



AN UNTHINKABLE CRIME. AN INSPIRING FIGHT FOR JUSTICE.

BRAVE MISS WORLD

Screening and Discussion Guide

www.BraveMissWorld.com

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ABOUT THE FILM



Miss Israel pageant winner Linor Abargil was abducted, stabbed, and raped in Milan, Italy, at age 18. Only six weeks later, she represented her country in the Miss World competition. When, to her shock, she was crowned the winner, she vowed to use her public platform to do something about rape.

Brave Miss World follows Linor's story from the night of the rape, to her crowning as Miss World, and through her crusade to fight for justice and break the silence surrounding sexual assault. During her travels to speak out and meet with other rape survivors, her own trauma resurfaces. And when her serial rapist comes up for parole, she begins to hunt for his previous victims in order to help keep him behind bars.

Empowering and inspiring, *Brave Miss World* explores both the trauma of sexual assault and the possibility of healing through one young woman's journey from anguish to activism.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

How did 18-year-old Miss World winner Linor Abargil convict a serial rapist who had eluded justice in three different countries? What gave her the courage to report the rape? What moved her to help other rape survivors? Those questions drove me to make *Brave Miss World*. As I did so, I learned that at least one in three women worldwide will be beaten, raped or abused during her lifetime.¹ I learned that, in the United States, 60% of rapes are unreported to law enforcement², and that only 3% of rapists will ever spend a day in prison.³ Furthermore, survivors are silenced by shame, humiliation, and the lack of family support and appropriate law enforcement.



In stark contrast to these statistics, Linor spoke out as loudly as she could. Her courage in opening up about a painful subject, and her determination to transform herself from being the victim of a horrific crime into an empowered lawyer, were very compelling to me as a filmmaker. But when her rapist came up for parole during the making of the film, Linor's hard-fought stability was suddenly in jeopardy. The journey of her fight to keep him in prison and her commitment to help other survivors heal and seek justice became the riveting narrative of the film.

I'm drawn to making films about people who stand up for what they believe in, like Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks, who I captured in 2006's *Shut Up and Sing*, co-directed with Barbara Kopple; like my father, whose life and work I chronicled as producer of *A Conversation With Gregory Peck*, in 2000; and like Linor Abargil, whose story I hope you find as inspiring as I do.

-Cecilia Peck, Director



LINOR'S STATEMENT

Ever since I was raped and it was reported in the international media, people have approached me to confide that they too were raped, and that I was a role model for them. "You gave us the courage to tell someone, to press charges," women told me. "You helped us recover."

Now, I believe that the rape and the spotlight provided by my role as Miss World were my destiny. The title of Miss World holds a responsibility for social action, and I have tried to give my crown a personal and meaningful context. My goal has been to increase awareness and create significant change in the perception of rape throughout the world.

Brave Miss World is based on my personal story, but also on the reality of the rape of women and men everywhere. In the film, I have shared how I coped with my own trauma, while reaching out to women around the world and encouraging them to rise up and press charges. To speak out. Not to hold your silence.

It is my hope that this film can be a guide to those who are close to a survivor: friends, family members, and colleagues. And by sharing my story, no matter how painful it was, I hope I've given others the courage to break their silence. Together, we can overcome the trauma of sexual assault by facing the self-accusation and the fears, and by summoning the courage to seek help and heal.

-Linor Abargil

ABOUT THE ISSUE

WHAT IS RAPE?

What Is Rape?

Rape is any forced penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus, with any body part or object, or any oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

What Is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is unwanted sexual contact. This includes sexual touching and fondling.

How is Rape and Sexual Assault Prosecuted?

The legal definition of rape and sexual assault—and the way such crimes are prosecuted—varies widely by country and by state.

In the U.S., you can read about your state at the FindLaw State Rape Laws database:

www.statelaws.findlaw.com/criminal-laws/rape.html.

You can visit the Rape and Incest National Network (RAINN) to learn about the statute of limitations or mandatory reporting laws in your state:

www.rainn.org/public-policy/laws-in-your-state.



