

## ACTION PLAN FOR ALUMNI:

College sexual assault should matter beyond your own college years.

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### #1 Learn About the Problem

First, the bad news: Sexual assault is a big problem on campuses across the country and often begins during the first 15 weeks of freshman year— but it doesn't necessarily stop at Thanksgiving break. The good news is that there is a movement of people who are demanding that our campuses become safer, and that sexual assault has no part in the educational experience. Whether you graduated last spring or thirty years ago, you need to continue your education now.

Know the basics:

- Girls between 16 and 24 are at the highest risk of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
- Young women who go to college are more likely to experience rape than young women who do not.
- Most rapes are committed by a small group of college men, who are considered serial rapists.
- Rape also happens to young men and in same sex relationships.

Three pieces of legislation—[Title IX](#), [The Clery Act](#), and [The Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#)— govern the rules about sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in higher education.

We also recommend [www.notalone.gov](http://www.notalone.gov), [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov), and [KnowYourIX.org](http://KnowYourIX.org), which have information for parents, students, and others interested in learning more.

### #2 Talk to Your Peers

Many of us made friends for life in college. If you continue to have individual friendships or attend group events, bring this issue into the conversation. It may not always be the most comfortable discussion, but because violence thrives in silence, we have to speak up in order to stop it.

Here are some ways to introduce it:

- Did you see the article about [X] school in the newspaper?
- I had a friend who had that experience in college—I wish I had done something more.
- What do you think about all this conversation about sexual assault in college? Did you know anyone that went through that?

### #3 Ask Questions Before You Write the Check

So, this is where the rubber meets the road. Let's face it—many of us write checks to support our alma mater. There is nothing wrong with asking your school to attach your money to solutions that support a respectful and non-violent institution.

If you recently graduated, you already know what the culture is and what policies and programming are in place. If the programs and policies are good, let your school know they are doing a good job. If they could be improved, ask them what their plan is to make the campus safer.



If it's been awhile since you've been in contact with your school:

- Ask what policies and programming currently address sexual assault, harassment, or stalking.
- Ask if they've had lawsuits filed (you can see on [www.notalone.gov](http://www.notalone.gov) which schools are currently under federal investigation for Title IX infractions).
- Ask if they have a specific center that supports survivors of sexual assault and dating violence.
- Ask them to respond to you before you write the check.



*For more than 30 years, Futures Without Violence has led the way and set the pace in innovative educational programs, public action campaigns, policy development, and leadership training designed to end violence against women, children, and families around the world. Instrumental in developing the landmark Violence Against Women Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 1994, Futures Without Violence has established an International Conference Center that will engage today's diverse national and global leaders, stand with survivors, and continue working to break the silence around gender-based violence. Learn more [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org).*

