

## **Outraging modesty of a woman [S. 354]**

354. Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty.-  
Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty, [shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.]

Outraging the modesty of a woman is an offence provided there is use of assault or criminal force with the intention for the purpose or knowing it likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty. The offence under this section is different from rape and is of less seriousness than the one under Section 376.

### **Ingredients**

The section has two main ingredients:

- (i) Assault or use of criminal force to a woman.
- (ii) Intention of the actor or his knowledge that he would thereby commit this offence.

### **Outraging the modesty**

In ordinary language "modest" means freedom from conceit or vanity or propriety in dress, speech and conduct. The word "outrage" has affinity with extremely rude, violent, injurious or insulting act on one hand and it is connected with guilt, culpability, criminality and deviation from rectitude on the part of the person committing assault or using criminal force on a woman.