

*“I want to feel safe, period.
My soul wants to feel safe, not terrorized.”*

Sexual violence survivor, Dancing in the Darkness

Sexual violence can affect anyone, even in our congregation!

Sexual violence and rape are crimes!

Sexual violence takes away your sense of safety, trust, and self-esteem.
You can feel isolated, ashamed, and alone.

But you are NOT alone. And you are NOT to blame!

There is hope. Talk to someone who can help.

“All of you, my [fellow survivors] out there – remember it is NOT YOUR FAULT.”

Sexual violence survivor, Dancing in the Darkness

For Immediate Help

Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673/HOPE

The National Sexual Assault Hotline is free, confidential, and available 24/7. Language translation is available. Anyone can call. You do not have to give your name or identify yourself to receive help.

**Call your local police, sheriff,
or Public Safety Officer**

or

DIAL 911 (where available)

Add local service provider information.

*If there is no local information here,
call the National Sexual Assault Hotline
(1-800-656-4673/HOPE)
and ask for services in your area.*



Pieces of a Bigger Picture

**Faith Communities and Service Providers Working Together
to Support Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence**

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"I am hurt. I am scared. I hate going around pretending that I am not . . . I just want to scream: 'I AM NOT OK!!!!!"

Sexual violence survivor, Dancing in the Darkness

Sexual violence can affect anyone, even in our congregation!

Sexual violence is a CRIME!

◆
Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted.

◆
More than 2/3 of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.

Many faithful Americans turn first to people they know and trust in their faith community for help . . . and HOPE. YOU can make a difference!

- ❖ Let the survivor know that the assault is NOT their fault.
- ❖ Listen patiently, compassionately, and without judgment.
- ❖ Refer the survivor to local sexual violence services and the hotline.
- ❖ Encourage the survivor to seek medical attention.
- ❖ Provide spiritual and material support, and let them know that they are not alone.

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