



Empowering Victims™

2017 NATIONAL ROLLOUT PLAN

Empowering Victims™ is the Social Action Arm of the
Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence





*Empowering Victims*TM

We use mobile technology
to empower victims who
otherwise feel powerless.

EmpoweringVictims.org



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ABOUT *Empowering Victims*TM

How technology makes a difference.

Empowering VictimsTM is the social action arm of ISCE.edu. We are working to combat epidemic levels of Sexual Assault and Bullying. We do this through mobile apps. Our Sexual Assault app allows victims greater control over encounters with authorities. Our Anti-Bullying app allows victims to take control of an encounter with their bully.

Our society faces ongoing pandemics of sexual assault and school-age bullying. Empowering VictimsTM addresses significant portions of these critical issues by giving victims the ability to control sensitive encounters which they were previously unable to control. Our tools help such victims regain a sense of dignity and control through empowering tools unavailable until now. We cannot completely “solve” these pandemics’ trauma, but we can lessen their frequency and degrading effects.

Empowering VictimsTM develops and distributes a mobile app that allow victims of sexual assault to ensure that their story will be heard on their terms. We also have an app that allows victims of school-age bullying to assert control of a brief non-violent encounter with their bully. It also can be used as a safety alert giving designated recipients real-time notice of an incident.

BACKGROUND *Protect=Respect*TM

ISCE.edu was founded in 1999 as an educational research institution seeking to understand how complex change occurs in groups of all sizes. In 2015, we implemented a plan to apply our theoretical insights to the goal of improving safety throughout society. Our mission is to assist victims of sexual assault and bullying.

In 2017, we will add an app to assist domestic violence victims. To do so, we need a partner who will allow us to “ghost” our app inside of theirs so that domestic violence victims can safely have our app on their phone.

The Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence (ISCE) operates as ISCE.edu and as Empowering VictimsTM. We are a 501(c)(3) Public Charity. Our fundraising is supervised by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

We all carry smartphones. Few of us realize how empowering they can be in transforming the lives of those who have been victimized by others.



I've-Been-Violated™

From Victim to Survivor

For the victims of sexual assault, the I've-Been-Violated™ app offer a means of safely recording evidence - with victims telling their own stories - without the necessity of their contacting legal, school, or health authorities before they are ready or able. (More than 85% of such victims are not emotionally prepared to make such contact immediately following an incident.) Our app allows victims of sexual assault to record their story, which is then double-encrypted, stored securely offline, and held in a secure chain of custody - to be made available directly to the appropriate authorities at the time of the victim's choosing. Because of the secure chain of custody, evidence provided by our app helps reduce the credibility challenges which victims often face when coming forward later. Victims can feel helped psychologically and emotionally by knowing they have a means of recording contemporaneous evidence, which will be taken seriously by the authorities, with the timing and release remaining under a victim's control.

With sexual assault, the I've-Been-Violated™ app gives victims control over when their story is heard and by whom.

No app can prevent an assault. Sexual assault victims, however, face especially difficult choices when attempting to report the trauma they experience. The system is not always kind to victims, and date rape victims particularly may hesitate to bring the full weight of the authorities to bear on their predator. As a result, more than 85% of victims wait or do not report at all. When they do report, their credibility and story get questioned – and all too often distorted. This skeptical questioning represents the *second trauma*.

By giving the victim a tool helpful to authorities (specifically, a tamper-proof recording with a secure chain of custody), the victim has ready means to answer credibility questions and avoid the brunt of the second trauma. The tool assures victims that their story will be protected and heard, all under their control.

By removing the stress of “tell now or risk humiliation,” we empower victims to deal with their trauma on their terms. Empowerment comes by giving the victim control over timing and release of their own story, while preserving the enormous impact of a contemporaneous report.

In 2017, we will expand the power of the I've-Been-Violated™ app by adding links to local resources to assist victims with their next steps. Such resources will include the nearest confidential counselor, appropriate helplines, and local health and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, links will be provided to health facilities and advocacy groups.

We intend to adapt the I've-Been-Violated™ app for use by domestic violence victims once we have secured an appropriate “ghosting” partner to disguise the app.

