

Listening to a disclosure from a survivor/victim (under 18)

## #EndChildhoodSexualViolence

When a child shares their lived experience, the most powerful response is to listen with care, believe them, and prioritize their safety.



Under 18

WE ARE BRAVE SO THAT CHILDREN CAN BE SAFE

If a survivor/victim of sexual violence comes to you, what should you do?



## DO THIS

Believe the child.



## Don't

Rush them or pressure for more details.



# DO THIS

Remain calm and composed, be fully present, and give them time, space, and your full attention.



# Don't

Overreact or panic.

# DO THIS



Give positive messages and praise their courage to speak up. Explain it's not their fault and assure them they have done the right and brave thing by telling you.



# Don't

Confront the offender.

# DO THIS



Realize that receiving this information can be traumatic for you too. Give yourself time and space to process, and if needed, share with your own trusted support individual in strict confidence.



# Don't

Blame the child nor let this situation overwhelm you. You can ask for help in dealing with it too.



# DO THIS

Keep a stable environment and seek guidance if you are unsure of what steps to take next.



# Don't

Let them feel like they have burdened you with this information.



# DO THIS

Remain constant. Don't treat that child too differently to how you interacted with them before.



# Don't

Avoid them nor tell them to "forget about it" or "keep quiet" and "move on".



# DO THIS

Keep them informed of who you will speak to about this and why.



# Don't

Gossip about what has been shared with you in confidence nor make the child feel guilty for having burdened you with this information.



# DO THIS

Report to the appropriate child protection service in your country.



# Don't

Promise them the offender will be prosecuted

# DO THIS



Respect the child's privacy and realize that sharing this information with you can be uncomfortable and embarrassing for them.



## Don't

Share this information online.

# Listening to a disclosure from a survivor/victim (under 18)

If you or someone you know are currently being abused,

find the ChildHelp hotline in your country [HERE](#)  or speak to someone you trust



<https://childhelplineinternational.org/helplines/>

WE ARE **BRAVE** SO THAT CHILDREN CAN BE **SAFE**