1 out of every 6

American women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. ¹⁷



1 in 4 college women are victims of rape or attempted rape. ¹⁸



Every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted. ¹⁹



60% of rapes are not reported to the police. ²⁰

IX STATISTICS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

Brave Miss World tells the story of Linor Abargil's rape and her subsequent journey towards healing. But the issue of rape and sexual assault is one that goes far beyond one personal story. It's a global issue—a crime that affects women and men of every age, in every culture, and in every country.

Our #IAmBrave campaign draws inspiration from Title IX, the Federal Civil Rights law which prohibits sex discrimination in education. Title IX requires that schools be proactive in preventing and handling complaints of sexual harassment and sexual violence on campus. Our campaign advocates for campus policies which encourage and support those who attempt to report rape and sexual assault.

In the United States:

I

A sexual assault occurs every two minutes. ⁴

II

97% of rapists will never spend a day in jail. ⁵

III

Approximately two-thirds of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim. ⁶

IV

About 3% of men have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. ⁷

V

Young women age 20 to 24 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, followed by those 16 to 19. ⁸

Internationally:

VI

35% of women have experienced either physical or sexual violence. ⁹

VII

Almost one third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. In some regions, this number is much higher. ¹⁰

VIII

The first sexual experience for many women is forced. In South Africa, 45% of women aged 14 to 24 describe their first sexual experience as one in which they had been coerced: persuaded, tricked, forced or raped. 24% of women in rural Peru reported their first sexual experience as forced; and 30% did in rural Bangladesh. ¹¹

IX

International studies reveal that approximately 20% of women and 5 to 10% of men report being targets of sexual violence as children. ¹²

THE EFFECT OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ON SURVIVORS



Linor interviewing a survivor.

Brave Miss World not only looks at rape itself, but also on the effects of the trauma of rape and sexual assault on survivors, their friends, and their family members. The film endeavors to address the need for seeking help and speaking out as a path to healing. Our screening program, and particularly our BraveSpeak initiative for survivors, hope to provide safe forums for communication about these and all issues surrounding sexual violence.

While the film portrays the experiences of Linor Abargil and several other survivors of sexual assault, it is important to note that sexual violence affects everyone differently, and there is no one single way survivors do or should respond to trauma. Moreover, rape not only affects a victim in the immediate aftermath of the crime, but often for months and years after the rape, if not for one's entire life. Individuals may heal in a variety of ways and there is no "right" reaction to sexual victimization or violence.

According to research published by the World Health Organization, survivors of sexual assault suffer consistent trauma and stress-related symptoms. Rape and sexual assault survivors are three times more likely to suffer from depression, six times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, 14 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and four times more likely to contemplate suicide than those who have not survived sexual assault.¹³

Additionally, many survivors suffer from Rape Trauma: a constellation of physical and emotional responses specific to rape survivors, which often begin immediately after the assault and continue for long periods thereafter. Such responses may include nightmares, headaches, fatigue, phobias, long-lasting fear of touching, and chronic back pain and gastrointestinal disorders, among other responses.¹⁴

Sexual violence also has the capacity to impact others close to the survivor. Family members, friends, and partners, often called "secondary survivors", may experience feelings of sadness and helplessness due to the fact someone they care about has experienced this crime.

HOSTING A SCREENING

Screenings of *Brave Miss World* are intended to foster communication about the complex issues surrounding sexual assault and rape. Your screening will bring your community together in an environment where survivors can share their stories, seek support from family members and friends, and understand the resources—emotional, therapeutic, physical, and legal—that are available to them.

This Screening and Discussion Guide will help your organization, group or gathering approach *Brave Miss World* with compassion and awareness. We hope that it also inspires community building, healing, and increased understanding of and among survivors of sexual violence.

Be sure to use the web links embedded in this guide—and available at www.BraveMissWorld.com/ **Materials** to link to further action and promotional resources and templates that can enhance your discussion and help you to facilitate a safe and inclusive forum for conversation.

IX STEPS TO GET STARTED

License *Brave Miss World* for public performance

If you haven't already, you'll need to license *Brave Miss World* for a public screening. This is necessary for any event that's open to the public and held outside of a private home. You can obtain a license for your event by emailing Screenings@BraveMissWorld.com or by filling out the Host-a-Screening form at www.BraveMissWorld.com/Host. The process is quick and easy!

