“My daughter died in a car crash.”

“Well that’s what she gets for not taking the bus.”

YOUR REACTION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.
There is no shame when a loved one dies. When a home is lost. When a car is stolen.

THERE IS **COMFORT AND SUPPORT.**
THERE IS **RESPECT AND SYMPATHY.**
Yet when someone is sexually assaulted...

There can be a very different response.
“A 19-year-old Northbrook woman died of an apparent suicide nine days after telling University of Notre Dame police she had been sexually attacked by a football player in a dorm room…”

Notre Dame refuses to publicly acknowledge the case...

The player, meanwhile, has remained on the field...

Chicago, Illinois, November 2010

“The video led the police to...a roundup over the last month of 18 young men and teenage boys on charges of participating in the gang rape of an 11-year-old girl...”

“‘What was her mother thinking?’ said one of a handful of neighbors who would speak on the record.”

New York City, March 2011

By James C. McKinley Jr.

Rape wasn’t a lie,
Lynnwood police now say

A woman was accused of filing a false charge but **new evidence** has made police reopen the case.

“Police now believe a woman they once accused of lying about a 2008 rape in a Lynnwood apartment.”

Lynwood, Washington, April 2011

*By Eric Stevick and Diana Hefley, Herald Writers*

http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110413/news01/704139783/-1/rss02
Raped twice?

Virginia Glore asked the APD for a rape test – instead, they’re prosecuting her for DWI.

“... the woman came to the hospital...in the wake of a sexual assault. However, the doctor who saw her said that she could not be examined until after she reported the rape...”

“The victim...now worries that her case against the man who raped her will be in jeopardy...”

October 2001
By Jordan Smith
Teen Rape Victim Commits Suicide After Bullying

Yet another bullied teen has taken her life—this time after she was outed as the victim of sexual assault, and her alleged rapist insulted her on Twitter.

Among his messages: “All girls are liars and backstabbers. I hate you all. Way to ruin my life.”

A Juvenile Court judge has ordered three teenage girls who were victims of sexual assault to submit to polygraph tests, baffling prosecutors and upsetting the victims.

The victim’s mother said, “It felt like the blame was back on her and she was being victimized, by not only him, but by the system as well.”
“Rape in the United States: The Chronic Failure to Report and Investigate Rape Cases”

Sara Reedy testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, describing how she was robbed and raped at gunpoint while working at a convenience store.
Not only did police fail to believe her, they charged her with filing a false report and stealing the money herself. **She spent 5 days in jail.**

Her rapist was later arrested, and he confessed to committing a total of **12 sexual assaults.**

“Because of Detective Evanson’s... unwillingness to believe me... a serial rapist was allowed to continue attacking and assaulting other women.”
Woman says she fought, fled Sowell but she wasn’t believed

Five victims went missing after she reported attack

Rachel Dissell
Plain Dealer Reporter

It was Gladys Wade who ran to police, bleeding and screaming for help after she escaped from Anthony Sowell’s Imperial Avenue home last December. It was Wade who got more than a dozen stitches in her right thumb where it was ripped open on a jagged piece of glass from a window broken during a struggle with Sowell—a struggle that left blood spattered on the walls and steps of his home.

And it was Wade who met the next day with Detective Georgia Hussein to recount her terrifying story.

But it was Anthony Sowell—a convicted sex offender—who authorities believed, Wade said in an interview Monday. “The detective, she didn’t take me seriously at all,” said Wade, who turns 41 today. “He [Sowell] told them that I robbed him and that I assaulted him. And evidently his story was somehow more powerful than mine.”

Sowell, a registered sex offender, was picked up by police after Wade flagged them down and released two days later, Dec. 10, without being charged.

SEE ATTACK | A6

Attendees at a vigil Monday night were encouraged to take a more active part in their neighborhoods and to hold police and politicians accountable. Details, A6
In 2009, police discovered the **decomposing bodies of 11 women** inside a house in Cleveland. The owner of the home – a convicted sex offender named Anthony Sowell – was arrested, and charged with numerous counts of rape and murder.

The year before, a woman had run to police, **bleeding and screaming for help**. She had been attacked by Anthony Sowell. In her frantic escape, she put her hand through a window and ripped her thumb, requiring more than a dozen stitches.
Police interviewed the woman, collected her clothing, and took pictures of her injuries. Hospital personnel conducted an exam.

At Sowell's home, police found signs of a struggle and blood. They interviewed Sowell, and took pictures of his injuries on his shoulder and legs.
Prosecutors said there was insufficient evidence to charge, indicating the “detective did not believe the victim was credible.”

The detective noted: “Clean up report – Unfounded.”

