

Some of the nation's leading activists share one thing they wish all students knew. Find inspiration in these words of wisdom from change agents who are impacting communities around the globe.

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**"Sexual assault prevention is everyone's responsibility. As a bystander with the potential to intervene, you can prevent a sexual assault. Learn the warning signs of inappropriate situations and do something."** – Alan D. Berkowitz, Ph.D., Scholar, Researcher and Public Speaker

**"You are never responsible for someone else's choice to commit a crime. Whether you were drinking, had been sexual with the person in the past, went home with him/her, or anything else... you did not deserve to be victimized. You do, however, deserve to be believed. Please utilize the resources on your campus and in your community to help you get the best start on your road to recovery."** – Michelle Issadore, Assistant Director, Lehigh University Women's Center

**"Consent is important for everyone: not just for people above or below a certain age, of a certain gender or orientation, in a certain kind of relationship, with a certain history, or only with certain kinds of touching, but for everyone, all the time, always. I wish everyone knew that because I know our world would be a radically different one if everyone — everyone — always actively sought out consent from everyone else and was deeply invested in consent for and with everyone."** – Heather Corinna, Author and Founder/Editor of Scarleteen.com

**"Saying that men 'can' be survivors of sexual violence is not realistic enough. Acknowledging that men are also survivors of sexual violence is indeed, realistic. When given the chance, as a male or female ally, let men know that they are not alone by simply saying, 'Hey Man, I Got Your Back!'"** – Gabe Wright, The Guys Project Founder

**"If you become a victim of a sexual assault, don't fear the court system. Victim advocates and compassionate judges will treat you with sensitivity."** – The Honorable Irene Sullivan (ret) and Author of "Raised by the Courts"

**"I wish everyone knew that they have the right to healthy, respectful sexual encounters. Expect nothing less. Hold your partners up to that standard. Demand better for you, your friends and your campus community. Respect is sexy."**

– Nancy Schwartzman, Filmmaker, and Founder of whereisyourline.org

**"As men, we have to realize that we have the responsibility, the right, and the opportunity to redefine masculinity and work to prevent violence against women. We have to take advantage of that moment, because doing so benefits not only ourselves but also all of the women in our lives."**

– Joseph Vess, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Men Can Stop Rape

**"Most rapists don't use physical force — they use coercion, alcohol and pressure. Most rape victims know their rapists — it's usually someone they know, trust — even like. No rapists can excuse their behavior. And no rape victim is to blame for what happened."**

– Ben Atherton-Zeman, Creator/Presenter, "Voices of Men"

**"Your voice can help one person, and that one person is you. You will be heard all over the world by those whom you will never know. When you're standing in the Oval office with the President as he signs your bill into law, you begin to hear your own voice and know that one voice can be heard."**

– Laurie Dishman, Senior Vice President, International Cruise Victims

**"Sex should be a mutually pleasurable, fabulous experience for everyone involved. Too often, in our culture, rape hides under a blanket of shame and silence about sexuality. If everyone learned to expect positive sexual experiences, then rape would not be tolerated as much as it is now."**

– Laura Anne Stuart, MPH, Coordinator, Sexual Health Education, Northwestern University

**"Relationships and sex are personal, emotional and powerful. When done right, they can be amazing. When done wrong, they can be devastating. They both require communication, trust and respect. In order to avoid unwanted, unwilling or regretted experiences, always make sure everything is mutual, consensual and respectful."**

– Doug Everhart, Acting Director and Alcohol Programs Manager, Health Education Center University of California, Irvine

**"Administrators want to assist students with sexual assault through educational efforts as well as providing direct services for those students who are survivors. Please consider us allies who want to educate and empower students to work with this significant issue."** – Bob Ruday, Dean of Students, University of Tampa

**"Consent must be every step of the way, or else consent to one form of sexual activity can always imply consent to other forms of sexual activity (which it cannot — sometimes it will, sometimes it won't — making the assumption is the problem). Otherwise, they'd have had intercourse with every person they ever kissed. Any other rule draws the lines arbitrarily or creates a resistance requirement. For example, sometimes oral sex is a limitation, and sometimes it is preparation. If you view it as preparation, it is the initiator's responsibility to be sure to obtain consent for the next act, but it is not the responsibility of the 'object' of the next act to resist it."** – Brett A. Sokolow, J.D., Founder and Managing Partner, National Center for Higher Education Risk Management

**"One student, making one responsible decision, brings us one step closer to ending sexual violence."** – Jessica Heskin, M.A. Violence and Sexual Assault Support Services, California State University, Sacramento