Choose a location for your *Brave Miss World* screening

Be sure you reserve a location in your community where you can screen the film and facilitate a discussion afterwards. There are many places that can potentially donate or rent a space for you to show *Brave Miss World*. Think about a local high school or university; a local community center such as a Y, a library, or a public amphitheater; a house of worship, which often have recreational or community halls for members; or a local cinema or playhouse.

Pick a date

Think about reserving your venue at least a month in advance, and be sure you can begin to advertise your screening at least three weeks ahead of the date to provide enough time for promotion. It is often a good idea to check local campus or community calendars to ensure that no events have already been scheduled on the day of your event.

IV

Identify your audience

Who might attend your event? Try to identify a specific audience group (or two) to whom you'll direct your promotion. These might be students, rape prevention organizations, women's organizations, or Jewish communities. Once you've targeted your big-picture audience, compile a list of individual guests and reach out to invite them via email, e-newsletters, website postings, and social media platforms. You may also wish to print out flyers for your collaborators to post throughout the community.

V

Cultivate event partners

You can invite a local sexual assault organization (a city or campus rape crisis center, for instance), a local civic organization (a women's group, for example), or an established student group (a campus chapter of the Feminist Majority, for example) to join your efforts. These partners are likely to have mailing lists and membership ranks already, and they may also be able to help find a venue, wrangle volunteers, provide refreshments, and keep in touch with your attendees after your event. Partner organizations may also be able to contribute funds for the licensing of the film or renting a venue, and they can participate in post-film discussion and action activities.

To maximize impact, ask your event partners to invite local advocates or survivors to speak at your Q&A or panel discussion. Note, too, that the filmmakers and survivors from *Brave Miss World* are also available to travel and speak at events, or via Skype, for additional fees. Please contact Screenings@BraveMissWorld.com for further details and pricing.

VI

Download event materials

Download the items available on the "Event Materials" page, found at BraveMissWorld.com/Materials. These resources include press release templates, flyer templates, discussion guide questions, and more! Personalize the materials by inserting your event's date, time, admission/donation request, venue directions, and partner organizations. Then, either print out or send electronically to your guests, partners, and media.

VII

Spread the word

Once you've customized your downloadable materials, post hard-copy printouts of your flyers on local shop windows or community bulletin boards. Use the power of social media to your advantage by connecting with the film and other audience members on Facebook at [Facebook.com BraveMissWorldDoc](https://www.facebook.com/BraveMissWorldDoc) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/BraveMissWorld](https://twitter.com/BraveMissWorld). Then create a Facebook event or Evite to alert networks of event details digitally. And be sure to use the #IAMBrave hashtag on all social media as a way to link all digital communication about *Brave Miss World*.

VIII

Test your equipment

You will need to make sure that your final venue has the capability to show the film: a projector, a screen, speakers, and a DVD player (or a DVD player plugged in to a television for smaller screenings). You may need microphones for a panel discussion after the film, depending on the size of your venue. Make sure to test all equipment before the event to make sure the DVD plays smoothly, the sound levels are adequate, and your projected image is the right shape and size and is in focus. If you're having trouble, ask the tech staff at your venue, or a local teenager, to help set up the equipment!

IX

Be prepared

Create a simple itinerary for your screening so that all partners, volunteers and guest speakers know what to expect. Send these details two to three days prior to your event, and ask any helpers or participants to arrive early for setup and preparation. Meeting at the event venue at least one hour prior to start time will ensure that your event creates the most impact and delivers the strongest message.

IX DOWNLOADABLE SCREENING MATERIALS

You can find all the below resources and materials on the *Brave Miss World* website.

Go to www.BraveMissWorld.com/Materials to download useful resources for your own screening.

I. Press Release Template

This document allows you to insert your event details and alert local media about your screening.

II. Flyer Templates

These documents are fully designed flyers that you can open in Microsoft Word to add your own event details before printing.

III. Film Poster

These files are offered in both PDF and JPG formats. Download to make poster printouts or to integrate the film's official poster image in a social media posting, an event listing or blog post, or a printable document of your own creation.

IV. Discussion Guide

In addition to the questions included within this Screening and Discussion guide, we've created short, one-page guides for high school audiences, college audiences, and Jewish community groups.

