

Survivor Outfit Submissions

The following outfits and stories were shared by members of the Rise team and the broader survivor community. We invite you to use these stories and recreate the outfits you see, or to collect your own garments..

CONTENT WARNING

This exhibition includes themes of sexual violence and may be upsetting to some viewers.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence and need support, go here for resources:

<https://nomore.org/need-immediate-help-2/>



Survivor Story

“On the day that I was raped, I never could have imagined that a greater injustice awaited me than the one I had already been forced to endure. As a child, I had learned to believe in the well-worn credos of our legal system—that we all had access to justice, that our civil rights were sacrosanct, and that everyone was equal under law. But in the wake of my assault, I came to understand just how hollow those words can feel to a survivor seeking justice and compassion.

In the course of pursuing my own case, I ran into roadblock after roadblock—and discovered that my path was all too familiar to millions of people. I refused to be invisible—so I charted a new path. I rewrote the law, and drafted a Sexual Assault Survivors’ Bill of Rights. It codified a set of basic, comprehensive civil rights for more than 25 million rape survivors across the United States.

Though I never imagined the challenges I would face after my assault, nor did I imagine the power, the progress, and the hope that would arise from my ordeal. I created a non-profit called Rise to teach other survivors how to pen their own rights into existence. To date we’ve passed more than 60 laws in the United States, and recently passed a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.

***No one is powerless when we come together.
No one is invisible when we demand to be seen.”***



“At the age of 22, I was raped by a childhood acquaintance, a police officer in the town I resided in. I was left with physical injuries, but most devastating was the unimaginable mental anguish. Unfortunately, due to my geographic location, no sexual assault nurse examiner was available at the emergency room. As a result, crucial mistakes in collection of evidence were made. I was further criticized, doubted, and asked questions during police interviews that victims of other crimes are not asked, such as ‘what were you wearing’ and ‘if you were unconscious, then how do you know you didn’t consent?’”

Survivor Story



“A blue dress, black tights, and boots. This is what I was wearing thousands of miles from my home the night I was drugged, raped, and left to die. I experienced the injustices of the very systems that are meant to protect us. I was turned away from a hospital, pressured to not file a complaint by the police, endured unsympathetic examinations, and told that there was no legal recourse. I was handed-off from one agency or official to the next, each one telling me that they were sorry, but there was nothing they could do to help. I was even warned that I could be arrested, as the drugs found in my system were illegal in that country. I couldn’t return to work, I couldn’t sleep, and I became afraid of both strangers and friends.”

Survivor Story



“I was wearing a uniform that for a fire science program I was in while attending high school. The uniform consisted of this button-up shirt, an undershirt, and tactical duty pants. I had to put on this uniform every day and be reminded of the pain I went through while wearing it.”

