

# *Sample Letter to the Editor*

*(Print on your agency's letterhead.)*

(Date)

(Editor Name)

(Newspaper Name)

(Street Address)

(City, State, ZIP)

Dear Editor:

Sexual assault is a devastating crime that is committed with shocking frequency in our society. In Wisconsin (*or your city/county*) alone there were over 15,600 (*or your city/county stats*) sexual assaults reported to law enforcement in 2004. This number is alarmingly high, but it does not begin to reflect the full extent of the problem. According to the American Medical Association, sexual assault remains the most dramatically under-reported crime, and an estimated two-thirds of assaults are never reported—often because victims fear they will be blamed for the assault.

As leaders and role models in our communities, we cannot afford to remain silent about sexual violence or blame victims for the decisions of perpetrators. This injustice only serves to create an atmosphere where sexual violence is implicitly condoned and perpetuated. We must use our voices to break the silence and build a culture where respectful relationships are expected, where sexual violence is not tolerated, where offenders are held accountable for their actions, and where victims and their families are given the support they need to heal.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a nationally recognized time to focus our efforts on sexual assault education, prevention, and awareness. (Agency) joins advocates and survivors across the nation in observation of this time. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and throughout the year, we invite everyone to take a stand with us against sexual violence.

There are simple ways each of us can take a stand against sexual violence on a daily basis. We set a powerful example every time we talk to our kids about the importance of respect and equality in relationships, every time we speak up if someone makes a degrading comment, every time we demonstrate support for survivors of sexual violence. By educating ourselves and talking with others, we can challenge our communities to reject sexual violence.

For more information or to get involved, contact (agency) at (phone). Together we can end sexual violence.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Title)

(Agency)

(Address)

(Phone Number)