



Survivors Speaking Out: The Legacy of Celebrity Cases

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The Statistics:

1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime with 'IPV-related impact' such as being concerned for their safety, PTSD symptoms, injury, or needing victim services.



Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M. & Chen, J. (2018). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2015 data brief - updated release. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>



The Statistics:

- Approximately 1 in 5 female victims and 1 in 20 male victims need medical care.
- Female victims sustain injuries 3x more often than male victims.
- 23.2% of women and 13.9% of men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.

The Statistics:

According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, More than half (54%) of respondents experienced some form of intimate partner violence, including acts involving coercive control and physical harm.

<https://vawnet.org/material/2015-us-transgender-survey-report>





**Words can be action –
and for people who have
been denied a voice, they
can be revolutionary.**

– Sheri Linden,
The Hollywood Reporter



Tarana Burke and the #MeToo Movement



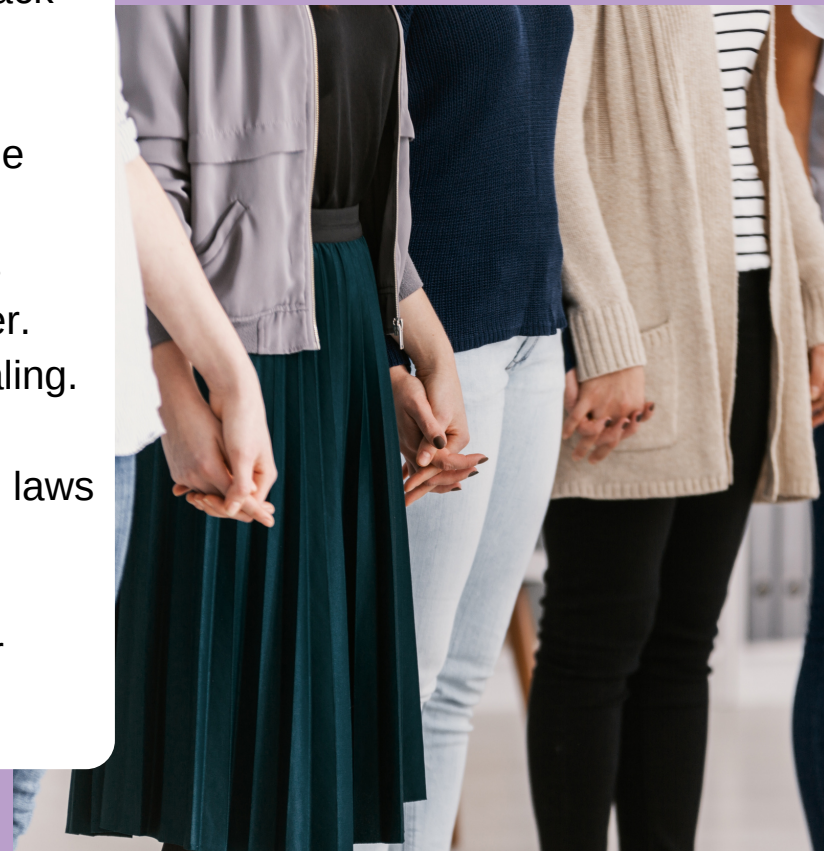
“When I started putting the pieces together of what helped me, it was having other survivors empathize with me.” --Tarana Burke 2006

“If you’ve been sexually harassed or assaulted write ‘me too’ as a reply to this Tweet.”
-- Alyssa Milano 2017

“It made my heart swell to see women using this idea — one that we call ‘empowerment through empathy’, to not only show the world how widespread and pervasive sexual violence is, but also to let other survivors know they are not alone. It’s beyond a hashtag. It’s the start of a larger conversation and a movement for radical community healing.”
--Tarana Burke 2017

The impact that the #MeToo Movement has for survivors who choose to share their stories:

- Let's other survivors know they are not alone
- Empowers women to have a voice and take back control of their story.
- Raises awareness of the impact of abuse and educates people about the many aspects of the issues.
- Develops a strong community where survivors have a voice and can connect with one another.
- Offers hope to other survivors in their own healing.
- Demonstrates how widespread the issue is.
- Paves the way for updated and newly enacted laws and policies.
- Allows survivors to break the silence.
- Destigmatizes the abuse and makes it safe for discussions.



“I really didn’t think people would listen or care about my story because I had lived such an invisible life. There was a part of me that knew why they were listening. I mean, I’m a White person. I am a success story. I’m on the other side of things. We don’t like to listen to people who are still angry, who are still in poverty, especially people of color. I kind of saw that happening leading up to it and it terrified me. But I at least hoped that if they were listening to me, they would start listening to others and it would open doors for more marginalized people to talk about their lives.”



