

HOW TO RESPOND TO A SEXUAL VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE



LISTEN...

...stay calm and give them your full attention. Let them know you heard what they told you.

BELIEVE...

...believe what they told you. Say “I believe you”. Disclosing an assault takes courage and strength.

BE COMPASSIONATE...

...you can say, “you didn’t deserve this.”

STRESS THAT IT IS NOT THEIR FAULT...

...people who have survived a sexual assault usually blame themselves. Remind them that the perpetrator is the one responsible for the sexual assault.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP...

...know the service in your local community or have one of your staff accompany someone in this situation...train your team on how to be sensitive to these situations.