I believe you.
I’m sorry this happened.
How can I help?
WHEN A VICTIM COMES TO YOU, HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Start by Believing is the global campaign designed to transform the way we respond to sexual assault. It prepares professionals and loved ones to respond appropriately to sexual assault disclosures, so victims get the support they need. The campaign was created by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI), America’s leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving criminal justice responses to sexual assault.

Knowing how to respond is critical. A negative response can worsen the victim’s trauma and foster an environment where perpetrators face zero consequences. Rapists often re-offend, so one failed response can mean additional victims.

Start by Believing was created to stop this cycle, by improving our personal reactions. The goal is to change the world, and outcomes for victims, one response at a time.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After we Start by Believing, how do we help?

Seek Then Speak is a multilingual platform that enables victims and their support people to gather information, explore options, and take action. They can connect however they are most comfortable – by voice over the phone, via the web, or by using a mobile app. Victims can even begin the process of reporting directly to law enforcement and requesting supportive services through Victim Link.

Together, Seek Then Speak and Victim Link close the gap between victims and the help they need.