-- Stephanie Land, Author
“Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay and
a Mother’s Will to Survive”

Ways a survivor may choose to speak out and share their experience:

- Join a support group in their community or join one online.
- Volunteer at a domestic violence organization or rape crisis center.
- Telling one's story through journaling or poetry.
- Using Activism Campaigns. For example: The Clothesline Project.





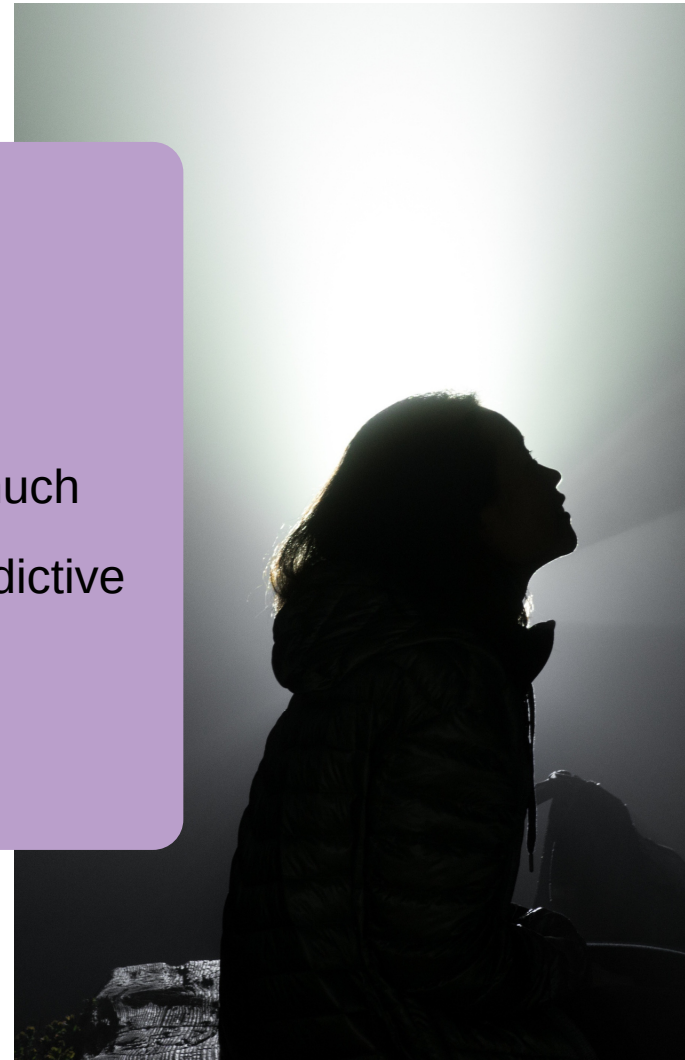
The #MeToo Backlash & the Heard/Depp Case

“Then two years ago, I became a public figure representing domestic abuse.”

-- Amber Heard, OpEd Washington Post, 2018.

The Perfect Victim

- The perfect victim is innocent.
- She doesn't drink or do drugs.
- She has a clear memory of her assault.
- She has corroborating evidence – but not too much evidence because that would indicate she's vindictive and planned to speak out.
- The perfect victim comes forward reluctantly.



The Perfect Victim

- She cuts off contact with her abuser as soon as the abuse takes place.
- She does no wrong – At the office, in relationships, as a mother or daughter.
- She has never lied about anything, ever, in her entire life.
- She dresses “appropriately.”
- Ideally she’s virginal.

The reality is... THE PERFECT VICTIM DOES NOT EXIST



The Perfect Victim...Double Binds

- If she did not take photos of her injuries, the abuse didn't happen.

If she did take photos, they're fake, manufactured and designed to frame him.

- If she did not tell her family or friends about the abuse, she's lying about it.

If she did tell family and friends, they're lying for her, they've been coached, and part of the hoax.

- If she did not seek medical treatment for her injuries, she wasn't really injured.

If she did seek medical treatment, her entire medical history is combed and used against her as evidence that she is mentally ill and unstable.

- If she ever tried to minimize her partner's abusive behavior, then it's not abuse.

If she talked back or fought back, then she is the real abuser.

- If she cries on the stand, she is overly emotional, messy and hysterical.

If she testifies with perfect composure, she is calculated and unfeeling.

The Truth: Domestic Abuse is Messy & Complicated

- Survivors frequently stay with their abuser fearing economic, social or physical repercussions if they leave.
- Survivors sometimes fight back.
- Victims can be flawed: They don't need to be pure or sober to tell the truth.



The Internet & Social Media as Tools for Abuse

Two court decisions, among other factors, that significantly contributed to Depp's ability to humiliate, shame, and further abuse Heard.

1. The Judge's decision to permit cameras in the courtroom
2. The decision to not sequester the jury.

