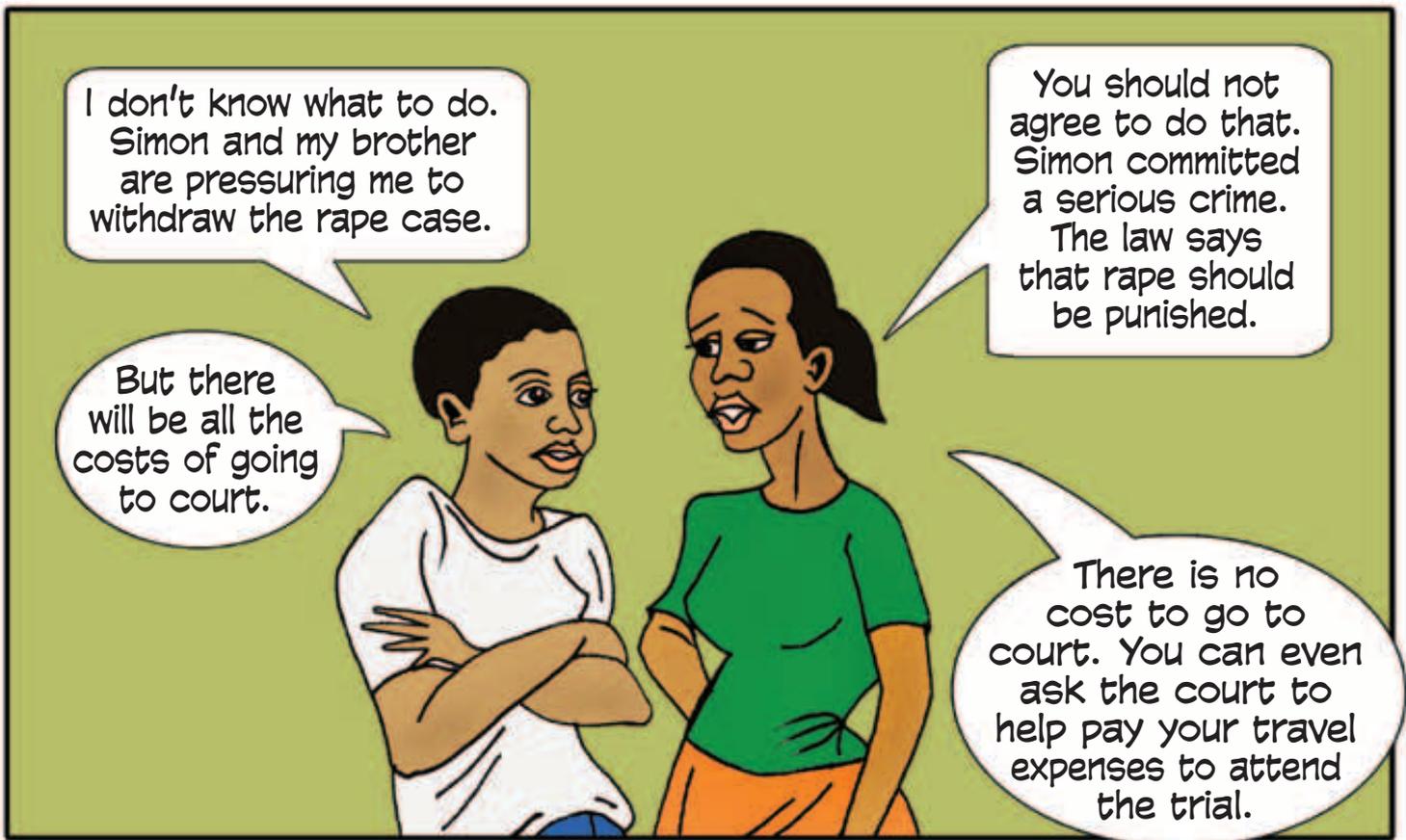


Sarah,
if you go
through with
the case you
will ruin Simon's
future. He's
my best
friend.



The rape has changed my future too.
Things will never be the same for me.
He might be your best friend but I am
your sister. He knows that rape is a
crime. He should have thought about
what he was doing before he raped me.

