



The response a survivor receives when they first disclose their assault is essential in their healing process. Most survivors of sexual violence disclose the assault or abuse to at least one other person, usually a friend or loved one.

Here are some resources you can use to support a survivor:

ON CAMPUS RESOURCES:

- SARP provides 24/7 support through the crisis line: 617-353-7277
- BU Behavioral Medicine Department: 617-353-3569
- BU Police Department: 617-353-2121

OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES:

- [Boston Area Rape Crisis Center](#)
- [The Network/La Red](#) (focus on LGBTQ & polyamorous survivors).
- [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#)

TO ASSIST A SURVIVOR ONE SHOULD:

- Listen without judging
- Let them know you are glad they told you
- Let them know the assault(s) was not their fault (if that is a concern)
- Let them know they did what was necessary to prevent further harm
- Reassure the survivor that they are cared for and loved
- Let them know they do not have to manage this alone
- Let the survivor know their options rather than telling them what to do:
 - "Do you want to go to the hospital?"
 - "Do you want to talk to someone about this?"



Source: [The National Center for Victims of Crime](#)



RAPE MYTHS

Are stereotypes and false beliefs about sexual violence, perpetrators, and survivors of sexual violence. These beliefs are used to place blame of sexual violence on anyone and anything other than the person who committed the violence.

COMMON RAPE MYTHS

- Rape is usually violent and involves a stranger
- A victim must have “asked for it” by being drunk or high
- There are a lot of false rape reports
- Women commonly lie about being raped
- Men do not experience sexual assault
- It cannot be rape if the victim and rapist have previously had consensual sex

Here are some resources you can check out in case you want to learn more about sexual violence prevention or to get involved

On-Campus:

ON-CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW

- It's On Us
- 16,000 Strong
- CGSA
- Student Government

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

- Netflix's documentary "Disclosure"
- The Bystander Moment

