

“I am weary of all our sad stories—not hearing them, but that we have these stories to tell, that there are so many.”—Roxane Gay

“Basic protections against sexual assault and access to justice should be available to everyone, no matter their gender, age, nationality, or citizenship.”—Rise

SURVIVORS RISE: Roxane Gay and Amanda Nguyen in Conversation

A Visions and Voices Signature Event
Presented as Part of the Provost's
Series on Wicked Problems

Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Bovard Auditorium
University of Southern California

KNOW BEFORE THE SHOW

- Roxane Gay is the best-selling author of books including *Bad Feminist* and *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*.
- Amanda Nguyen is an activist and founder of the nonprofit Rise, which advocates for the rights of survivors of sexual assault. She has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- They are two faces of diverse, multifaceted global movements to end sexual violence.

ROXANE GAY

Roxane Gay is the author of several books, including *Bad Feminist*, *Difficult Women*, and the *New York Times* best seller *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*, which looks at her relationship to her own body in the aftermath of a traumatic sexual assault. She is a contributing writer to the *New York Times*, and is beloved by fans both in print and on social media.

AMANDA NGUYEN AND RISE

Amanda Nguyen is the founder of Rise, a national nonprofit advocating for the rights of survivors of sexual assault. She became an activist after surviving a rape and then surviving the cavalier treatment of her case by the criminal-legal system. Rise drafted the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights, which Congress voted unanimously to add to the U.S. federal code in 2016. Rise is now working to get Survivors' Bills of Rights in every U.S. state and to support the rights of survivors globally.



THE STATISTICS*

- Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted.
- 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape.
- About 1 in 33 American men have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape.
- The United Nations estimates that worldwide, 35 percent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate-partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner.
- A multi-country study by the UN found that men who witnessed their fathers using violence against their mothers, and men who experienced some form of violence at home as children, were significantly more likely to report perpetrating intimate partner violence in their adult relationships.
- Sexual assault affects hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. every year.
- The rate of sexual assault and rape in the United States has fallen by 63 percent since 1993.

*RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) notes, “Sexual violence is notoriously difficult to measure, and there is no single source of data that provides a complete picture of the crime.” Many statistics rely on the National Crime Victimization Survey and data from the Department of Justice, which means that the available data is strongly related to which acts of violence have been reported to authorities—and many instances of sexual violence are never reported.

Sources: RAINN, UN Women

SURVIVORS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2016 (HR 5578)

- This bill amends the federal criminal code to establish statutory rights for sexual assault survivors, including the right to: (1) not be prevented from receiving a forensic medical examination and not be charged for an examination; (2) have a sexual assault evidence collection kit (i.e., a rape kit) preserved for 20 years or the maximum applicable statute of limitations, whichever is shorter; (3) receive written notification prior to destruction or disposal of a rape kit; and (4) be informed of these rights and policies.
- Additionally, it makes statutory crime victims’ rights applicable to sexual assault survivors.
- The term “sexual assault” means any nonconsensual sexual act prohibited by federal, state, or tribal law, including when a victim lacks capacity to consent.
- Funds made available to the Crime Victims Fund under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 must be used to carry out the requirements concerning these rights, subject to specified exceptions.
- The bill amends the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to authorize the Department of Justice’s (DOJ’s) Office of Justice Programs to make grants to states to develop sexual assault survivors’ rights and policies and to disseminate written notice of such rights and policies to medical centers, hospitals, forensic examiners, sexual assault service providers, law enforcement agencies, and other state entities.
- DOJ must establish a working group to develop, coordinate, and disseminate best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence.