V. Audience Sign-Up Form

Many groups find it useful to print a sign-up sheet for audience members' contact information. You can keep copies for your own records, and please send us copies as well! We'll add signees to our *Brave Miss World* e-newsletter. You can include the completed sheets with the DVD you'll mail back to us.

VI. Event Impact Form

We like to know about your events! Please download a copy, fill it in, and send it back to us with your DVD. We are excited to learn about the impact your screening created!

VII. Action Handouts

We've created three handouts that are intended to inspire action after your screening. The "IX Things You Can Do" handout guides campus audiences through the steps they can take to make a difference on their own campus; the "#IAmBrave" handout outlines the general action initiatives of the *Brave Miss World* action campaign; and the "The Issues" handout is a brief factsheet that includes statistics and information about sexual violence.

VIII. Logo

Download the *Brave Miss World* logo to add the official emblem of the film to your website, blog, event flyer, or social media postings.

IX. Production Stills

Many press outlets (including newspapers, blogs, and community event calendars) ask for film stills to help promote local events. Here are ours! You can also use these stills to advertise your event on your website, social media platforms, or promotional flyers and invitations.

IX TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCREENING EVENT

Introduce Your Event

Set the stage for your event by welcoming your guests and previewing the itinerary for your screening. It's especially helpful to use the moments before the film begins to encourage your guests to stay beyond the film's credit roll for a post-film discussion and/or an intimate BraveSpeak session. You can explain that what makes *Brave Miss World* special is that it promotes and provokes discussion. Staying beyond the film itself is the first step an audience member can make in joining Linor's fight against sexual violence.

If you'll have special guests or panelists after the film, you should also use the moments before the film begins to tell the audience something about your guests.

Finally, while the film is a journey of hope and triumph over adversity, it can also bring up strong feelings for survivors of rape or assault. Encourage audience members to make sure to seek help from a friend or a hotline after the screening if they need it.

Quiet the room

Ask those in attendance to silence their cell phones as the film is about to start. Once any rustling or chatter has stopped, hit play. Please do not lower the sound or turn up the lights until the entire credit sequence has ended, as these final moments of the film contain video messages that are the epilogue to the film.

Plan for a post-film discussion

After watching *Brave Miss World*, your audience may feel inspired, overwhelmed, saddened, angry, fearful, or galvanized. There are as many reactions to the film as there are audience members! Remember that all responses are valid, and remind viewers that they should seek the help of a friend or a counselor if they feel especially vulnerable, uncomfortable, or traumatized by the viewing experience. Once the lights have come up, it's time to signal the next steps for your audience, either by introducing guest speakers, moderators, and panelists, posing a first question from the "Discussion Questions" included in this guide, or soliciting reactions and questions from the audience. Be sure to review the film's Discussion Questions before this portion of your event. You can find them here: www.BraveMissWorld.com/Materials.

Coordinate a BraveSpeak session

The issues raised in *Brave Miss World* may touch upon audience members' deeply held beliefs, trauma, fears, and opinions. In some cases, you may want to go beyond a post-film panel or Q&A and provide the space for a more intimate, private discussion where survivors and their friends and families can share their experiences and their feelings, and where they can be heard in an inclusive, nonjudgmental, and open-minded forum. We call these sessions BraveSpeak sessions. Please have an experienced facilitator familiar with the issues of sexual assault and rape at your BraveSpeak sessions if you intend to have one. And come equipped with our Handouts (available online at www.BraveMissWorld.com/Materials) and the number for a local rape crisis hotline or support help line, too.

V

Prepare action handouts

Even if you won't host a BraveSpeak session, it's helpful to provide viewers with educational resources and ideas for taking action on the issues presented in the film. If you can, print up the "IX Things You Can Do", "#IAmBrave", and "The Issues" handouts from our website, and have copies available on a table at the entrance/exit to your venue. These are crucial resources that your audience can take with them.

VI

Encourage social media

After the lights come up, encourage your guests to take a moment to "Like" *Brave Miss World* on Facebook ([Facebook.com/BraveMissWorldDoc](https://www.facebook.com/BraveMissWorldDoc)) and follow @BraveMissWorld on Twitter before they leave. Urge them to use the hashtag #IAmBrave. Some audience members may ask how they can learn more about *Brave Miss World*, how they can purchase a DVD, or how they can host their own events. Direct them to www.BraveMissWorld.com for more resources.

