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## **HOTLINE & SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS**

*Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence Gets the Word Out that Services Remain Open to Help Victims of Sexual Assault who Need Help More than Ever*

**[East Hartford CT, March 25, 2020]** The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence announced today that sexual assault crisis services remain open and available for victims of sexual violence. The statewide 24/7 free and confidential sexual assault crisis hotlines are open to provide uninterrupted crisis counseling, support, information and referrals to survivors. The state's sexual assault crisis centers are fully operational during "Stay Safe, Stay Home" as many programs have switched to remote workspaces.

"Survivors need our support now more than ever. While the prevention methods used to combat COVID-19 – isolation and social distancing – may make us less likely to get sick, they also create the perfect conditions for the perpetration of sexual violence. People who are dependent on others for their basic needs are also finding themselves more vulnerable to abuse and mistreatment. Finding a safe space is more difficult at a time when our connections to those who can keep us safe and bring us comfort are severed," said Beth Hamilton, deputy director of The Alliance.

The state's nine community-based sexual assault crisis programs continue to provide free and confidential crisis counseling, advocacy, support, and accompaniments through phone, email and video sessions with victims and survivors. "Our services may look a little different, but our commitment to survivors remains firmly intact. We look forward to a time when we can

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sit face-to-face with the survivors we serve but until that time we are here for them in all ways,” Hamilton stated.

The Alliance called on Connecticut’s local and state leaders to share the sexual assault crisis hotline numbers, which will link the caller to their local sexual assault crisis services center with victims and survivors who may need them. Help is only a phone call away. The Alliance’s sexual assault hotline numbers are 1-888-999-5545 (English) and 1-888-568-8332 (Español).

The Alliance’s Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CTAllianceEndSV>), Instagram ([@endsexualviolence\\_CT](https://www.instagram.com/endsexualviolence_CT)), and Twitter ([@EndSV\\_CT](https://twitter.com/EndSV_CT)) accounts have up to the minute information available.

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*The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (formerly CONNSACS) is the statewide coalition of Connecticut’s nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs whose mission is to create communities free of sexual violence and to provide culturally affirming, trauma-informed advocacy, prevention, and intervention services centered on the voices of survivor.*  
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