Summary of HR 5578 provided by congress.gov.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' BILL OF RIGHTS

AMERICA NEEDS THIS COMMON-SENSE BILL

1 IN 6 WOMEN ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

A RAPE OCCURS EVERY 107 SECONDS

25 MILLION SURVIVORS

MISSION: COMPREHENSIVE RIGHTS FOR ALL SURVIVORS

A NONPARTISAN BILL THAT UPHOLDS AMERICAN VALUES

- THE RIGHT TO FAIR + EFFICIENT RAPE KIT PROCEDURES
- THE RIGHT TO NOTICE + ACCESS TO INFORMATION
- THE RIGHT TO FAIR LEGAL PROCEDURES
- THE RIGHT TO SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' COUNSELORS

EQUALITY

NONPARTISAN

LIBERTY

RISE Learn more at www.risenow.us

Infographic: www.risenow.us

Rise Sexual Assault Bill of Rights Achievement Timeline

2014

- November 2014**
Rise is founded by Amanda Nguyen

2016

- February 2016**
Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights introduced in U.S. Senate
- March 2016**
Virginia passes its own Bill of Rights (SB 201)
Oregon passes its own Bill of Rights (SB 1571)
- June 2016**
Washington passes its own Bill of Rights (HB 2530)
- September 2016**
Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights passes in U.S. Congress
President Obama signs Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights into federal law
- October 2016**
Massachusetts passes its own Bill of Rights (H. 1278)

2017

- March 2017**
Virginia passes its own Bill of Rights (HB 2127)
Utah passes its own Bill of Rights (HB 200)
- April 2017**
Idaho passes its own Bill of Rights (HB 147)
Maryland passes its own Bill of Rights (HB 0255)
- May 2017**
Vermont passes its own Bill of Rights (H 74), Act 44
- October 2017**
California passes its own Bill of Rights (AB 1312)

2018

- March 2018**
South Dakota passes its own Bill of Rights (HB 1128)
New York changes rape kit retention from 30 days to 20 years in FY 2019 budget

Infographic: www.risenow.us

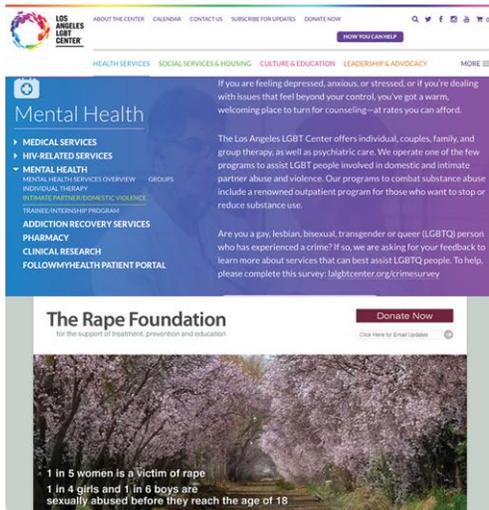
NEED HELP?

CALL

National Sexual
Assault Hotline

800.656.HOPE

800.656.4673



VOCABULARY CORNER

Many activists and advocacy organizations use the term “rape survivor” rather than “rape victim.” This is because “victim” implies a passivity, while “survivor” evokes the agency, resilience, and power of the person who has experienced rape or sexual assault. That said, some individuals prefer to call themselves “victims” rather than “survivors,” and some people choose to use both terms. It’s important to respect personal preferences about how people want to describe themselves, while also making conscious choices about the language you use in describing others.

MOVEMENTS TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

While #MeToo (founded by Tarana Burke more than a decade ago) has made sexual violence the subject of a major, mainstream conversation in the last few years, movements to end sexual violence have existed around the world for many generations. These movements are extremely diverse. Some advocates seek to end violence against women by through legislation and the criminal-legal system; some community organizers tie ending sexual violence to transformative justice and try to expand society-shifting work around how power is embodied and enforced; and many engage in anti-violence action that combines multiple theories and approaches. Feminist and women’s rights movements in particular have played a central role in highlighting, challenging, and working to end sexual violence on multiple fronts.

RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

- ☉ National Sexual Assault Hotline
800.656.HOPE (4673)
- ☉ The East Los Angeles Women’s Center
www.elawc.org
- ☉ Peace over Violence
www.peaceoverviolence.org/
- ☉ The LA LGBT Center’s Intimate Partner/Domestic Violence Support Services
www.lalgbtcenter.org/health-services/mental-health/intimate-partner-domestic-violence
- ☉ The Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center
www.therapefoundation.org/programs/rape-treatment-center/

