









#MeToo: How Do We Respond?

By: Gateway 2 Counseling Gateway 2 Counseling.com

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We hope this post helps you in whatever stage of life you are in. Know that we are here for you.

If you desire help on your journey, we are always just a screen away here at Gateway 2 Counseling. We are your objective friend. You might be suffering from depression or just feeling overwhelmed with the daily struggles of life. It doesn't matter. We are here for one session or many. You decide.

You can reach us at www.gateway2counseling.com

Once again, thank you for joining us on this journey to a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you again!

Two little words with an immense amount of power...#MeToo.

For too long we have thought of our reactions to sexual assault and harassment in a dark light. If it happens to us we tend to respond with not responding at all. We might feel ashamed, we might feel shocked, we might leave it unspoken, we may fall silent, we may just want to forget it and move on.

On Sunday afternoon, Twitter confirmed what we had hoped was not true, that so many more women, and men, than we thought have experienced some kind of sexual coercion, intimidation, or worse. On Sunday afternoon, Alyssa Milano opened up a dialogue about this very topic. She wrote "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet".

The amount of responses this has received and the vast flood we've seen across the internet has shed a spotlight on the enormity of the problem. The expanse of this issue has also recently been brought to light by the recent scandal involving Harvey Weinstein, where many women came forward speaking to the vile behaviors of a powerful man.

We have all encountered a Weinstein, haven't we?

The movement of #MeToo has given a platform to those of us that are thinking to ourselves "me too" and united us in a way we haven't been before. There is monumental work to be done, of that there is no doubt.

What do to when others post "me too":

Don't panic. This may be the first time they are sharing their experience or it could not. Either way it is best to take a deep breath.

Don't just like and move on. Anyone who has the courage to tell their story and be vulnerable about this traumatic experience deserves more than just a like. Let them know they are heard and you care.

Don't try to find out what happened. If they want to share they will, but respect their privacy and their courage to respond "me too" in any form they saw fit.

Applaud their bravery. Support the person, let them know you believe them.

Feel free to let them know you're sorry this happened to them. This recognizes their experience and shows empathy.

Avoid judgment. It is difficult to know where the person is in their healing so it is important to avoid statements that reflect on their process and the possible events that happened.

Don't try to fix it for them. This is not a situation they need your logic for. What you can do is show you are there for them.

Let them know you care. Depending on how close you are with the person, it is helpful to let them know, in whatever degree is appropriate, that you support them and applaud their courage.

Don't try to be their therapist. It is not your job to provide them with ideas of what you think they should do or how you think they should feel. If this person is close to you, feel free to provide appropriate resources, such as counseling services.

Understand this may have brought up complicated emotions. No matter when the incident happened, this movement could bring up memories or negative emotions. All of this is normal. Recognize these feelings and be there for them.

Some resources include <u>RAINN</u>, <u>Crisis Text Line</u>, <u>Sexual Assault Referral</u> Centres, and Gateway 2 Counseling.

How to respond to your own feelings:

You are not alone. This movement is proof of that. We see you, we care, we believe you.

Understand that you don't have to share. It is probable that we have all experienced our own trauma and we all have the choice to share or not to share. Thinking "me too" and supporting those that do respond is enough.

Be aware of your feelings. It may not come to you now, but be aware that this movement may trigger some negative feelings for you about your past. That is normal and that is okay. Being aware that they may come will help you better respond to them.

Do not compare. Everything is relative and we are all affected by things differently.

Reach out. If you feel the words bubbling up inside of you, chances are that it will be healing for you to share them. This could be with a trusted friend. a loved one, or a counselor.

Our voices are powerful and we are not alone.

Today Twitter confirmed that #MeToo has been retweeted more than a half a million times.

"Sexual harassment and assault in the workplace are not just about Harvey Weinstein. We must change things in general. We must do better for women everywhere." – Alyssa Milano

Organizations Supporting The Change

Human Rights Campaign #HackHarassment It's On UsRAINN

Crisis Text Line

Hollaback!

National Partnership for Women & Families

National Organization for Women (NOW)

Equal Justice Works

NWLC

<u>ACLU</u>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Disclaimer

The information contained in this guide is for informational purposes only. I am not a lawyer or an accountant. Please understand that there are some links contained in this guide that I may benefit from financially. The material in this guide may include information, products, or services by third parties. Third Party Materials comprise the products and opinions expressed by their owners. As such, I do not assume responsibility or liability for any Third Party material or opinions. The publication of such Third Party Materials does not constitute my guarantee of any information, instruction, opinion, products, or services contained within the Third Party Material. The use of recommended Third Party Material does not guarantee any success on your end. Publication of such Third Party Material is simply a recommendation and an expression of my own opinion of that material.

No part of this publication shall be reproduced, transmitted, or sold in whole or in part in any form, without the prior written consent of the author. All trademarks and registered trademarks appearing in this guide are the property of their respective owners. Users of this guide are advised to do their own due diligence when it comes to making decisions and all information, products, and services that have been provided should be independently verified by yourself. By reading this guide, you agree that myself and my company is not responsible for the success or failure of your decisions relating to any information presented in this guide.