I've-Been-Violated™

How the App Works

The app is incredibly easy to start-up and use. Victims can record their story multiple times as memories return.

Your story needs to be told. But, on your terms: when you are ready.

Step 1: Get to a safe place.

As soon as possible, get to a safe location before starting the app.

Step 2: Activate and run the app.

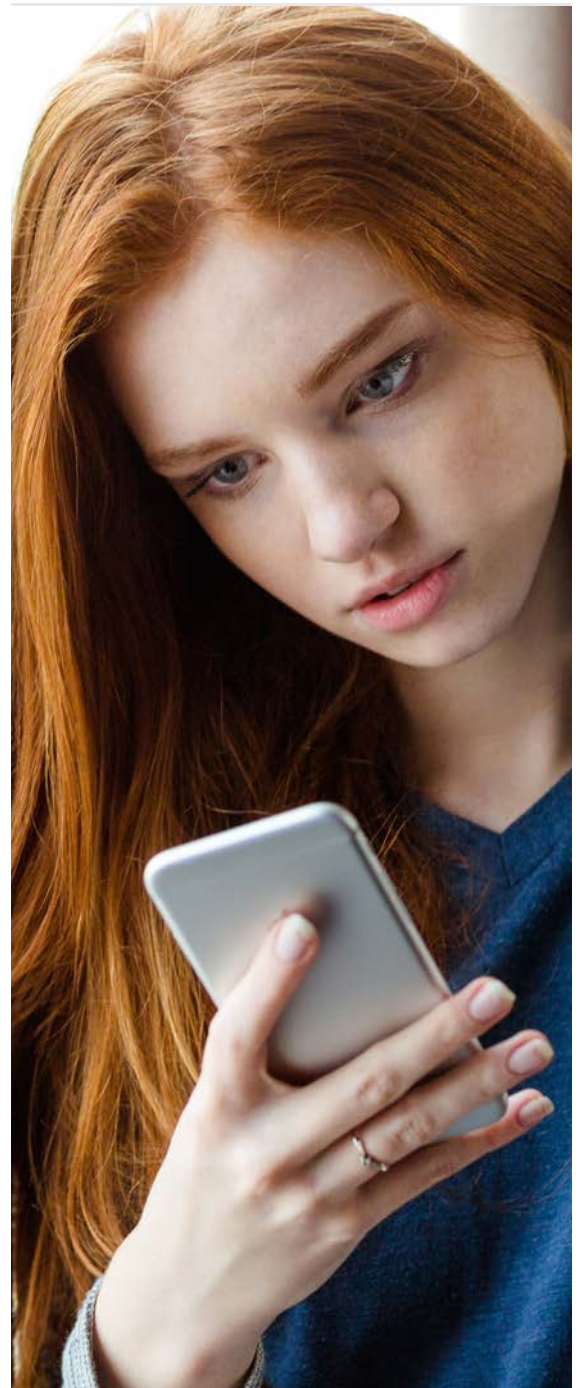
Turn on the app and begin to tell your story by following the on-screen instructions. The app will prompt you on what to say while recording audio and video.

Step 3: Recording encrypted & stored.

An encrypted record of your story is created and stored for future retrieval through the proper channels (not available directly to the user).

Step 4: Authorities access evidence.

When you are ready to do so, contact the appropriate authorities and they can access the video recording. The fact that it was recorded contemporaneously with the violation helps the victim's credibility be maintained.



The-No-App™

The Anti-Bullying App

For victims of school-age bullying, The-No-App™ works to help break the bullying cycle and overcome the sense of powerlessness and humiliation which bullying victims feel. Unless these psychological issues are addressed, a significant number of bullying victims simply continue the cycle by bullying others (or worse, become domestic abusers later in life). The-No-App™ creates the context for a guided non-violent confrontation between the victim and bully. It is designed to promote conversations between parent and child before its use, and to act as a real-time alert whenever the child activates the app. (This sends both SMS and email messages to designated contacts with a map of the smartphone's location. It also creates video evidence which can be used to motivate school officials to intervene.)

Empowerment is the first step to break the bullying cycle.

