

April 2021

## Pamphlet: Stop Rape

Women's Rape Crisis Center

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# STOP RAPE

## IDENTIFICATION

WOMEN'S  
RAPE CRISIS  
CENTER  
ADVOCATE  
384-6488



~~EYES~~ HEIGHT



## **the women's rape crisis center**

Concerned about the incidence of rape—403 reported cases in 1973—in Jacksonville and the lack of services available to victims, a group of thirty women were motivated to form the Women's Rape Crisis Center.

Months of planning how to provide services to rape victims preceded the center's opening on March 1, 1974. A month later, WRCC became a non-profit corporation with two coordinators, a treasurer and an increasingly active 15-member board of directors.

The Women's Rape Crisis Center operates a 24-hour hotline which recent or previous rape victims may call for counseling or assistance. WRCC volunteers, who have been screened and trained specifically for the center are on duty to handle each call confidentially and individually.

## **what happens when a rape victim calls?**

Whether a rape victim needs someone to care for her children while she travels through legal procedures or whether she wants to talk about her experience, a WRCC volunteer is ready.

When a woman calls the hotline—384-2234—she leaves her name and telephone numbers with the volunteer at the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Center. The information is given to a WRCC phone volunteer—called an advocate—who will return her call immediately. Then the advocate attempts to determine what services the victim needs.

Once the victim's immediate concerns are taken care of (such as medical attention, temporary shelter or fear of being alone) the WRCC advocate provides information about police procedures, hospital examinations, venereal and pregnancy testing and court procedures. WRCC will also provide accompaniment to the hospital emergency room and through the legal and judicial processes, if desired. The services are

tailored to what the victim needs and wants.

At all times, the victim is encouraged to make her own decisions. The advocate's responsibility is to make sure that the rape victim is aware of all the options available to her. Referrals to medical, legal and social service agencies are made where indicated. And, of course, follow-up telephone calls to the rape victim are made by the same advocate to lessen the effect of what often is a very traumatic experience for a woman.

## **who calls the WRCC?**

During the first six months of operation, the Women's Rape Crisis Center has received dozens of calls ranging from requests for information to reports of obscene telephone calls and from reports of sexual abuse to requests for a good listening ear. The center has received just as many calls for general information on procedural matters and the operation of the center.

Although WRCC makes no decisions for the victim, about 70% of those who call us decide to report their experiences to the police. However, we find that many victims do not call within



the first few hours after they have been raped. Instead, the majority call a day or two later. While we are glad that they call . . . it would be more advisable for a victim to call within hours of the rape so that a hospital examination, if chosen, would provide evidence valuable in establishing the rape for the judicial process.

## **what are WRCC's other services?**

The second most important service provided by the Women's Rape Crisis Center is education . . . with the Speakers' Bureau being the primary tool. Composed of volunteers who have also served as advocates, the bureau is available to provide educational programs to community organizations and agencies which request it. By calling the hotline—384-2234—a group can request such speakers.

The speakers, having served as advocates, are able to speak to the rape situation with first-hand knowledge of the problems encountered by local women. The speakers are able to inform the public of WRCC services, the nature and prevalence of rape, the laws covering it, short-term and long-term rape prevention methods and are able to dispel some of the common myths surrounding rape.

While the Speaker's Bureau does not charge a fee for its programs, the center hopes to receive donations or honorariums for the presentations. The Women's Rape Crisis Center's only source of funding at this time is donations of time services or money.

Other services the WRCC is providing include the development of a good working relationship between itself and the local law enforcement agencies. The center is attempting to develop research data on the facts surrounding local rapes. WRCC is working with local agencies to establish a permanent Rape Services Center where women can go immediately for care. The center is interested in investigating and improving existing laws concerning rape and in the hiring of women by law enforcement agencies to deal with rape victims.

The center offers discussion groups for rape victims wishing to talk about their experiences with other women who share the same problem.

The center is concerned about the availability of self-defense courses for women. The center believes that most women are not "programmed" to assault other human beings and that such maneuvers must be perfected if they are to do any good. Self-defense is also a state of mind, involving self confidence and such fundamentals as locking the car and composing oneself in a panicky situation.

## **WRCC's future could include you**

Rape is finally being regarded with as much serious attention as are other violent crimes . . . no longer is rape discussed in hushed tones or masked with bad jokes. Because of this emerging attitude, the Women's Rape Crisis Center has been readily accepted by the Jacksonville community. We want to expand our present services and hope to work with other agencies in establishing self-defense courses and a treatment center for sex offenders.

All of this requires woman-power and money-power generated from the community. No matter what the individual's skills, she can find a place at WRCC. Typing, distributing stickers and brochures, mailing, doing research — are all as needed as serving as an advocate or speaker. We need your woman-power to help other women . . . to STOP RAPE.

**MYTH:** Women get raped at night in dark alleys by strangers.

**TRUTH:** Most rapes—approximately 60%—occur in homes and residences. The majority of the victims—nearly two thirds—have previously met their rapists.

**MYTH:** Rape is a sexual act.

**TRUTH:** Rape is an act of violence.

**MYTH:** Rapists are psychotic, sick human beings.

**TRUTH:** In psychological tests, rapists tend to score normally.

**MYTH:** Women ask to be raped by men who suddenly lose control for once in their lives because of the clothes the women wear, the places they go and the way they act.

**TRUTH:** Rapists often choose for their victims women who are vulnerable because of age or illness. Studies have shown that the rapist is not "turned on" by physical appearance. Some law enforcement officials estimate that the average rapist performs his act of violence once a week.

IF YOU HAD TROUBLE SEPARATING MYTH FROM REALITY, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE OR IN HELPING TO EDUCATE OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY. IF SO, PLEASE FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW AND RETURN TO WRCC.

- Send more information.
- I want to donate my services to WRCC.
- My organization wants WRCC to speak.
- Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which is tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Women's Rape Crisis Center  
P.O. Box 10572  
Jacksonville, Fla. 32207