

Defense lawyer suggests a thong equals **consent** - and Ireland erupts

A criminal trial in Ireland, in which the lawyer of a man accused of rape cited the **lacy** underwear worn by a woman as a sign of her consent, has ignited outrage across the country and beyond.

consent 同意

lacy 蕾丝的

During the **closing argument**, the defense lawyer asked the jury to consider the underwear worn by the 17-year-old woman at the time **prosecutors** said she was raped in a muddy alleyway by a 27-year-old man.

closing argument 终结陈词

prosecutor 检察官; 起诉人

“Does the evidence **out-rule** the possibility that she was attracted to the defendant and was open to meeting someone and being with someone?” the lawyer asked, according to The Irish Times. “You have to look at the way she was dressed. She was wearing a thong with a lace front.”

out-rule 排除

thong 皮鞭; 丁字裤

The man was **acquitted**, and the case immediately drew calls for **accountability** and sparked a national dialogue about consent and victim blaming. Hundreds of women and men with posters and lace underwear in hand protested in five cities across the country on Wednesday.

acquit 无罪释放

accountability 问责; 责任

“My issue isn’t just the **barrister**; it’s the system that allows it,” said Mary Crilly, director of the Cork Sexual Violence Center and one of the speakers at the protests.

barrister 律师

Women also poured out their **frustration** on social media, where they posted photos of colorful underwear with the **hashtag** #ThisIsNotConsent.

frustration 沮丧; 挫折

hashtag 标签

For decades, Ireland was a socially conservative society ruled by the norms of the Roman Catholic Church, and women's rights often *took a back seat*. In recent years, socially liberal policies have begun to flourish. But as women's status in society changes, the laws have not always kept pace.

Take a back seat 处在次要地位