

"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 your car gets stolen. When 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. Rape and sexual assault are just as unpredictable, just as devastating. 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—ripples with destructive effects on families, communities and the very fabric of our society. *Sexual violence hurts everyone.*

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 come forward and seek help is a safe one. 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 to reality.

WHEN SOMEONE COMES TO YOU...
WHAT WILL YOUR REACTION BE?



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

EVAW International is the only organization dedicated to improving the criminal justice response to violence against women on every level – within the professions tasked with responding to victims and across society as a whole.

Why? Because **EVAW International** recognizes the many steps a survivor must take on the road to justice and healing. Reaching out to a friend or loved one to say she’s been sexually assaulted... calling the police and being interviewed in embarrassing detail... submitting to a medical forensic exam that could take hours... talking with advocates and counselors about an incredibly painful experience... and participating in an investigation that disrupts her life... all of this to hold a rapist accountable, so everyone can live in a safer community.

There are so many steps. And each step is a link in the chain of support. But like any chain, one weak link can compromise the strength of the others. A police officer doesn’t believe and refuses to conduct an investigation. A doctor or nurse doesn’t believe and fails to provide an exam. A friend doesn’t believe and accuses her of “crying rape.” Just a single negative reaction can mean the whole chain falls apart.

What’s worse, this means a victory for the rapist. He remains free to rape again. And statistics show that he won’t just attack once – because rapists attack an average of six times. It’s a frightening equation: one failed response equals five more assaults.

We must do better. And we can do better. At **EVAW International**, we know how. We have the expertise, the resources, the tools and the models for best practice to help communities strengthen every link in their chain of response.

*One failed response... five more assaults.
Stop the cycle and make our communities safer.*

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 victims of violence against women – to communicate, share, learn – 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 in this area. 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 a unique focus on multidisciplinary collaboration

Expert consultation on best practice and an international model of response

Original training curricula and resource materials – in print and online

Distribution of key research on gender-based violence and best practice for responses

Media and public awareness campaigns to underscore how every citizen 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 in after an assault. Knowing how to respond is critical – a negative response can worsen the trauma.

Our *Start by Believing* awareness campaign is leading the way toward a positive community response. The goal is to inform the public, unite allies and supporters, and improve our reactions – changing the world, one response at a time.

ABOUT END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

EVAW International was founded by Sergeant Joanne Archambault (Retired, San Diego Police Department) in 2003, with the goal of improving the criminal justice response to violence against women. Working with professionals inside and outside the system, we seek to improve outcomes for victims, pursuing accountability for their assailants and preventing future attacks.

We envision a world where gender-based violence is unacceptable on every level – 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 not only to heal, but to thrive, they will transform our world with strength, hope, and joy.