VII

Document your event

Please document your event by taking photos and recording stories you hear from attendees. Take notes on which members of the press attended and who printed or aired news about the event. If you can, post the links and photos to both your and *Brave Miss World's* Facebook page to showcase your success! You may also send photos or video from your event to Screenings@BraveMissWorld.com. With your permission, we'll post on our social media platforms, we'll include details about your event in reports we create for funders, and we'll use examples from your events to inspire others who wish to host screenings and BraveSpeak sessions.

VIII

Seek feedback

After your event—either before the audience departs, or in an email follow-up in the week following your screening—ask attendees about how they liked the event and what they learned. You can download our Evaluation Form at <http://www.BraveMissWorld.com/Materials> for ideas about what questions to ask and how to measure your event's success. But remember: numbers are not all that important; many powerful community screenings have had small audiences but great discussions or group commitments to pursue action on sexual violence prevention and healing.

IX

Take follow-up action

Based on the tenor of your post-film discussions and BraveSpeak sessions, you may become aware of special needs or gaps in your community: the need for a more accessible rape crisis hotline, for example, or a local directory for sexual assault counselors. After your event, follow up with event attendees by email and via social media to encourage action on such issues, so that your screening can become the launch pad for local change.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The below discussion questions are general questions intended for diverse film audiences. Note that they are also available for download on the *Brave Miss World* Materials page.

Please visit www.BraveMissWorld.com/Materials to download more useful resources for your own screening or to print out one-page discussion sheets specific to high school, college, Jewish audiences, or BraveSpeak sessions.

IX GENERAL AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

I
In *Brave Miss World*, many survivors recount the difficulty of telling their story to family member and friends. Has the film changed your perceptions of what it's like to talk about, or seek support after, experiencing sexual violence?

II
Why do you think Linor wanted to tell her story so publicly? Do you think the act of sharing her story contributed to her healing? Do you think the same would be the case for all survivors of sexual assault or rape? For you?

III
Why do you think Linor underwent a religious transformation when she began to speak out about rape? Do you see it as a reaction to her trauma?

IV
Linor processes her experience of rape through many channels: by sharing her story with friends and family; by working to reform the legal landscape of rape in Israel; by attempting to alter the specific treatment of her assailant within the criminal justice system; by connecting with other survivors. Which of these approaches feels most accessible to you? Which is most inspiring? Which feels most daunting? Which most liberating?

V
Linor goes from being a teenage victim to becoming the winner of the Miss World competition and from experiencing PTSD to becoming an advocate for other women. Now she is also a wife, a mother, and a law school graduate. How did her experience of assault influence each of these transformations? Do you think her journey is one other survivors can identify with? Can you?

VI
Linor has an extremely supportive mother who is able to help shepherd her through her healing process. After seeing the film, what is your understanding of the role that a survivor's family, friends, partner, and community play in his or her healing?

VII

Linor's rapist, like many sexual offenders, is a serial criminal who has victimized many women. How does the serial nature of sexual violence impact your understanding of the importance of prosecution? The importance of alerting law enforcement? The importance of telling friends and family members?

VIII

Every two minutes, someone in the US is sexually assaulted. Can a film like *Brave Miss World* help to raise awareness about the prevalence of the issue? What needs to happen after the film—if anything—to ensure that the broader community understands the issues discussed in the film?

IX

College-age women are four times as likely to be sexually assaulted than any other age group, and in *Brave Miss World*, we see how Linor's campus visits inspire dozens of young women to speak about their own experiences of rape. How might *Brave Miss World* be used at colleges to increase understanding of rape on campuses? Do you think a film can influence policy and/or legislation about the prosecution of rape in university settings? How?

IX QUESTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDIENCES

I

Linor Abargil was only 18 when she was beaten and raped while in Milan for a modeling job. Did her age at the time of the assault surprise you? Are you surprised to learn that young women between 16 and 19 years old are the group with the second highest rate of rape and sexual assault in the US (just after women between 20 and 24)?

II

Linor immediately told her mother about her experience of rape. If you were in her shoes, would you have a trusted adult, parent, friend, or family member you would feel comfortable telling about a rape or sexual assault?

