

## Other ways you can help:

Learn about sexual assault  
and become a spokesperson in your community.

Donate to SCCADVASA or your local  
sexual assault organization.

Volunteer your time at your local  
sexual assault organization.

For a referral to local resources, contact SCCADVASA during office hours at 803-256-2900. Or, you can always call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 for 24-hour assistance. This project was supported by Grant no. 2016-X1614-SC-MU, awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, US Dept. of Justice. The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Dept. of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women.



*What Should I do?*

# 5 Ways to Interrupt Sexual Violence

**Sexual assault impacts thousands of people in our communities every day. In 2015, SCCADVASA's member organizations served:**

- ☀ **DIRECT SURVIVORS: 5,619**
- ☀ **SECONDARY VICTIMS: 3,195**
- ☀ **HOTLINE CALLS: 4,886**
- ☀ **ACCOMPANIED 1,198 SURVIVORS TO THE HOSPITAL**

# 1

## INCREASE AWARENESS



You may not know what signs to look for in an unsafe situation. Make eye contact with the victim to let them know you're aware and look for their signals. Assess the best way to step-in or if the situation is too dangerous to approach alone.

# 2

## DISTRACTION

Do what you can to interrupt the situation. A distraction can give the person at risk a chance to get to a safe place. Cut off the conversation with a diversion. You can also move around physically in a way to create space that disrupts the conversation or potentially harmful behaviors

# 3

## ASK FOR HELP

It can be intimidating to approach a situation alone. Enlist another person to support and come with you when you approach the person at risk. You can also ask someone to intervene in your place, like the person's friend, a bartender, or security guard.

# 4

## DIRECTLY

Talk directly to the person who might be in trouble. Ask questions like "Who did you come here with?" or "Would you like me to stay with you?"

# 5

## SUPPORT

You can be an ally or a friend by letting victims know you stand with them and finding out what they need and how you can better support them after an incident. A simple, "How are you? Can I do anything? I'm so sorry that happened," can make a huge difference.