

There is no shame when a loved one dies, your house is burglarized, or you're diagnosed with cancer. Friends and loved ones gather around you for support. They don't blame you for "bringing it on yourself."

It should be the same with sexual violence. But all too often, victims who have the courage to tell someone are not believed, or they are blamed. A terrifying attack becomes a source of shame, not support. And the pain—and shame—ripples with destructive effects on families, communities, and the very fabric of our society. Sexual violence hurts everyone.

End Violence Against Women International is dedicated to changing the way we respond to rape and sexual assault in our communities. Our goal for the Start by Believing campaign is to pave the way for survivors to pursue justice and healing, so the decision to come forward and seek help is a safe one.

While Start by Believing was originally designed for sexual assault, the message is equally critical for victims of domestic violence, stalking, trafficking, elder abuse, or childhood sexual abuse. Join us and help transform responses to all survivors.



Start by Believing



End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) was founded in 2003 with the goal of improving criminal justice responses to sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence. Working with professionals both inside and outside the criminal justice system, we strive to improve the way survivors are treated, pursue accountability for perpetrators, and prevent future attacks.

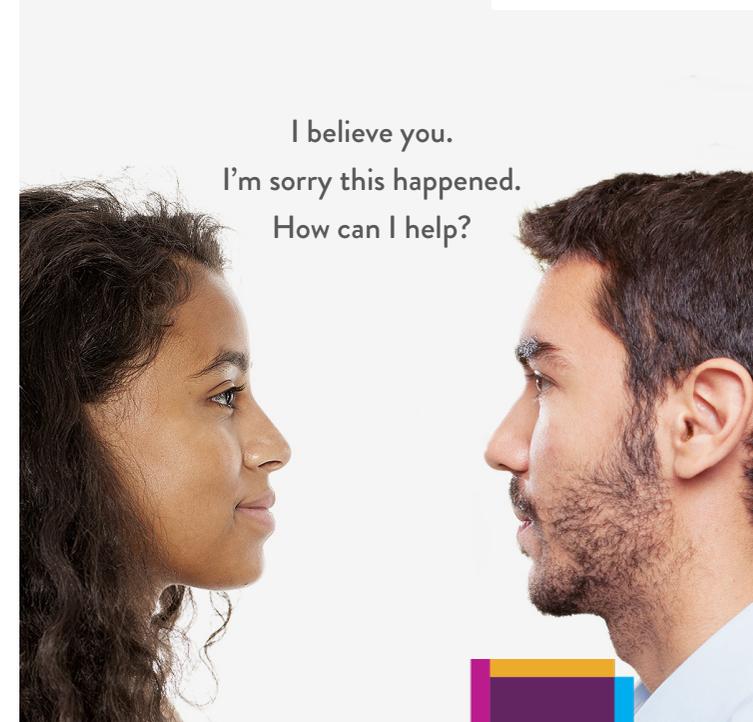
At EVAWI, we envision a world where gender-based violence is unacceptable — and the victims whose lives, families, and communities are torn apart, receive the compassion, support and justice they deserve. When we create a system that helps survivors to heal, and thrive, they will transform our world with strength, hope, and joy.



Start by Believing

Explore Your Options

startbybelieving.org | evawintl.org | 509.684.9800



I believe you.
I'm sorry this happened.
How can I help?



Start by Believing

THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN
TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE
RESPOND TO SEXUAL ASSAULT



PAVING THE ROAD TO JUSTICE AND HEALING, ONE STEP AT A TIME

As few as one in five victims report their sexual assault, so they often don't get the help they need. Without a report, law enforcement misses the chance to identify perpetrators in the community, repeat offenders go undetected, and more people are victimized.

IT'S TIME TO START BY BELIEVING

Since launching Start by Believing in 2011, the campaign has made a profound difference in the lives of sexual assault victims by fostering a safe and supportive environment for survivors to disclose.

Hundreds of communities around the world have participated in campaigns, several states have formally proclaimed their commitment, and thousands of individuals have taken the pledge to Start by Believing.



STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM IMPROVING RESPONSES

End Violence Against Women International works to improve professional responses criminal justice and community response to sexual assault.

Yet most victims do not turn to professionals first. Instead, they reach out to friends and family members, when they utter those terrible words: "I was raped." The Start by Believing campaign prepares loved ones to react positively to a sexual assault disclosure, so victims get the support they need. But what happens next?

Explore Your Options is part of Start by Believing, so survivors and support people can learn about the full range of services available to sexual assault victims. Emphasis is placed on answering real-world questions survivors are likely to have, including how to access each option, whether there are any costs involved, and whether they can bring a support person with them.

Start by Believing  Explore Your Options

startbybelieving.org

WHEN A VICTIM COMES TO YOU
HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