III

High school is often a time of new relationship experiences for teenagers, and many teens are dating, becoming sexually active, or exploring their own sexual identity for the first time. Do you think this is also a good time for teens to learn about the incidence of rape and sexual assault? Should there also be education about consensual/mutual sexual experiences?

IV

If someone close to you—a friend, a relative, a school peer—experienced sexual assault or rape and confided in you, how would you respond? Do you feel that you've received training or instruction that would prepare you to be supportive to that person? If so, where did you receive that training? If not, where can you seek that kind of skill building?

V

There are many myths and misperceptions about rape. Among the most common of these is that women who dress or behave in a certain way are "asking for sex" or are consenting to sex without actually saying "yes". Another is that only girls—and not boys—can be sexually assaulted. And yet another is that rapists are obvious criminals who are easy to spot and stay away from. Can you list other myths surrounding rape? Visit www.smartersex.org/date-rape/facts-myths.asp to see a list of common rape myths. Which of these are at work in your own community? How can you combat them?

VI

In your school, what belief system or culture exists around rape? Is rape the subject of joking or teasing? Is it totally taboo to speak about at all? Do girls acknowledge it more than boys? Adults more than teens?

VII

In Linor's case, her rapist was a man she knew and trusted. Does it surprise you that most survivors of rape know their assailants? Does this fact change the way you think about rape and sexual assault? Does it change the way you think about rapists?

VIII

Is there peer pressure in your school to perform sexual acts that you're not ready for? Have you ever been part of a discussion that pressures others to be sexually active, or have you ever felt under pressure from others? How would you counsel a friend who asks your advice on whether to go along with a sexual act they might not want to participate in?

IX

Linor finds healing through talking about her experience of rape. Do you think the support of family, friends, and other survivors is crucial to healing from the trauma of rape? How else might rape survivors find support?

IX QUESTIONS FOR COLLEGE AUDIENCES

I

In the United States, college women are in the demographic most likely to experience rape and sexual assault. A Department of Justice report estimates that as many as one in four American women will be the target of rape or sexual assault during her four-year college career.¹⁵ We hear the stories of some of these college women in *Brave Miss World*. On your campus, do you think rape and sexual assault are prevalent? Do you know someone who has been a target of rape or assault?

II

Are you aware of the policies and procedures for reporting rape or sexual assault on your campus? If not, where can you go, or whom can you ask, to learn about how to report a campus rape to campus police, the administration, or campus mental health services? (See SAFER's [**Campus Sexual Assault Policy Database**](#) to search for your school's policy.)

III

Take a poll of the room: How many in your group know that in the United States, a federal civil rights law called Title IX protects all students from sex-based discrimination in educational settings? How many people know that Title IX prohibits sex-based discrimination in sports? How many know that it also requires that schools be proactive in preventing and handling complaints of sexual harassment and sexual violence on campus? Visit the website of the group Know Your IX at [**www.knowyourix.org/title-ix/title-ix-the-basics**](http://www.knowyourix.org/title-ix/title-ix-the-basics) to test your group's knowledge of Title IX. The relevant aspect of Title IX in the context of campus rape is that Title IX guarantees a safe learning environment on college campuses, and therefore a university administration's failure to respond adequately to reports of rape is a failure to comply with Title IX.

IV

In *Brave Miss World*, Linor puts a lot of emphasis on the role of supportive friends and family in her journey toward healing. If a friend or family member of yours were the target of rape, would you know what to say? (For some suggestions, read [**"What To Say If Your Best Friend Tells You She Was Raped"**](#) at xoJane or [**"20 Things to Never To Say To A Friend Who Confides In You That They've Been Sexually Assaulted"**](#) at Feministe.)

V

In many cases of sexual assault and rape, the assailant is known to the victim, e.g. date rape, or rape within an existing relationship when sex becomes non-consensual. In a report published by the US Department of Justice, for example, it was estimated that 35% of attempted rapes and 12.8% of completed rapes happened while the survivor and the assailant were on a date.¹⁶ Does this statistic surprise you? Why or why not?

VI

On many college campuses, it is commonly assumed that women who have been drinking are “responsible” or “at fault” if they are the target of an attempted or completed assault or rape. Does this myth exist on your campus? Describe how the myth plays out in social settings, in jokes made about rape, or in your experiences. How can you debunk this myth? What do you think campus administrators and law enforcement can do to debunk this myth?