The local newspaper reported that the victim “shouldered personal responsibility for the women raped and killed afterward. She considered some of them friends.”
“I was raped thirty years ago. There was so much shame then, and there still is now.”

— Bonnie Quillin

The Voices and Faces Project

www.voicesandfaces.org
It doesn’t have to be this way.
Because **your** response...

**Our** response...

Makes the difference.
The *Start by Believing* Campaign

A public awareness campaign leading the way toward a **positive community response** to survivors of sexual violence.
By Spreading the Word

“My daughter died in a car crash.”

“Well that’s what she gets for not taking the bus.”

There is no shame when a loved one dies. When your car is stolen. When you’re diagnosed with cancer. Friends and loved ones gather around you for support. They don’t blame you for “taking it on yourself.”

It should be the same with sexual violence. Rape and sexual assault are just as reprehensible, just as dehumanizing. But all too often, victims who have the courage to tell someone are blamed for bringing it on themselves. A terrifying attack becomes a source of shame, not support. And the pain—and shame—niggle with destructive effects on families, communities and the very fabric of our societies. Sexual violence knows no gender or age.

End Violence Against Women (EVAW) International is dedicated to changing the way we respond to rape and sexual assault in our communities. Our goal is to pave the way for survivors to achieve justice and healing, so the decision to move forward and seek help is a release. Our vision is to end the cycle of repeat offenses and assure that rapists are held accountable for their crimes. Please support us, and transform this vision into reality.

STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM BY IMPROVING THE RESPONSE

To change our response to sexual violence, EVAW International focuses on connecting professionals and strengthening the community’s response system. We bring together the many diverse professionals who respond to instances of violence against women—in communities, schools, laws—and ultimately to strengthen the whole system by better understanding each component. All of this collaborative work is focused on creating a more compassionate response for the victim, a more aggressive prosecution of the perpetrator, and a more secure environment for communities everywhere.

EVAW International provides a wealth of expertise, resources and tools to help. We also offer numerous opportunities for collaborative learning for professionals who work in—or interface with—the criminal justice response system. These include:

- International conferences held each year to connect and educate professional responders with unique focus on multidisciplinary collaboration
- Expert consultation on best practice and an international model of response
- Original training curricula and resource materials—online and off
- Distribution of key research on gender-based violence and best practice for responses
- Media and public awareness campaigns to underscore how every woman plays a role in—and benefits from—improved responses
- Strategic partnerships with other organizations in pursuit of our shared vision

START BY BELIEVING

EVAW International focuses on the public response, because a friend or family member is typically the first person a victim confides to after an assault. Knowing how to respond is critical—a negative response can worsen the trauma.

Use this simple fact sheet to inform your public, raise awareness, and improve our reactions—changing the world, one response at a time.
Making Personal Commitments

“My daughter died in a car crash.”

“Well that’s what she gets for not taking the bus.”

YOUR REACTION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

When someone tells you they’ve been raped, there’s a simple response. Start by Believing.

EVAW International’s Start by Believing campaign focuses on the public response to sexual violence, because a friend or family member is typically the first person a victim confides to after an assault. Knowing how to respond is critical—a negative response can worsen the trauma. Our goal is to inform the public, unite allies and supporters, and improve our reactions—changing the world, one response at a time.

When someone comes to you... what will your reaction be?

Dear ____________________________,

I’ve made a commitment to Start by Believing and hope you will too! Learn more about getting involved at www.startbybelieving.org.

Thanks for joining me,

P.O. Box 33
Addy, WA 99101-0033

www.startbybelieving.org | 509.664.9800 | www.startbybelieving.org | Facebook | YouTube |
Energizing Our Communities
So Many Ways to Get Involved
So Many **Simple Actions**
You Can Take
“When someone says ‘I’ve been raped’ the most important words in the world to say are ‘I believe you.’ If a survivor doesn’t hear that from anyone else, she or he is going to hear it from me.”

— Karen Carroll

The Voices and Faces Project
www.voicesandfaces.org
Austin Police Department
Sex Crimes Unit

Our motto is “We Believe” because we understand the bias and prejudice victims can experience due to common misperceptions about the realities of sexual assault. Your case will be handled with the respect and consideration you deserve.
“The way out is to tell: Speak the acts perpetrated upon us, speak the atrocities, speak the injustices, speak the violations of the soul. Someone will listen, someone will believe our stories, someone will join us.”

— Charlotte Pierce-Baker

The Voices and Faces Project
www.voicesandfaces.org
Join our campaign.
Strengthen our momentum.
Start by Believing.
For resources and information, visit http://www.startbybelieving.org/GetInvolved.aspx