

UNFOLDING

A Timeline of Sexual
Assault Activism &
Survivor Support
Services in
Tompkins County.

1973-2022

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A TIMELINE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACTIVISM IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

*WELCOME! **Unfolding** features Clothesline Project artwork by local survivors of sexual and relationship abuse displayed alongside a local timeline featuring highlights of victim/survivor support and prevention efforts in Tompkins County from the 1970's to the present day.*

Tompkins County has been on the forefront of providing support services to survivors of sexual abuse for decades. Unfolding is an opportunity to remember the many institutions, organizations, and community efforts that have risen to combat sexual violence locally and nationally, and to recognize the powerful voices of survivors.

Information on related events at
www.thehistorycenter.net/Unfolding

Local support services available at 607-277-5000



ACADEMIC YEAR
1973-1974

Ithaca Rape Crisis
is founded by a group
of Cornell women to
support adult victims
of sexual assault
and rape.



JANUARY
1977

The Task Force for Battered Women is formed by group of Tompkins County women in living rooms. Originally run by volunteers, some of whom offered their homes as safe houses. TFBW began as a service for women fleeing domestic violence.



1979

Local activist and attorney
Ruth Siegel is appointed to
NYS Governor Hugh
Carey's Task Force on
Domestic Violence. Siegel
was an active member of
the Tompkins County Task
Force for Battered
Women.



OCTOBER
1979

The first Take Back the Night protest marches are organized in Ithaca. One march begins on Cornell's campus, and the other in downtown Ithaca. They converge on the Ithaca Commons, 300 attend.

The event is sponsored by Ithaca Women's Resource Center, local organizations, and community groups modeled on similar protests which emerged in Europe a few years earlier.



1980'S

Task Force for
Battered Women
advocates can be
reached by dialing the
local 24-hour Suicide
Prevention and Crisis
Service Hotline.



1980

Task Force for
Battered Women
coordinates 18 "safe"
private homes that will
take in women and
children in crisis. These
efforts are coordinated
almost entirely by
volunteers.



1982

The City of Ithaca grants funds to the Task Force for Battered Women to purchase and transition a house into a shelter for individuals leaving abusive households.

This shelter is still in operation 40 - years later and houses up to nine people at a time in Ithaca.



1982

The Task Force for
Battered Women
expands their support
offerings, formalizing
the 'Child Sexual Abuse
Project' to support
recovery and
prevention efforts for
children and families.



1984

Ithaca Rape Crisis
becomes an
incorporated non-profit
agency. Continues to
provide 24-hour
confidential crisis
counseling, medical and
legal information and
ongoing support.



1984

The City of Ithaca passes
Local Law C. Making
Ithaca one of the first
U.S. municipalities to ban
discrimination on the
basis of sexual
orientation.

*Under a contentious vote the measure
passed county-wide in 1991.*



1986

Take Back the Night protesters experienced harassment during the march as men attempted to drive cars through the crowd of protesters.

This marked the ninth year of local Take Back the Night marches.



1987

The Child Sexual
Abuse Project creates
one of the first Multi-
Disciplinary Sexual
Abuse Investigation
Teams in the United
States.



NOVEMBER
1988

The Rape and Abuse Crisis
Line is collaboratively
established by Ithaca Rape
Crisis, Task Force for
Battered Women/Child
Sexual Abuse Project, and
Suicide Prevention
and Crisis Services.

607-277-5000



1980'S

Tompkins County is a
founding member of the New
York State Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Transgender &
Queer Intimate Partner
Violence Network.

"The Network" is instrumental in passing legislation which permits LGBTQ people in same sex/gender relationships to apply for Orders of Protection through Family Court. Many states still do not have these protections.



1993

Cornell Assistant
Professor Andrea
Parrot publishes
"Sexual Assault on
Campus: The
Problem and the
Solution."



APRIL
1994

The first public
Clothesline Project in
Tompkins County is
displayed on the
Ithaca Commons. The
project is coordinated
by Ithaca Rape Crisis.



1994

The Task Force for Battered Women starts a support group for lesbian and bisexual women in abusive relationships. TFBW has been running support groups for individuals experiencing and recovering from intimate partner violence for more than 10 years.



1990'S

RAVE Review (Rape, Abuse
and Violence Education) a
joint project of the Task
Force for Battered Women
and Ithaca Rape Crisis
presents interactive theatre
on prevention, education, and
support services throughout
Tompkins County.



1991-1996

Fightback! of Central
New York offers annual
20-hour self-defense
courses for women in
Ithaca. Women learned
defensive martial arts,
methods to control
their fear, and responses
to verbal and
physical assault.



1998-2000?

Teen RAVE - an all-
teen interactive theatre
troupe co-creates and
acts out skits. Teens
educate each other
about different forms
of violence that affect
their lives.



OCTOBER
2002

The Task Force for
Battered Women / Child
Sexual Abuse Project
renames to the
Advocacy Center of
Tompkins County.
after 25-years of
supporting survivors.



1997-1998

Ithaca Rape Crisis expands
services through the
creation of the Crime
Victims Assistance Program

to provide support and
advocacy for victims of
physical assault, robbery,
elder abuse, and survivors
of attempted homicide.



FEBRUARY
1998

Cayuga Medical Center
creates new program to
support victims of assault.

Three specially trained
'Sexual Assault Nurse
Examiners' (SANE) are on
call 24-hours a day to
provide emergency support.

*Modeled after the SANE program in
Tulsa OK, and established in partnership
with Ithaca Rape Crisis.*



1999–2000

Ithaca Rape Crisis and Crime
Victims Assistance Program
merge and rename to form
Crime Victims & Sexual
Assault Services. Offering
preventive education,
medical and legal support
services to adult
survivors of sexual assault
and other crimes.



SEPTEMBER
2003

Center for Crime Victims
& Sexual Assault
Services closes
operations, and support
for adult survivors of
sexual assault transitions
to the Advocacy Center.
Other CVSA efforts
transition to Family &
Children's Services.



APRIL 15TH
2005

**Ithaca Mayor
Carolyn Peterson
declares this day
to 'Take Back the
Night in the City of
Ithaca.'**



APRIL
2009

Advocacy Center and
Ithaca Take Back the
Night Collective host
30th 'Take Back the
Night' march in Ithaca.

The years theme:
Respect is Gorges.