The-No-App™ addresses the underlying issue known as the Bullying Cycle. Victims of bullying often end up as bullies themselves (or worse, domestic abusers later in life) and have damaged psyches due to continued feelings of powerlessness and humiliation.

While other programs serve noble purposes (e.g., bystander intervention, school reporting, and improved school climate) they fail to address the wounded psyche of the bullied victim. The-No-App™ empowers those victims by giving them a tool to take control of a guided encounter with their bully.

A planned encounter provides the context in which the victim can be empowered. Only the victim knows when the encounter could happen, that a video will be made, and that evidence will be created. And, what happens to that evidence gets determined by the victim and his/her parents – *not* the bully.

If every potential victim has the app on their phone – and bullies know that – the entire atmosphere around bullying will change. The mere existence of the app will serve as a preventative measure.

In 2017, we will expand the power of The-No-App™ by giving both users (students) and their parents (or other designated recipients) links to appropriate local resources, including support groups, counselors, and hotlines. In locales where the school district is involved in the distribution of the app, we will include an optional link for incident reporting.

*The-No-App*TM

How the App Works

The app is designed to first trigger conversations between parent (or guardian) and child. This ensures your child understands what will happen during and after the guided encounter with their bully.

No one should go through life feeling powerless or humiliated by another. Changing these feelings requires that the victims, for once, be in control.

Step 1: Activate and run the app.

Decide to transmit a strong “NO” message telling the bully to leave you alone. Open the app and show the video of the police officer delivering the “NO” message to the bully.

Step 2: App notifies parents.

Parents or other designated recipients are notified by e-mail and SMS that the app has been activated, including a map pinpointing where activation occurred.

Step 3: Recording encrypted & stored.

An encrypted record of the bully watching the “NO” message is created and stored for future retrieval through the proper channels (not available directly to the user).

Step 4: Discuss consequences and leave.

Remind the bully that there is now an evidentiary record of him/her watching the “NO” message. Leave the situation.

Later: Conversations happen between victim and parents, bully and their parents, and, perhaps, among the two sets of parents and the school.



NEXT STEPS *Empowering Victims*TM

While we have had the apps under development and pilot testing, we have received considerable input about how to make the apps more powerful and effective tools for victims. During 2017, as we begin full-scale national rollout, we intend to implement many of these recommendations.

Sexual Assault

One of the hardest tasks victims face is locating a truly confidential counselor – one who is both not obligated to involve law enforcement and who cannot be forced to testify as to what the victim may have disclosed. Each state has its own laws regarding such confidential counselors. Our highest priority for the I've-Been-ViolatedTM app is to include links so that victims can locate these people easily and without fear that their search inadvertently triggers a legal investigation before they are ready.

In addition to the links for the confidential counselor, we will be adding links so that victims have ready access to appropriate local resources and the ability to report the incident when they so desire.

We also will be developing a “trusted intermediary” program which will allow victims to see the videos they have created and uploaded. At present, because we have no means of verifying a victim’s identity, we cannot release videos to victims nor permit their direct viewing. All that must go through appropriate authorities (whose identity we can verify). With a trusted intermediary taking on the responsibility (and liability) for verifying that it indeed is the victim who is requesting access, we can provide another tool for victims to gain added confidence to tell their stories. We hope to have trusted intermediaries in place in each state and major metropolitan area by year-end.

Domestic Violence

The current version of I've-Been-ViolatedTM along with the changes outlined above describes an app which can be of great assistance to domestic violence victims – with a major caveat. Domestic violence victims have multiple interactions with their abusers, and those abusers frequently have access to the victims’ phones. To have an app labeled I've-Been-ViolatedTM is unfortunately an invitation for further abuse. It is essential that we find one or more partners with “innocent” apps that can serve as a “cover” for the I've-Been-ViolatedTM app. The victim would register I've-Been-ViolatedTM, pick a phrase, and the app would then look and feel like the innocent app. Only if the phrase was entered would the app transform itself back into I've-Been-ViolatedTM. We have begun preliminary discussion with several potential providers of suitable “ghosting” apps and hope to have full implementation by year-end.

