



# Mission and History

[www.takebackthenight.org](http://www.takebackthenight.org)

Press Kit

## Mission Statement

Take Back The Night seeks to end sexual violence in all of its forms including sexual assault, sexual abuse, dating violence, and domestic violence. TBTN empowers survivors in the healing process and inspires responsibility in all. Take Back The Night’s goal is to create safe communities and respectful relationships through awareness events and initiatives.

## Quick Facts

Earliest Documented US TBTN Event.....	1977, in San Francisco
Number of Participating Colleges and Communities.....	Over 600
Number of People Involved to Date.....	over 4 million
Number of US States Holding Events.....	48
Number of Countries outside the US Holding Events.....	15

*All of the above are best estimates to date. The TBTN historian is assembling the complete history of TBTN.*

## Events, Rallies and Marches

College campuses and communities around the world hold TBTN events throughout the year, primarily during the months of October, November, March and April to tie in with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Women’s History Month and Sexual Abuse Awareness Month. Each event has its own agenda, but often includes a candlelight vigil; a march or walk; an open mic forum or speak out; presentations by local law enforcement officers, agency representatives, governmental and school leaders, professors and other knowledgeable experts; and a survivor support circle.

## History

From the late 1970’s through present day, Take Back The Night events have been held by college and university women’s centers, YWCA’s, rape crisis centers, community centers, high school student groups, battered women’s shelters, and other organizations dedicated to helping women achieve safety and empowerment.

Very early events, even before the 1970’s, focused on unsafe streets, cities and campuses. By the 1980’s many events were held to protest pornography and the degradation of women and sexuality. Today, events highlight the problem of violence against women as well as the broader issues of sexual violence: sexual assault, rape, dating violence, sexual abuse, domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, child abuse, Internet harassment and other unhealthy relationships. Men are also lending their voices and standing as survivors at most events. All events strive to bring awareness to the problem of sexual violence and support those who have been victimized.