The case will drag on and on. We
won't be free to get on with our lives
for years. Everyone in the community
will know about this. A rape case
will bring shame on our family!



I don't know what to do. Simon and my brother are pressuring me to withdraw the rape case.

You should not agree to do that. Simon committed a serious crime. The law says that rape should be punished.

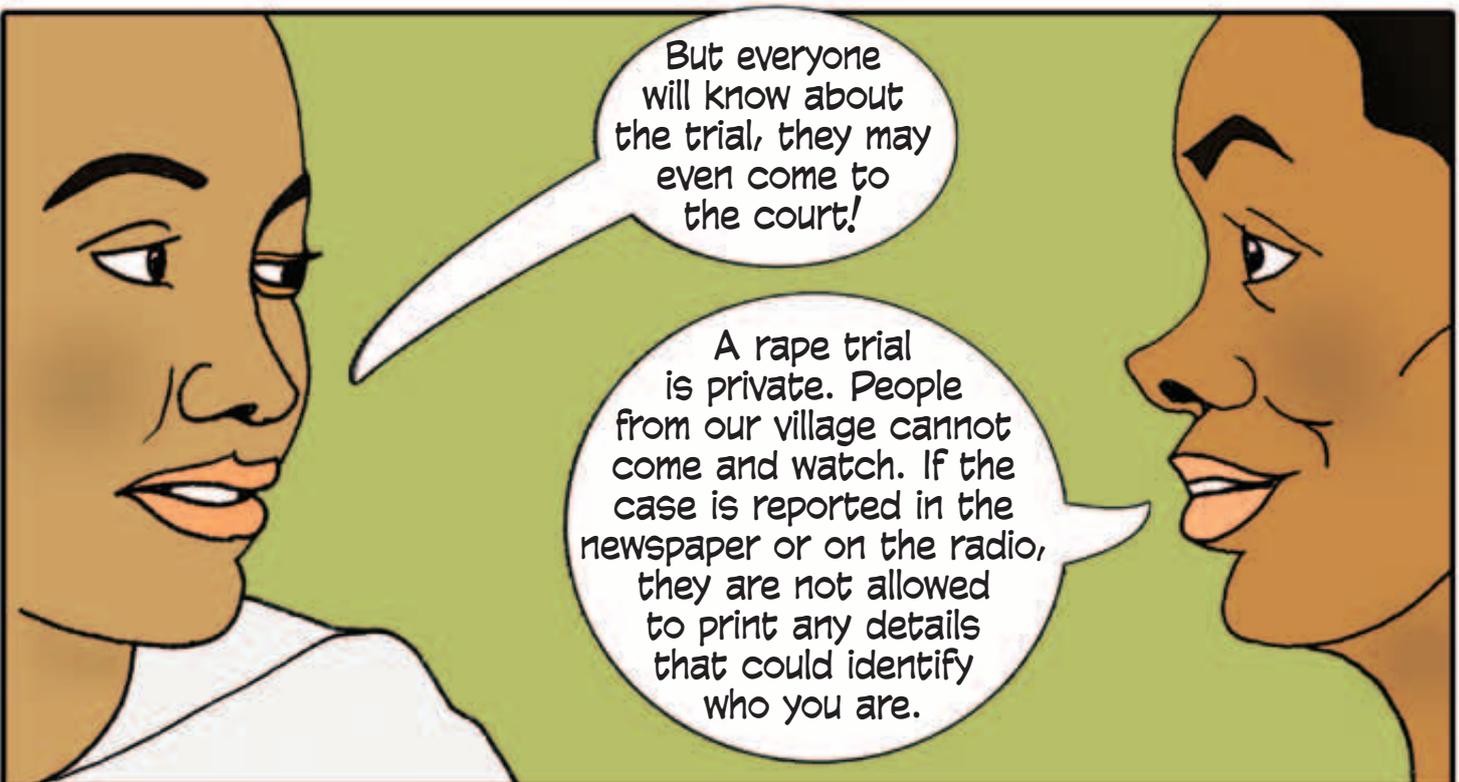
But there will be all the costs of going to court.

