“IT HAPPENED HERE,” is a documentary film that follows five female college students as they recount their sexual assault experiences and take action against their respective schools. As the film reveals each survivor’s journey, we see the tragic impact sexual assault can have on individuals, family members, school authorities and universities. “IT HAPPENED HERE” gives faces to the stories that have been making headlines for years, and encourages viewers to be more than a bystander and create change on their college campuses.

Launched in September 2014, the White House’s IT’S ON US Campaign is a large-scale national awareness campaign aimed at fundamentally shifting the way we think about sexual assault on college campuses. The campaign works with students to empower them to change campus culture.

This discussion guide focuses on engaging students across the country in conversations on campus sexual assault. This companion discussion guide will provide tips on how to engage your peers on this issue, resources, organizing tools, and ways to take action. Students across the country are mobilizing on this issue, and you can too!
FACTS

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted in college
- 40% of survivors fear reprisal by their attacker
- Only 2% of incapacitated rape survivors report assault
- Only 13% of rape survivors report assault
- 8 in 10 victims knew their attacker (friend, significant other, etc.)
- It is estimated that between 2%-7% of sexual assault reports are false

The stories of Angie, Sarah, Erica, Carolyn and Kylie will move you to make a difference on your campus. Their stories are just a few of many—the startling numbers around sexual assault show just how common it is.
This guide is designed to help maximize the organizing impact of “IT HAPPENED HERE”. After viewing the film, the guide suggests a set of questions for facilitating thoughtful discussions about the issues presented in the film. You may select questions throughout the guide that you feel will further best engage your audience.

Sexual assault and rape culture is a sensitive subject. Start with your name, year, and the reason you are an advocate for this issue.

Create a safe space for your group members so that they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions.

Don’t rush through your conversations: you don’t have to get through all of the questions, you can pick and choose, and if there’s a follow up question that you want to ask feel free to add it in.
SAMPLE QUESTIONS

What surprised you most about the film “IT HAPPENED HERE”? What did you find most relatable about Kylie, Erica, Sarah, Angie and Carolyn’s experiences?

Erica said, “I’m standing up for myself because UCONN didn’t.” What are your thoughts on the school’s reaction to the students’ cases?

Do you know anyone who this has happened to? Do you know of anyone who filed a complaint? What was their experience?

Would you know the appropriate offices to contact if this happened on your campus? Does your college offer resources to support survivors?

What have you heard about sexual assault on campus? How often is this issue something you talk about with your friends?

Are you familiar with the Clery Act?

Angie and Carolyn both wrote open letters; what were your feelings about the responses they received?

Recently, sexual assault has been heavily discussed in the media. How do you feel about the media’s discourse around sexual assault?

Vanderbilt students participated in a Closest Line, UCONN students did a ‘Slut Walk’, students did a petition signature delivery at the U.S. Department of Education. What other actions can students do to raise awareness on their campus or in their communities?

What do you see as students’ roles and responsibilities to promote campus safety and be more than just a bystander in bad situations? How can we create a better community and take initiative as students working with each other?

In the film, all of the women filed a Title IX complaint. What part of the Title IX process did you find most challenging?
SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Kylie’s and Erica’s parents were very involved in the process of filing a complaint. What role should parents play in this process?

How did you feel when the Amherst College Dean attended Angie’s panel discussion? How can we create better relationships between faculty and students on this issue?

What do you think your school is already doing well when addressing this issue?

What more can your university/college/community do?

When it comes to making administrative changes to current policy, how can we support survivors and make sure all voices are heard?

What are your next steps as students to carry-out this campaign successfully and throughout the years?
TAKE ACTION & PLAN AN EVENT

Take some time to fill in what your event will look like:

What goals do you want to accomplish at the event?
Where are some places you can host the event?
When will your event be?
What groups on campus can you reach out to for assistance in hosting the event?
What faculty members or school officials should you invite to the event?
Who are some people you can invite to speak at the event?
What resources are available to you on campus?
How many volunteers will you need?