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES AT USC

- ☉ Counseling and Mental Health Services
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/
- ☉ Department of Public Safety
dps.usc.edu
- ☉ Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP)
studenthealth.usc.edu/rsvp/
- ☉ Student Affairs and Cultural Centers
studentaffairs.usc.edu
- ☉ Student Assembly for Gender Empowerment
www.facebook.com/SAGEUSC/
- ☉ Title IX / Office of Equity and Diversity
titleix.usc.edu
- ☉ Violence Outreach Intervention and Community Empowerment (VOICE)
studenthealth.usc.edu/rsvp/voice/

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Who is affected by sexual violence? How does it affect families, communities, and societies?
- Movements to end sexual violence are multiple and diverse. Did you hear different approaches being discussed in this event? Name a few.
- What do you think is the role of social movements in ending sexual violence? What is the role of the individual? Of the community? Of the government?

TO LEARN MORE OR TAKE ACTION, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Roxane Gay on social media • @rgay
- Rise • www.risenow.us
- RAINN • www.rainn.org
- Survivor Love Letter • www.survivorloveletter.com
- A Window Between Worlds • www.awbw.org
- Generation Five • www.generationfive.org

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

TIFFANEY VALENZUELA of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about Gay, Nguyen, and this evening's event. Those with a call number (e.g., books) are physical items which you can find in our campus libraries. Those without a call number (e.g. journal articles and databases) are electronic resources, which you can access through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu.

BOOKS

- 1) Barry, Louise, Rachel Corbman, Melissa M. Forbis, Lani Hanna, and Monica Johnson. *Take Back the Fight: Resisting Sexual Violence from the Ground Up*. New York: Interference Archive, 2017.
DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: HV6558.T35 2017
- 2) Clark, Annie E., and Andrea L. Pino. *We Believe You: Survivors of Campus Sexual Assault Speak Out*, 1st ed. New York: Holt Paperbacks, 2016.
DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: LB2345.3.R37 C53 2016
- 3) Gay, Roxane. *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*. New York: Harper, 2017.
DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: BF697.5.B63 G39 2017
LEAVEY LIBRARY: MCN 3779

- 4) Renzetti, Claire M., Jeffrey L. Edleson, and Raquel Kennedy Bergen. *Sourcebook on Violence Against Women*, 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2018.
DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: HV6250.4.W65 S68 2017
- 5) Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016. Washington, D.C: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2016.
AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA U.S. GPO ONLINE DATABASE
- 6) Ullman, Sarah E. *Talking About Sexual Assault: Society's Response to Survivors*, 1st ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.
DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: HV6558.U45 2010

ARTICLES

- 1) Ahrens, Courtney E., Janna Stansell, Amy Jennings, and Courtney E. Ahrens. "To Tell or Not to Tell: The Impact of Disclosure on Sexual Assault Survivors' Recovery." *Violence and Victims* 25, no. 5 (January 1, 2010): 631-648.
<http://search.proquest.com/docview/763473696/>.
AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA PROQUEST CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATABASE
- 2) Bordere, Tashel. "Disenfranchisement and Ambiguity in the Face of Loss: The Suffocated Grief of Sexual Assault Survivors." *Family Relations* 66, no. 1 (February 2017): 29-45.
AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA WILEY ONLINE LIBRARY DATABASE MODEL 2017 DATABASE
- 3) Campbell, Rebecca, Hannah Feeney, Steven J. Pierce, Dhruv B. Sharma, and Giannina Fehler-Cabral. "Tested at Last: How DNA Evidence in Untested Rape Kits Can Identify Offenders and Serial Sexual Assaults." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 33, no. 24 (December 2018): 3792-3814.
AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA SAGE JOURNALS PREMIER 2018 DATABASE

MEDIA

Archive, TED. *Re-Writing Laws to Help Sexual Assault Survivors*. YouTube. December 20, 2016. Accessed January 09, 2019.
<https://youtu.be/rBJBi8oyG18>.

DATABASES

- 1) **JSTOR** – A comprehensive research database for social sciences, humanities, and more. Contains millions of academic journal articles, books, and primary sources.
- 2) **PsycINFO** – Published by the American Psychological Association, a comprehensive index of journals, books, dissertations, and reports related to psychology, behavior, and mental health.
- 3) **Violence & Abuse Abstracts** – A carefully curated bibliographic index of materials pertaining to family violence, sexual assault, emotional abuse, and other related topics.