There is no cost to go to court. You can even ask the court to help pay your travel expenses to attend the trial.



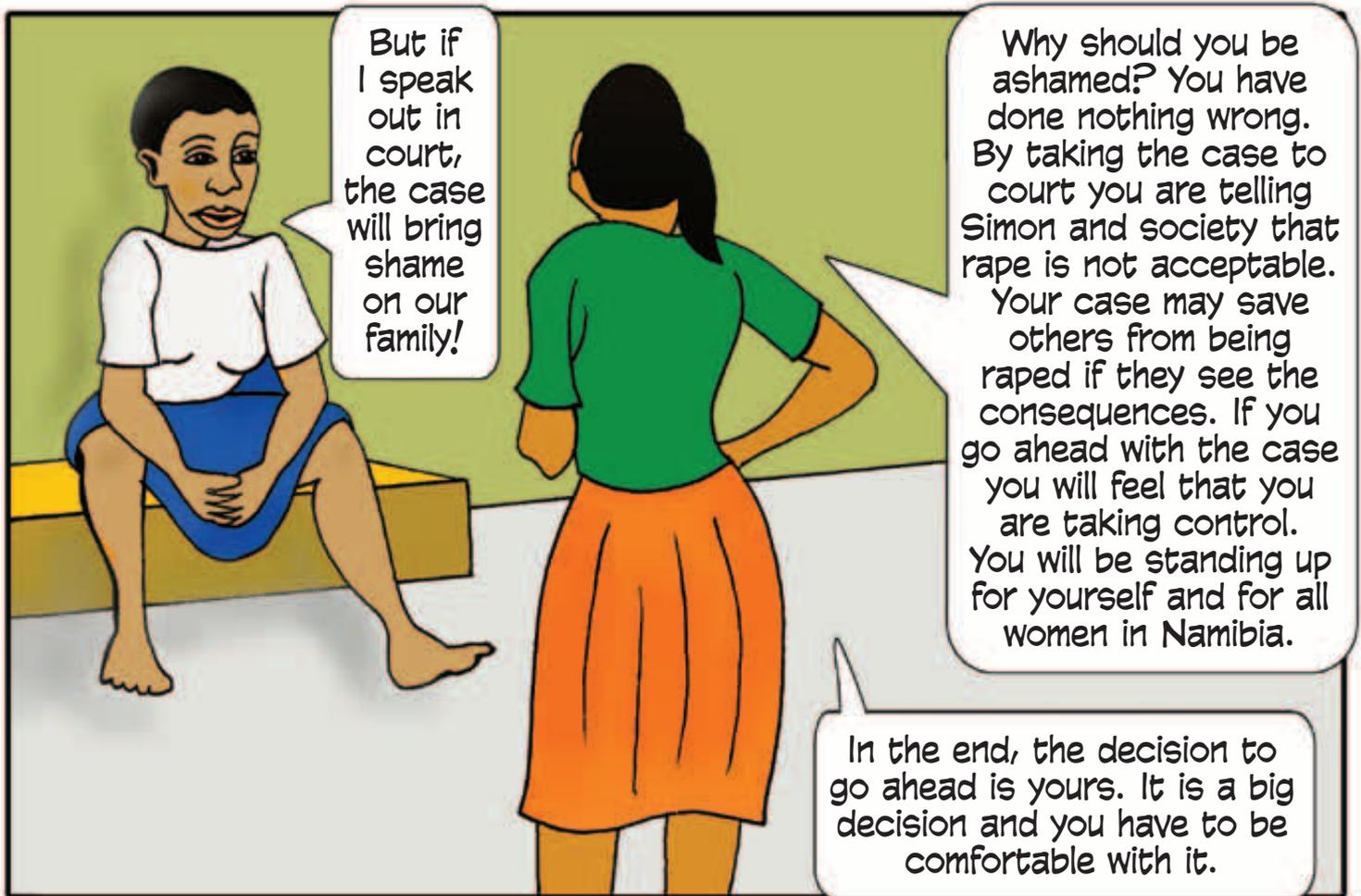
But what if I lose the case?

