

is a free and confidential feminist service for women survivors of sexual violence and their supporters. We welcome women from diverse cultural backgrounds.

## We offer:

- Telephone support, information and referral
- Individual support and counselling
- Support groups and workshops
- Community education and social action

## What We're About

BRISSC is a women's only space. We offer information and support in a safe, friendly and empowering environment free of change. The support we provide is based on the belief that you have the right to:

- Be listened to, believed and supported
- Be treated with respect, dignity and understanding
- Deal with your own life, in your own way and at your own pace
- Choose who you tell and when
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Receive practical information including reporting, legal and medical options
- Interpreter support and disability support

*There are no right or wrong ways to feel. Everyone is different. Each woman finds her own way to cope with rape and incest.*

## What is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence can take many forms including sexual harassment, verbal abuse, leering, threats, exposure, unwanted touching, incest, rape, mutilation, and ritual abuse. Sexual violence is a crime.

Any sort of unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone is a form of sexual violence. Sexual violence is about the use of power or force to intimidate or control others.

*One in five women have experienced sexual violence at some stage in their lives, and three in ten women have experienced physical violence* (ABS 2016)

## Sexual Violence a Gendered Crime

Sexual violence is a crime overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women and children. 93% of offenders are male, and women and children are often sexually violated by someone they know. Only about 17% of reported sexual offences result in a conviction (CASA 2014)

Men who choose acts of sexual violence look, act and indeed are ordinary men who come from all walks of life. Many of society's beliefs and practices teach us that it is acceptable for men to dominate and control women. Sexual violence is a way in which many men choose to exert power and control over women and children.

# Nobody ever deserves to be raped.

## Breaking the Silence

Many people in our society hold false ideas about sexual violence. Too often, blame for rape is shifted from the offender to the victim. The reality is that the offender is responsible for sexual violence. Many women and children are silenced and unsupported. The reality is that sexual violence can have long term effects.

The reality is that married and single women, sex workers, women of all ages, women of all classes, cultures, religions and sexualities experience sexual violence.

Sexual violence is used as a weapon in war, in racial violence and in everyday life.

As women supporting each other, we can expose the myths, break the silence and help dispel feelings of isolation, fear and guilt.

## Community Education

*Sexual violence is a whole community problem.*

We are committed to community education through collaborative consultation and workshops with schools, professionals and community groups in order to improve responses to women and children affected by sexual violence.

We provide opportunities for women to meet with other women and engage in social action for social change. Together we can create safe communities for all.

We all have the right to be safe... together we can help end sexual violence.

## How do I contact BRISSC?



Support line: (07) 3391 0004  
Admin line: (07) 3391 2573  
Fax: (07) 3391 4735



Email: [admin@brissc.org.au](mailto:admin@brissc.org.au)  
[www.brissc.org.au](http://www.brissc.org.au)



BRISSC - Brisbane R&I Survivors  
Support Centre



**BRISSC Main Office**  
15 Morrisey St, Woolloongabba 4102

### BRISSC Outreach Services

#### Brisbane Southwest Support (BSwS):

Richlands Community Centre, Cnr of Old Progress  
Rd and Orchard Rd, Richlands 4077

#### Brisbane Northside Sexual Violence Response:

5/1180 Sandgate Rd, Nundah 4012,  
*entry via Chapel St*

BRISSC is accessible via Buranda busway  
or Park Rd train station



Contact Translink  
on 13 12 30  
for transport details

## Contacts for other services

- **1800 RESPECT** 1800 737 732
- **Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline** 1800 010 120
- **DV Connect - Women's Crisis Line** 1800 811 811
- **Murrigunyah Family and Cultural Healing Centre** 07 3290 4254
- **Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre** 07 3843 1823
- **Women with Intellectual & Learning Disabilities (WWild)** 07 3262 9877
- **Immigrant Women's Support Service (IWSS)** 07 3846 5400
- **Women's Legal Service** 1800 677 278



Brisbane Rape & Incest Survivors  
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**Queensland**  
Government

