

The SATO Scoop

USY's Monthly Social Action/Tikun Olam Newsletter

April 2015



Letter from the Editor

Hello Friends, USYers, Good-Deed Doers, & Generous People,

This month is sexual assault awareness month, and as such, I wanted to open your eyes to an issue that is much too prevalent in the world, America, each state, our communities, and many of our individual lives as well.

As you read this issue, I invite you not to shy away from the issues being discussed. Reading and hearing about these cases can be uncomfortable, scary, and saddening. But it is our responsibility as humans, Jews, and USYers to repair the Earth. To do so, we must first be willing to look at where it is broken.

So look at the data, read the personal story, discover ways to help, and follow @USYSATO on Twitter for updates on programming throughout the month. Be an advocate for making the world a better place, and help stop sexual assault.

Hannah Smith
The SATO Scoop Editor



Meet Your IGB

Hey there USY! I'm Jenny Gurev and I'm thrilled to serve as one of this year's IGB SATOs! I'm currently a junior living in the wonderful city of Sacramento, CA, and a proud member of New Frontier Region, in which I sport the position of Regional SATO VP. I have exerted my passion for changing the world in the realm of hunger through heading my region's 2014-2015 SATO initiative YES WE CAN. It is through this passion that I have realized that each and everyone one of us have the ability to make a difference; however, when we come together the level of contribution multiplies. As your SATO IGB, I want to help you bring to life the causes of which you are passionate about and spark change together!

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."
-Margaret Mead

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Sexual assault awareness (p. 2, 3)

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- A USY alum's personal account of sexual assault
- Learn about organizations combating sexual assault
- Learn what you can do to make a difference

SATO programs for your chapter (p. 4)

- Cookies for the Ronald McDonald House

Everyone Matters Day 2015 (p. 4)

Know the Facts

44%

of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18

68%

of sexual assaults are not reported to the police

107

Every 107 seconds, another American is sexually assaulted

4x

Victims of sexual assault are 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide

26x

Victims of sexual assault are 26 times more likely to abuse drugs

Source: RAINN

What is sexual assault?

The exact definition of sexual assault is “**unwanted sexual contact that stops short of rape or attempted rape. This includes sexual touching and fondling**”. Some states use this term interchangeably with rape, while others choose to separate the two. The important word here is unwanted. A large issue associated with sexual violence is that often times, the victim is blamed. **The victim is never at fault. No person is ever “asking for it”. If it is unwanted, it is illegal.**

An anonymous USY alum’s personal account of their recovery from sexual assault:

“I want to say that I am not a survivor. I have not yet gotten to a point in my life without his presence in my mind, but I have come to realize that when I think about him, I realize that I am not at fault. **Even if it wasn’t a bloody, violent “rape” as I believed a rape was characterized, it was wrong. And I wasn’t the one who was doing wrong; I was wronged.** I know that that realization alone is progress. For that reason, I am not a survivor. I am a thriver. I am a thriver because I am not a fragile skeleton of who I used to be. I have taken this experience into my being and learned about why it’s important to get consent. I have learned so much about how to treat others and how to communicate about feelings. I have learned so much about what I am comfortable with. As hard as it was to do so, I have learned a lot from what happened to me. I believe I am a more sensitive, empathetic person today because of him. I am no longer a bird caged by this experience; this experience is caged by me. **I am still fearful, still cautious, still bothered, but I am not captive to him and the memory of him attacking me. I am more than a survivor. I am a thriver.**”

Who is working to fix this?

Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN)

RAINN is the nation’s “largest anti-sexual violence organization”. It operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE), runs programs to stop sexual violence, promotes justice against rapists, aids victims, and partners with over 1,000 rape crisis centers. This work prompted Worth magazine to name RAINN one of “America’s top 100 charities”. Click [here](#) to visit RAINN’s website and learn more. To learn how to help someone who has suffered from sexual abuse, click [here](#).

National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)

NSVRC is an organization dedicated to providing resources for awareness and prevention of sexual violence. It organizes the annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April. NSVRC provides statistics, programs, and initiatives focused on preventing sexual violence. Click [here](#) to visit their website for more information on their projects and resources. For more information on SAAM, click [here](#).

Make a difference.

1. Volunteer for National Sexual Assault Hotlines
2. Help raise money for rape crisis centers
3. Volunteer for a local rape crisis center (click [here](#) to find a rape crisis center in your area)
4. Plan a program with your region or chapter to educate about sexual assault (click [here](#) for resources from RAINN or email sato@usy.org for help planning a program)
5. Organize a Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign (click [here](#) for more information about SAAM)