VII

Campus rape is often considered a “women’s” issue. Do you think this is true? Are men on your campus also vulnerable to sexual assault? Are men visible in rape prevention and awareness activities on your campus, like Take Back the Night marches or Sexual Assault Awareness Month programming? What are the barriers to men’s involvement in such activities on your campus? How could these barriers be removed?

VIII

What is the culture of “consent” on your campus? In *Brave Miss World*, we hear a hazing ritual in which college men shout, “No means yes; yes means anal.” Does this kind of “joking” around consent take place on your campus? What is your definition of consent? Is your campus a place where “Only yes means yes”? Is there a ‘hook-up culture’ on your campus that affects how unwanted sexual assaults may be perceived or reported? To open the discussion about how to communicate consent, see the **“Consent is Sexy”** campaign at the University of Georgia or the **Only Yes Means Yes** campaign and video from the Woman Abuse Working Group.

IX

Many university administrations do not publish accurate reports on the incidence of sexual assault and rape on their campuses. Do you know how to find out about the number of rapes on your campus this year? The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool (www.ope.ed.gov/security), created by the U.S. Department of Education, provides a database in which you can look up “sex offenses” by institution. Do you think this number is an accurate representation of sexual assault at your school? Why or why not?

IX QUESTIONS FOR JEWISH AUDIENCES

I

Over the course of *Brave Miss World*, Linor Abargil undergoes a religious transformation, becoming deeply connected to the practices and beliefs of Orthodox Judaism. What do you make of her growing faith? How does it affect her healing process? How does it affect her family? Her friendships?

II

Within the Jewish community, as within other religious communities, communication about sexual assault, sexual victimization or exploitation, and sexual abuse has often been muted or considered taboo. Why do you think this is the case? Do you think this has changed over the course of your own lifetime?

III

The rape or sexual abuse of congregants or followers by their Rabbis or other spiritual leaders has made international news in recent years, with cases coming to prominence in Brooklyn, in Sydney, and in London, among other cities. Does news reporting on cases of sexual assault within the Jewish community help to end the traditional “silence” around rape? Does such coverage and communication make it easier to talk about rape and sexual assault in your community? Does it make it harder? Why or why not?

IV

There is a long tradition of “matchmaking” between young, single people in Jewish communities; today, such matchmaking ranges from traditional, religious practices of “Shidduch” in Orthodox communities to the use of Jewish dating sites like JDate and JewishCafe among secular Jews. Do you think that dating within one’s religious or cultural group makes a person feel less vulnerable to sexual assault or rape? Are these feelings justified, or mythical?

V

Sexual violence is often used as a weapon of war. Recently published studies of and testimonials from Holocaust survivors indicate that rape of Jewish women and girls was a common and widespread tool of control and subjugation among the Nazis. Does this information alter your understanding of the Holocaust? Does it affect the way you think about rape as a crime of power and violence? (For more information, see the Women Under Siege Project at www.womenundersiegeproject.org/conflicts/profile/holocaust.)

VI

Many Jewish scholars and spiritual leaders have documented the myriad ways in which Jewish law forbids sexual assault and rape. (For an example, read Rabbi Mark Dratch’s discussion of Jewish Law and sexual abuse at JSafe.org: www.jsafe.org/pdfs/052206.pdf.) Do you agree with Rabbi Dratch’s assertion that “One does not need a Code of Law to forbid such acts; they are inherently repulsive and repugnant?” Or do you think that codes and laws—including religious codes—are necessary to reinforce the criminal and immoral nature of sexual assault? Why or why not?

VII

There is an oft-cited concern that openly discussing the incidence of sexual violence within the Jewish community will fuel anti-Semitism and bigotry. What do you make of this concern? Is it reasonable to silence accounts of sexual violence in order to mitigate anti-Semitism?

VIII

According to Rabbi Mark Dratch of JSafe.org, the Torah “explicitly compares rape to murder”. (See **“I Do? Consent And Coercion in Sexual Relations”**, at JSafe.org.) How do you think your community or country would be different if rape were prosecuted, punished or investigated in the same way murder is?