Bullying

Here too, the improvements scheduled come in the form of links. We will be adding links so that victims and parents have ready access to appropriate local resources and the ability to report the incident when they so desire.

HOW YOU CAN HELP *Empowering Victims*TM



Spread the word! The apps are potent tools, but if unknown they help no one. Remember too, the apps are free.

Get Involved. Partner with a local or school group and invite us to speak or to demo how the apps can help.

Partner with us. We are always looking out for distribution partners. The apps are tools, *not* stand alone solutions. They work well in conjunction with other tools and programs aimed at victims and prevention. Talk to us about how we bundle our tools into your program.

Contribute. At the risk of being blunt, we need financial assistance. Helping victims is emotionally rewarding but it costs money (roughly \$1-2 per user). Your \$100 can help 50-100 victims. Your bigger contributions help us move forward with the next steps we outlined on the previous page. We need to raise \$100,000 for the technology improvements we outlined and more than \$2 million to fully localize the apps (adding all the appropriate local resource links). If any of this resonates, please contribute at EmpoweringVictims.org (we are grateful that you care, but the money would really help).

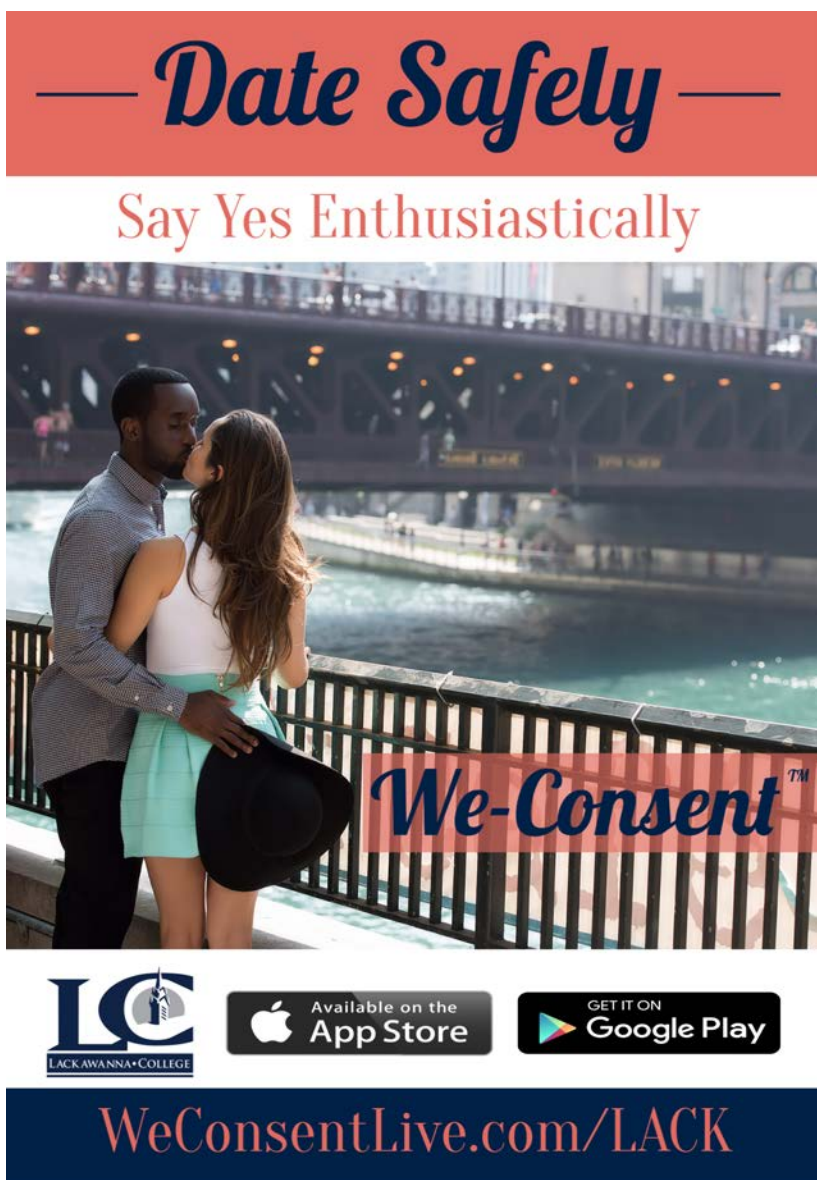
Send friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to EmpoweringVictims.org.

