

# Peer Advocates Talk about Sexual Violence

## VIDEO THREE SCRIPT

**Kecia:**

We know you are busy Dr. Howard, thank you for your time.

Both James and I are survivors of sexual violence. We want to share our experiences to encourage others to speak up and get support.

**Dr. Howard:**

Well, I hope the conversation we had will help both people with disabilities and health care professionals like myself.

You know until you started telling me what happened to you, I realized how hard it is to talk about this topic.

**Kecia:**

Very much so. At first, I was told to keep it a secret and I was scared about what would happen if I told anyone.

**James:**

I do not usually talk much and I did not think anyone would believe me. Men are supposed to be strong and take care of themselves.

**Dr. Howard:**

It's important for people to understand sexual violence is never their fault.

**Kecia:**

You have to report sexual assault, don't you?

**Dr. Howard:**

Yes, we have that responsibility, as do other service providers.

# Talk About Sexual Violence

The fact is, I was surprised to learn that assault happens more often to people with developmental disabilities, both women and men.

But, it's also important that victims tell someone they trust, like a friend, family member, or a case worker.

**James:**

You did report my rape to Adult Protective Services.

They helped me connect with a rape crisis center. And, I called the police too.

**Kecia:**

I learned during counseling that I had trauma because of my rape. It took time, but I'm getting back to my life. My self-advocacy group supports me too.

**James:**

I was scared, it was hard for me to feel better about myself. But I'm working on it!

Now Kecia and I are speaking to others about sexual violence. And, it helps people when they hear us to tell our stories.

If someone gets upset when they're hearing them, there are support people to help.

**Dr. Howard:**

Your advocacy work is very important. It helps other victims come forward to report sexual assault crimes and get the support they need.

**James:**

We do not need to hide real words like rape just because we have a disability.

**Kecia:**

We don't have to live in silence or feel alone. We can speak for ourselves and stop the epidemic of sexual violence.