IX

Many survivors of rape and sexual assault find solace, comfort, and guidance from elders or leaders in their religious communities, or from the community at large. If you or someone you know were the target of sexual violence, would you look for support and resources from your religious community? To whom would you turn, and why?

IX BRAVESPEAK CONVERSATION STARTERS

I

Have you ever shared your experience of sexual assault or rape? With whom? How long after the incident(s)? Did you receive support when you did?

II

Has anyone ever shared an experience of sexual assault or rape with you? Did you offer support? How?

III

Is there anyone here who hasn't yet talked about a personal experience of rape or sexual assault but who now feels that this is a safe place to do so?

IV

Has anyone here reported his or her rape or assault to law enforcement? To campus administrators? What was your experience of reporting the incident? Are you glad you reported?

V

Are forums like this one helpful or triggering? Or both? If triggering, what steps do you or can you take to mitigate the trauma or stress you're feeling?

VI

If you are a survivor, what parallels do you see between Linor Abargil's story, or the stories of the other survivors in the film, and your own personal experiences of rape or sexual assault?

VII

If you are a friend or a family member of someone who has survived rape or sexual assault, did you see parallels between your experience and that of Linor's mother? Father? Boyfriend?

VIII

Do you think that watching a film like *Brave Miss World* in a communal setting is necessary to reduce the possibility of re-traumatization? Or would you feel safer or more supported in a more intimate setting, for example, one in which you watch the film with a trusted friend, counselor, or partner?

IX

Do you think it can be empowering for survivors to tell their stories in a forum such as a documentary, a website, a blog, a book, or other media? Is it helpful for other survivors to read or see them? Does it help to connect with other survivors, even if it triggers painful memories? What is the safest forum for this?

IX HELP LINES AND HOTLINES IN THE U.S.

Local organizations and resources may have local hotline numbers of their own, but try these numbers below for national, toll-free support.

I. National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 1-866-331-9474/1-866-331-8453 TTY. This is a 24/7 confidential helpline staffed by trained crisis counselors. The helpline is peer supported from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Or chat online anonymously at www.loveisrespect.org.

II. Teens in Crisis Hotline: 917-514-TEEN (8336) or 917-851-TEEN

III. Covenant House Nineline: 1-800-999-9999. This is a 24-hour, free, confidential, and immediate crisis intervention service for teens and parents.

IV. National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE. When a caller dials this hotline, a computer notes the area code and first three digits of the caller's phone number. The call is then instantaneously connected to the nearest Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (RAINN) member center. The call is anonymous and confidential unless the caller chooses to share personally identifying information.

V. Crisis & Suicide Prevention Lifeline for LGBTQ Youth: 1-866-488-7386. This hotline is a resource of The Trevor Project and provides free, 24/7 support. Or text message with a trained counselor on Fridays between 4:00 and 8:00 pm ET by texting "Trevor" to 1-202-304-1200.

VI. Crime Victims Hotline: 1-866-689-HELP (4357)

VII. Safe Helpline for PTSD: 1-877-995-5247. Contact this helpline for civilian or military treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. The phone number is the same inside the U.S. or via the Defense Switched Network (DSN).

VIII. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255. This hotline helps individuals in suicidal crisis to contact the nearest available suicide prevention and mental health service provider.

IX. The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

IX RESOURCES

Want to learn more, download additional materials, or cite research? Start with the resources below!

I. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center Campus Resource List:

www.nsvrc.org/saam/campus-resource-list

II. Know Your IX:

www.knowyourix.org

III. Students Active For Ending Rape (SAFER):

www.safercampus.org

IV. Jewish Women International's Healthy Relationships Program:

www.jwi.org/page.aspx?pid=1260#sthash.X9vW6tgb.dpbs

V. Sexual Assault Awareness Month:

www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home

VI. World Health Organization Sexual Violence Research:

www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/violence/sexual_violence/en

VII. Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network:

www.rainn.org

VIII. The United States Department of Justice Sexual Assault Resources:

www.ovw.usdoj.gov/sexassault.htm

IX. Men Can Stop Rape (Including Downloadable Handouts):

www.mencanstoprape.org/Table/Handouts or **The Man Up Campaign:** www.manupcampaign.org

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CREDITS

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