Empowering a victim will always make you feel good about yourself – and it does wonders for them too.

We-Consent[™] App Suite for Title IX


The We-Consent[™] App Suite is the only tool available designed to help colleges better comply with Title IX's requirement of addressing any unwanted and unwelcome sexual behavior that would significantly interfere with a student's access to educational opportunities. Unlike other tools, the We-Consent[™] App Suite is aimed at helping students with the broad range of behaviors that may be part of any ongoing or proposed sexual encounter. Because the suite is not restricted to problem of assault, it stands a better chance of being incorporated into the daily lives of more students.

The We-Consent[™] App Suite currently consists of four apps: We-Consent[™], What-About-No[™] (a version of The-No-App[™] without parental notification), I've-Been-Violated[™], and Party-Pass[™].






— Date Safely —

Say Yes Enthusiastically



We-Consent[™]



WeConsentLive.com/LACK

*We-Consent*TM

An app designed to evoke discussion between prospective sexual partners before they engage in any activity.

Step 1: Partner A records message.

Partner A uses the front camera to video record his/her own name and then the name of the person with whom they wish to have sexual relations.

Step 2: Partner B records message.

The back camera then records Partner B first stating his/her name and then saying yes to sexual relations with Partner A.

Step 3: Recording encrypted & stored.

An encrypted record of your story is created and stored for future retrieval through the proper channels (not available directly to the user).

Step 4: (If needed) record revoked consent.

If at a later time either partner needs to signal withdrawal of consent, they can use one of the companion apps (e.g. What-About-NoTM). These apps create encrypted records of a "NO" message being communicated.

*Party-Pass*TM

An app designed to remind college students that hook-ups demand both discussion and consent.

Step 1: QR code.

A QR code is created (via the accompanying web app) that is specific to a given party, its location, and time.

Step 2: The Pledge.

Use of the app involves recommitting to the following pledge: "I pledge to not engage in sexual relations for the next eight hours unless I have an explicit discussion about them with my prospective partner first."

Step 3: Scan QR code with phone.

Upon arrival at a party, students scan the QR code as part of the process of admittance thereby taking an active step to reaffirm their commitment to the pledge.

Step 4: E-mail Notification

The next day each student using the app receives an e-mail notification reminding them of their app use and the pledge.



STATEMENTS FROM OUR PARTNERS

“Not only are the Empowering Victims applications unique in their approach, they provide a practical tool for complex social issues with the victim at the center of its design. The opportunity to affect social norms through technology that shifts the power back to the victim is invaluable. The I’ve-Been-Violated™ app and The-No-App™ do this in a simple, practical way that can be easily adopted. Technology truly is our future and a smart device is one thing everyone has in their pockets every day. Virtual tools like the I’ve-Been-Violated™ app and The-No-App™ allow victims of violence to maintain a portion of control in these encounters and assists law enforcement in addressing claims. Empowering Victims solutions truly stand out as an innovative and practical approach to this complex issue.”

- April Rai
National Organizations for Youth Safety

“Empowering Victims’ electronic apps are useful tools in combating sexual assault on our college campuses. Empowering Victims has shown that they understand all three of the components of the consent legislation and policy: Consenting, Refusing Consent, and Revoking Consent. In addition, they have shown us a high regard for individual security and personal encryption. We endorse Empowering Victims’ apps and hope that you will consider this software.”

- Alison Berke-Morano, Cody Collins, John Chauncey
The Affirmative Consent Project



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EmpoweringVictims.org to learn more about the organization.

IveBeenViolated.org to learn more about the app for sexual assault victims.

VictimsStoriesMatter.org to assist sexual assault victims with your donation.

TheNoApp.org to learn more about the app for bullying victims.

BullyingStops.org to donate towards our anti-bullying efforts.

We-Consent.org to learn more about the app suite for Title IX compliance.

ProtectMyTeam.org to learn more about college sports teams participation.

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