

# NOW AND VAWA 1973 TO TODAY

**1973**

## NOW TASK FORCE ON RAPE

The NOW Task Force on Rape is created to set up Rape Crisis Centers and hotlines across the country; NOW begins campaigns to redefine rape as a crime of violence.

**1975**

## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

NOW calls all members to the streets to protest violence against women and to “claim the night and the streets as ours” – the first “Take Back the Night” actions

**1976**

## NOW TASK FORCE

The NOW Task Force on Battered Women is established.

**1978**

## RAPE SHIELD LAW

NOW helps pass a Rape Shield Law, protecting the privacy of rape survivors by preventing cross-examination into the woman’s prior sexual history.

**1990-  
1994**

## NOW LOBBIES FOR VAWA

NOW lobbies for four years to pass the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which is signed in 1994 with an unprecedented \$1.6 billion dollar budget for violence prevention and services.

**1995**

## RALLY FOR WOMENS LIVES

more than 200,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., on April 9 for the Rally for Women’s Lives, the first and largest mass action to stop violence against women. Organized by NOW and endorsed by a record 702 national and local groups, the rally coincided with NOW Foundation’s Young Feminist Conference, brought in many new activists, especially young activists from more than 200 college campuses.

**1997**

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OPTION

NOW pressures Congress to pass the Domestic Violence Option, allowing states to grant women escaping violence exemptions from punitive new welfare reform provisions.

# NOW AND VAWA 1973 TO TODAY

**2005**

## END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Over a period of ten years, NOW and the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence worked diligently to include within VAWA provisions that would facilitate better protections and justice for Native American women because survivors of violence living on reservations depend upon tribal law enforcement and tribal courts to prosecute perpetrators properly.

**EARLY  
2000'S**

## NOW PROTESTS MEDICAL GUIDELINES

NOW protests Justice Department's "medical guidelines" for treating rape survivors – it fails to mention emergency contraception, a standard precaution against pregnancy after rape.

**2017**

## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

NOW calls all members to the streets to protest violence against women and to "claim the night and the streets as ours" – the first "Take Back the Night" actions

**1990**

## NOW ADDRESSED FEMICIDE OF MMIW

NOW holds the Addressing the Femicide Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women virtual townhall.

**TODAY**

## NOW SPEAKING OUT

NOW speaks out regularly in the media and in communications to our members on high-profile abuse cases, including Harvey Weinstein, Brett Kavanaugh, Larry Nassar, R. Kelly, Bill Cosby and more.