



THE SURVIVOR'S REPORT

"Where Do You Stand?" *Men Can Stop Rape*

Men Can Stop Rape is an organization that educates and encourages men to recognize that they have a place to prevent rape and sexual assault against all people. The organization strives to encourage men to use their masculinity and strength to behave in certain ways that deter other men from assuming that sexual assault does not concern them. *Men Can Stop Rape* is now

"Men Can Stop Rape" is now launching a national campaign, "Where Do You Stand"

launching a national campaign "Where Do You Stand" to target the college student population.

"Where Do You Stand" attempts to rally men on college campuses around the country to take a stand to end violence against women. It is based on the Bystander Effect. According to the Bystander Effect, many people will not interfere with a crime or assault because they assume that other people around the situation will

step in and help stop whatever is happening. The famous case of Kitty Genovese demonstrates this phenomena.

In New York City during the 1960s, a young waitress named Kitty Genovese was on her way home from work during the early morning hours. She was approached by a man and stabbed multiple times until she died hours later. Accord-

ing to the police report, there were over 30 witnesses to the crime, but no one called the police. The bystander effect demonstrates that in a group of people, often no one takes responsibility because they assume that someone else will. "Where Do You Stand" strives to create a "culture of action, rather than a culture of talk," in hopes that the Bystander Effect will disseminate.

"Where Do You Stand"

offers training sessions to college and university faculty and staff that can prepare them "to conduct an hour-long bystander intervention workshop. Participants will be able to communicate how dominant stories of masculinity impede men's emotional intelligence and how counter stories connected to 'gut check' and emotional intelligence empower men to trust their gut and take action."

A manual describing how to effectively implement the campaign on a college campus is located on the *Men Can Stop Rape* webpage. Various materials are available for purchase to advertise this idea on college campuses.

-Vanessa Olson

Men can stop rape. (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.mencanstoprape.org>

Rosenthal, A.M. (1964). Thirty-Eight Witnesses: The Kitty Genovese Case. University of California Press



Tips for Avoiding "The Bystander Effect"

- Assume responsibility of seeking emergency services; do not assume that someone else will call for help.
- Know the available emergency services in your area and have contact information handy.
- If possible, inform others around you who you know that you have called for emergency services.
- If the situation seems safe for you, cautiously approach the person and ask if there is something you can do to help.
- If possible, let the person know that you have called for emergency services.
- Follow your "gut instinct."

Sexual Assault Response Program News

✓CSDC Sexual Assault Response personnel continue to meet with the JMU Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force monthly to discuss progress creating universal protocol for JMU students, faculty, and staff for reporting sexual assault. The Task Force is also creating a flow

chart to outline the new procedures in accordance with Title IX regulations. The multidisciplinary team is working to have cohesive communication and teamwork with all the offices working for JMU Student Affairs.



Mythical Tales

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www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/Services/SAS.html

Myth: Women who consider themselves to be strong and independent have less risk of sexual assault than women who are less assertive and dependent upon others. Women who are highly independent can sense when a situation is dangerous, and if someone does come after them, they are able to be assertive and take control.

Reality: Regardless of how a woman may perceive herself, it cannot change her level of risk of being sexually assaulted. Most perpetrators choose their victims carefully. They study behavior patterns, routines, and investigate personality traits before they attempt an assault. When the perpetrator feels comfortable with an ample amount of information, he/she will then make a move to gain the trust of his/her victim. Once trust is established, the perpetrator is in a better position to take advantage of that person. In order to lower risk of sexual assault, it is vital for people to trust their own instincts. If a person, place, or situation does not seem right, then it probably is not. In social situations, know your limits and expectations for various activities. If you plan on leaving your group or house, tell someone where you are going and when you plan on returning. Never go to a secluded area with someone you do not fully know/trust. These are some ways in which one can be proactive in protecting him/herself from a sexual assault perpetrator.

Hardcastle, M. (2011). Information sheet on date rape: Retrieved from <http://teenadvice.about.com/od/factsheetsforteens/a/10thingsdraped.htm>



You Ask, She Answers

I am a freshman at a local university, and I have recently joined a fraternity on campus. During rush, the brothers explained that we would be tested in ways we could never imagine in order to prove our loyalties to the group. I have heard rumors that it is the pledges' responsibility to seek out "dates" for the upperclassmen in the fraternity. According to my friend, the upperclassmen plan on having sex with the women, whether the women want to or not. In fact, there is a specific protocol to follow in order to get one of the girls in bed. I am beginning to feel extremely uncomfortable, and I am not sure what to do from here. What suggestions do you have for someone in my position?

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I would recommend you follow your instincts. You said that you are beginning to feel uncomfortable. You are right to be experiencing that sensation since having sexual relations with non-consenting individuals is a violation of rights and a crime.

If you feel that you need to know more information, you may want to consider discussing the issue with a member of the fraternity that you can trust. At this point, you have many options. If you feel that something illegal is taking place, or that the student code of conduct is being breached, you should consider informing the university and/or the authorities.

Often times, individuals may involve themselves in activities that they do not agree with in order to feel accepted by a particular

group of people. It is important that you know yourself and your values. If you feel that you are being forced to compromise your values, then perhaps there is another group of people who will accept you for who you are.

In the event that you find you are still struggling with this dilemma, there are support systems in place on campus for assistance. For example, at James Madison University, the Counseling & Student Development Center offers individual counseling and consultation services free of charge to all attending students.

Kindly,

Answer Annie

Please be advised that this article is neither a crisis/emergency service nor a correspondence therapy service. If you need either immediate attention or ongoing therapy, call JMU Counseling & Student Development Center at (540) 568-6552.