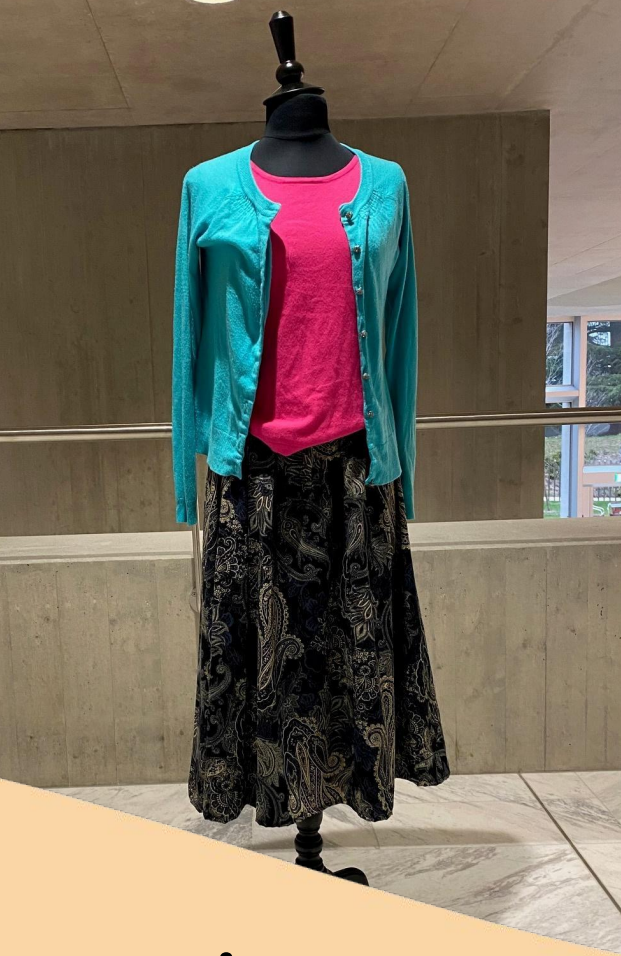


“I was at work. He was my supervisor. I was testing out something for a new hire and while the new hire was distracted, he grabbed me by the neck as he made sexual comments about me. It took me until recently to realize the severity of what had happened.”

Survivor Story



“I was wearing a t-shirt and shorts. My abuser took me to his mother's house alone, where he mowed the yard and I waited in the house. He took a shower after mowing, called me back to a back bedroom, and assaulted me. I was wearing an outfit like this one, he was wearing nothing. I was six years old.”



“I was assaulted by the father of my child when I was 6 months pregnant. I said I didn't want to have intercourse and cried silently during. He left the room to play video games when it was over.”

Survivor Story

“I had just gotten off work and went to go hang out with someone who I thought was a friend. I was still wearing my work clothes when they assaulted me.”

Survivor Story



“I was still in baby diapers when I was raped by a 24 year old. I was raped several times between the ages of 2 and 5.”

Survivor Story

“At 22, when my ex beat, raped and locked me in his house for 3 months the first time I tried to leave him--I was brought back to the first time, when I was 3 years old.

I remember the sudden terror and pain I felt. I tried to scream but he held my mouth down with his right hand, then he threatened me to not tell anyone or else I will be kicked outside of the house. The house was owned by his parents, who were my aunt and uncle.

During the genocide of my people, we fled to Columbo from Jaffna, hoping it would be safer than the warzone. A college student who rented a room next to ours started to molest me. They told me it was normal and "part of being a female". When you're a toddler, you're innocent beyond any words that can describe it. You believe what adults tell you. They use familiar words like "aunt", "uncles", "cousins", "big brothers", etc. and make you feel you are safe with them.”



“I left a bar with a man who I trusted and believed to be my friend. I was in a relationship at the time and this was well known by the perpetrator. I came to find out later he would befriend women, gain their trust, then assault them when they were vulnerable.”



“I was 7 years old when I was sexually assaulted and molested by my older brother. This happened a handful of times during the night time. I was also sexually assaulted by a couple of boys who were friends of my older brother. These boys and my brother would assault me and then threaten me if I told anyone. They made me feel like it was my fault and that I would also be in trouble. I was so paralyzed with fear that I pretended to be asleep while I waited and prayed for it to be over. I never told anyone for fear that I would be in trouble or no one would believe me.”

Survivor Story



“I wore this outfit when I was first raped by my ex husband. He came home while I was sleeping in our bed and began undressing me. When I awoke I told him to stop because I didn't want to have sex, but he continued and grew angrier the more I tried to push him away. Once he overpowered me, I cried and continued to plead until he finished. When I eventually came forward to report him for that and the domestic violence he committed, I was told they weren't going to report the alleged rape incidents because, as my husband, it was impossible to prove it wasn't consensual.”



“I was at a school rock performance playing basketball with my so-called friend before the concert started. We took a walk around the school. I got an awful feeling in my gut on our way back to the gym. We were right outside the gym doors near the bushes. I remember looking around and noticing that there were no cameras on that side of the building. Out of nowhere, he said to me “what if I pushed you into that bush and raped you?” I was speechless. All I could do was laugh it off and go inside. I assumed it was a stupid joke that stupid high school boys make. I brushed it off... The rest is a blur to me, I remember the heavy sound of my breathing, his cold fingertips digging into my skin, the sound of the band started to play, and the light dimming as he left me in that closet. Alone.”