You will still have the chance to tell your story. You will not feel so much like a victim because you will have said your side of the story.



But everyone will know about the trial, they may even come to the court!

A rape trial is private. People from our village cannot come and watch. If the case is reported in the newspaper or on the radio, they are not allowed to print any details that could identify who you are.



DO YOU
 ... HAVE A QUESTION?
 ... HAVE A COMMENT?

CONTACT US!

SMS: 081-6000098

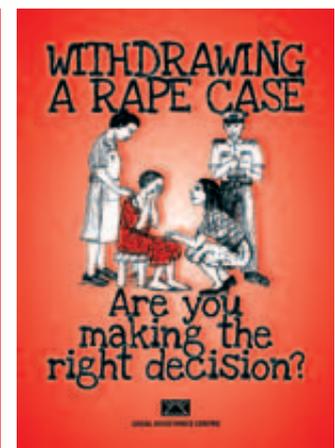
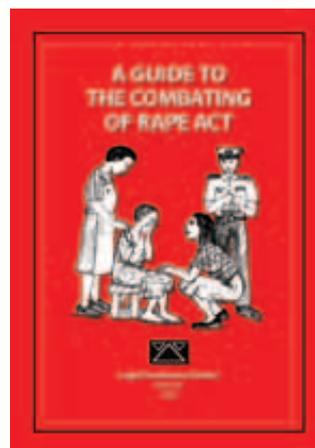
Email: comic@lac.org.na

Fax: 088-613693

Post: P.O. Box 604 Windhoek

We would like to hear your feedback about this comic.

For more information about the Combating of Rape Act, withdrawing a rape case, or to obtain copies of our publications, please contact the Legal Assistance Centre.



Rape case withdrawals can have serious consequences for individual women, their communities and society at large. If you are thinking of withdrawing a rape case, please think about the decision carefully. Before you make your decision, discuss it with a social worker, a counsellor or someone that you trust. Once you have all the relevant information, you can make the decision that is right for you.

FOUR REASONS NOT TO WITHDRAW A RAPE CASE

1. THE PERSON WHO RAPED YOU SHOULD BE PUNISHED.

Rape is a serious crime with a serious sentence. The Combating of Rape Act says that the minimum punishment for a rape is 5, 10 or 15 years in prison – depending on the circumstances of the rape. If the person who raped you goes free, he or she may rape someone else.

2. THE PERSON WHO RAPED YOU NEEDS TO BE TOLD THAT RAPE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE IN NAMIBIA.

By taking the case to court, you are sending a message to the perpetrator and society that rape is not acceptable. The punishment is also an example to other people who might commit a similar crime.

3. YOU ARE TAKING CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

Many rape survivors feel that the rape has taken away all of their power. By taking the case to court, you are taking back control of your life.

4. YOU ARE ABLE TO TELL YOUR STORY.

In the hearing, the court listens to the facts about what happened. You will have a chance to give your account of what the rapist did to you. You are able to show the rapist that you are not a victim of the crime but a survivor.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR
WOMAN AND CHILD PROTECTION UNITS, 2010

Region	City/town	Telephone number
Caprivi	Katima Mulilo	066-251215
Erongo	Walvis Bay	064-219068
Hardap	Mariental	063-345000
Hardap	Rehoboth	062-523223 (NamPol)
Karas	Keetmanshoop	063-221826
Karas	Lüderitz	063-203668
Kavango	Rundu	066-266300 (NamPol)
Khomas	Windhoek	061-20952375 or 2095374
Kunene	Opuwo	065-273148 ext. 138
Ohangwena	Eenhana	065-264204
Omaheke	Gobabis	062-566144
Omusati	Outapi	065-251863
Oshana	Oshakati	065-2236056 or 2230657
Oshikoto	Tsumeb	067 2235053
Otjozondjupa	Otjiwarongo	067-300625

Text:
ANNE JOYCE

Illustrations, design and layout:
DUDLEY VIALI and
PERRI CAPLAN

Project supervision:
RACHEL COOMER and
DIANNE HUBBARD

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