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## Sexual abuse everyone's responsibility including employers

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Sexual assault is a worldwide problem which can have devastating consequences. In today's modern society there are many stereotypes and myths around rape. For example: people get raped by strangers in back alleys, or they are wearing short skirts, so it means they are up for it and even males can't be abused. All these can influence the victim and people around them. It begs the questions if these myths are still in the forefront of people's mind how many individuals could have been raped by an acquaintance or by a friend and not know what happened was rape. In the UK 23% of adults between 16 to 59 who were raped or assaulted by penetration before the age of 16 told someone about the abuse. 77% of those adults did not; this can have long-term effects on them such as PTSD, unwanted pregnancies, depression and stress are just a few symptoms which the victim has to overcome. With mental health and wellbeing being a buzz word in the UK, more companies are looking at ways in which to help UK workers, take breaks or de-stress by having time away from the computers, or by having sports equipment in the workplace. Although this is a great move forward, are we genuinely seeking the underlying issue with that individual? What if someone tells their manager they were raped how would they respond to this? This talk will focus on how employers deal with employees when supporting their workers who may have experienced sexual assault or may know someone who has. It will also highlight how the process of facing sexual assault can affect not only work life and personal life but also their mental health. Should people be trained in sexual assault and how to respond within the workplace? will be discussed.

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