Survivor Story



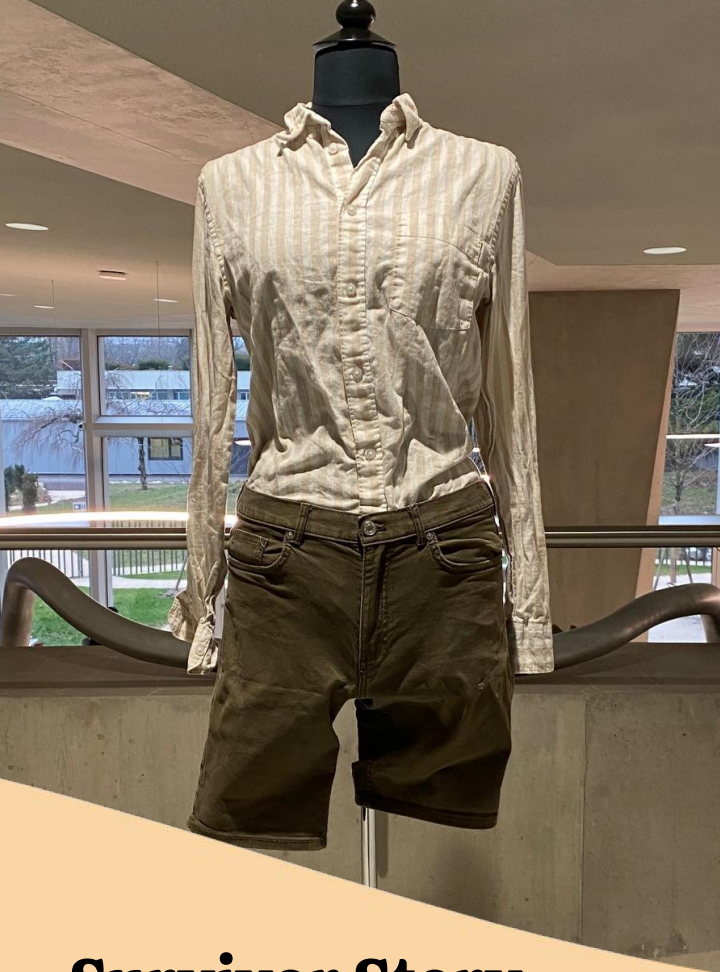
“A college reunion... My friend I’d brought along hopped in a car alone going to a party cabin 30 minutes away with some guys I barely knew (but knew better than she did). I told her to get out, I pleaded with her to come out. They started to drive away and I said okay wait — I’m coming too. I was afraid for her, but it would be me who ended up needing the protection. I was raped, I knew my attackers, everyone in the cabin knew what happened because they pulled them off of me. That was 5 years ago, and I just tossed out the brown bag evidence the prosecutor told me to 'hold onto' in case anything ever came of the case. Even with 10+ witnesses, nothing will.”

Survivor Story



“I hosted a house party in my apartment two days before my 23rd birthday. I was assaulted by the brother-in-law of my coworker. A complete stranger that I meet for the first time that night and didn’t interact with at all. Once he started making attempts at me, I kicked him out and informed the coworker via cell phone to remove him from my front door. Moments later, I received a call back from the coworker asking if they could stay due to them being intoxicated. I still had family members as well as my best friend in the apartment with me, so I felt “safe”. However, hours later, my cousins left and I felt tired. My best friend came to my bedroom door to sleep but was met with a locked door. Both of us, unaware of the unthinkable.”

Survivor Story



“I was hanging out with my boyfriend after school, and I was going through a depressive episode and I just wanted to talk about it. He kept trying to finger me, and I kept telling him “no” in different ways. eventually I just gave up and let it happen even though I didn’t want to.”

Survivor Story



“I was talking to this one guy, and two of the times we hung out, I specifically said I didn’t want to have sex. I made that very clear, and I stated my reasons. He agreed, but it still happened despite me telling him no.”

Survivor Story