



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 27, 2018**

**JOINT MEDIA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD FRIDAY, MARCH 30th REGARDING SEXUAL  
ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

(MANKATO, MN) – The Zonta Club of Mankato, The Committee Against Domestic Abuse (CADA), Minnesota State University- Women’s Center, Project for Teens, Minnesota State University Athletics, the Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, Members of Law Enforcement, and The Blue Earth County Attorney’s Office will hold a joint media conference **Friday, March 30, 12:00 p.m.** at the Centennial Student Union, Hearth Lounge (Lower level) on the MSU Campus to talk about a series of events scheduled throughout the month of April in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

National statistics show that every 98 seconds a sexual assault occurs in the United States. The Center for Disease Control data indicates that nearly one in five (18.6%) women in the US will experience a sexual assault in their lifetime. Females age 16-19 are four times more likely to be the victim of a sexual assault than the general population. 94% of victims experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder during the two weeks immediately following their assault. The impact of sexual assault can be seen throughout the lifetime of a victim in the form of higher rates of physical and mental health problems and decreased earning potential.

Yet, these offenses remain overwhelmingly underreported. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center reports that more than 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report their assault. Out of 1,000 perpetrators of sexual assault, six will be sentenced to a term in prison. The stigma and fear of retaliation for victims are major barriers that prevent them from reporting an assault.

These agencies hope to break down barriers for victims by joining together to shed light on the impact that sexual assault has upon our community. Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events are designed to empower all past, current and future victims by highlighting the local resources and support available in the greater Mankato community.

Planned events include:

- APRIL 9- Screening and discussion of Little Stones, a documentary that follows four women whose lives are dedicated to empowering survivors of gender based violence and eradicating the atrocities of domestic violence, human trafficking, extreme poverty and female genital mutilation. Skype Q&A with film Director to follow.
- APRIL 22- Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
- APRIL 24- Take Back the Night
- APRIL 25-Denim Day

For complete list of dates, times and locations of all Sexual Assault Awareness Month events, please visit: <http://www.mnsu.edu/varp/events.html>

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, there are free and confidential resources available in our community. Please contact the Committee Against Domestic Abuse through their crisis line at 1-800-477-0466 to connect with an advocate. The Southwest Crisis Center has a confidential and anonymous helpline specifically for teen victims/survivors. Call or text 1-218-666-TEEN (8336) for services.

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