Do you need any funds to run the event? If so, are there any groups that can help pay for it?
Will your event need food?
What supplies will you need (audio/visual equipment, visual aids etc.)?
How many people do you want at your event?
How will you get the word out about the event?
How can you publicize the event?
What will be your role in planning the event?
TAKE ACTION & PLAN AN EVENT

Where will you post information about the event (signs in the student union, on Facebook)?

Who will fill out the event tracker with the event details?

How will you follow up with individuals who attended your event?
It’s important to carefully plan out the details of your event to ensure everything goes smoothly. Make sure you set the event start time, plan out who will host the event and introduce the speakers, and determine what the order of speakers is. Remember, no detail is too small!

**SAMPLE AGENDA FOR:** Roundtable Discussion, 6:00-8:00 PM

**5:00 PM** Staff Arrives
Set up registration table. Stuff folders with reports and IT’S ON US toolkits. Put up directional signs. Set up event space with microphones, tables, computers, and food.

**6:00 PM** Event Begins
Students grab pizza and sign the online IT’S ON US pledge.

**6:15 PM** Opening Remarks
Jamal, captain of a campus sports team, and Sarah, a volunteer at the campus Health Center, give welcome remarks, provide background on the event, outline discussion objectives, and ask attendees to introduce themselves.

**6:30 PM** Open Discussion
Jamal leads an open discussion of what students think their school should do regarding sexual assault on campus. Sarah leads a presentation on students’ rights and Title IX, and how students can file a complaint.

**7:15 PM** Faculty Discussion
Anne, the Undergraduate Dean, discusses available campus resources and possible next steps the campus can implement.

**7:30 PM** Closing Remarks
Sarah and Jamal wrap up the evening.

**7:45 PM** Staff Clean-Up
Angie, Sarah, Erica, Carolyn and Kylie were determined on mobilizing others on this issue! Whether it’s planning a closet line like Sarah, or speaking on panel discussions like Angie, any efforts will help make a difference in your community. Interested in holding an event on your campus?

As an organizer on your campus, you have an opportunity to create an event that would serve the students at your school. Events can be anything from a roundtable discussion, a pledge drive, a panel discussion with experts, or a dorm meeting with your RAs. There are limitless ways to introduce this discussion of sexual assault on your campus.
Here is a list of sample events:

- Pledge Drive
- Bystander Intervention Training Program
- Panel Discussion with experts, survivors, student leaders and faculty
- Town hall/Open Forum
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Speak out
- Teal Out Campus Day - Students wear teal in support of sexual assault survivors
- Closest Line - Students write on a T-Shirt a message for Survivors
- Make an IT’S ON US Public Service Announcement Video (link to How-To form)
- Make announcements or show the campaign PSAs in your classrooms
- Create posters, banners and write IOU on your schools sidewalk
- Victory Jam Party to celebrate students taking the IT’S ON US Pledge
- 24 hour Dance Marathon to raise money for your local rape crisis center
- 24 hour Relay at your track and field recreation center
- Men and Rape Culture lecture
- Feature a Keynote Speaker at your school
- Documentary screening and discussion of ‘IT HAPPENED HERE’
- Marches on your campus
- Host a Vigil
- Have Dorm Discussions with your Resident Advisors
- Office Hours with your Title Nine Coordinator and/or Administration to talk with students
- Photo Campaign with IT’S ON US Signs where participants are asked “Why did you take the It’s On Us pledge?”
- Roundtable Discussion
- Sorority and Fraternity collaborative breakfasts
- Set Up an IT’S ON US Table at your in Student Union or Quad
- Put IT’S ON US Op-Ed’s in Local Press and School Newspaper
Further Information:

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted in college [1]
- 40% of survivors fear reprisal by their attacker [1]
- Only 2% of incapacitated rape survivors report assault [1]
- Only 13% of rape survivors report assault [1]
- 8 in 10 victims knew their attacker (friend, significant other, etc.) [1]
- It is estimated that between 2-7% of sexual assault reports are false [2]
