Resources for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Assault
www.american.edu/sexualassault

American University does not tolerate sexual misconduct of any kind. Studies tell us that, unfortunately, 1 in 4 women will be the victim of sexual assault during their time in college and that, in fact, 1 in 10 men will be victims of this crime during their lifetime. Studies also tell us that sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes both on and off college campuses.

It is for this reason that American University remains committed to empowering students who experience sexual assault or other forms of sexual misconduct to pursue their options for disciplinary, criminal, and civil action, if they choose to do so. Complaints may be filed through the university student conduct process, by reporting an incident to law enforcement, or by filing a civil case. Each of these choices is a separate action.

The university provides a number of resources to support students, family members, and friends who may need assistance:

**On-Campus Resources**

**Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator** (202) 885-3055 sapc@american.edu
- AU’s Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator is a confidential resource who will provide support and guidance to victims/survivors or to friends and family members needing help.

**Counseling Center** (202)885-3500
- The Counseling Center offers confidential counseling, support, and referrals for victims/survivors of sexual misconduct and is available to respond in an emergency when needed.

**Student Health Center** (202) 885-3380
- The Student Health Center can provide confidential follow-up medical care, testing for sexually transmitted infections, emergency contraception, as well as resource and referral information.

**Kay Spiritual Life Center** (202)885-3320
- Ordained clergy affiliated with the Kay Spiritual Life Center can provide confidential counseling, support, and referrals for victims/survivors of sexual misconduct.

*Office of the Dean of Students* (202) 885-3300 dos@american.edu
- The Office of the Dean of Students will assist a victim/survivor with housing relocation, academic schedule changes, obtaining a university “no contact” order against the alleged perpetrator, and filing a case with the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Services, Academic Affairs, or Human Resources.

*Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution Services* (202)885-3328 conduct@american.edu
- Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution Services provides administrative support and direction for resolution of alleged violations of the Student Conduct Code through application of the Student Conduct process.

*Housing and Dining Programs* (202)885-3370
- Student and professional staff in Housing and Dining Programs can assist victims/survivors in accessing all resources listed above. Staff can be reached at all times by contacting the front desk of your residence hall or by calling Public Safety.

*Note: Resources identified with an asterisk are required by law to bring reports of sexual misconduct to the attention of the Office of the Dean of Students and, if the incident occurs on or near the campus the incident must be reported to Public Safety. Staff members in these offices cannot guarantee the confidentiality of the victim/survivor but will do all possible to protect his/her privacy and provide options for moving forward in the reporting process.*
**Off-Campus Resources**

**Law Enforcement**
- Metropolitan Police Department
  - Sexual Assault Unit (202) 727-3700
- District of Columbia (DC) Rape Crisis Center
  - 24/7 crisis hotline (202) 333-7273

**Helping a friend**

Helping someone can be a scary situation, but it’s important to know what do to help someone in need. If you are trying to help a friend:

- Believe them. Statements such as, “I believe you” and “It wasn’t your fault” can be extremely helpful.
- Make sure they feel safe in their current location.
- Listen and be available.
- Don’t judge or blame your friend for what happened.
- Encourage action but allow your friend to decide what actions to take. For example, encourage your friend to seek medical attention, but do not force them to do so. Making choices helps your friend to regain control lost during the assault.
- Be patient. Healing from a sexual assault takes time. Continue to offer your support to your friend throughout the coming weeks and months, or even longer. Remember that every healing process is unique.
- Get support for yourself. Supporting a friend can result in stress and confusion in your own life. You can also utilize the resources available to victims/survivors to help yourself cope with this stress.
- Remember: the assault is not your friend’s fault.

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