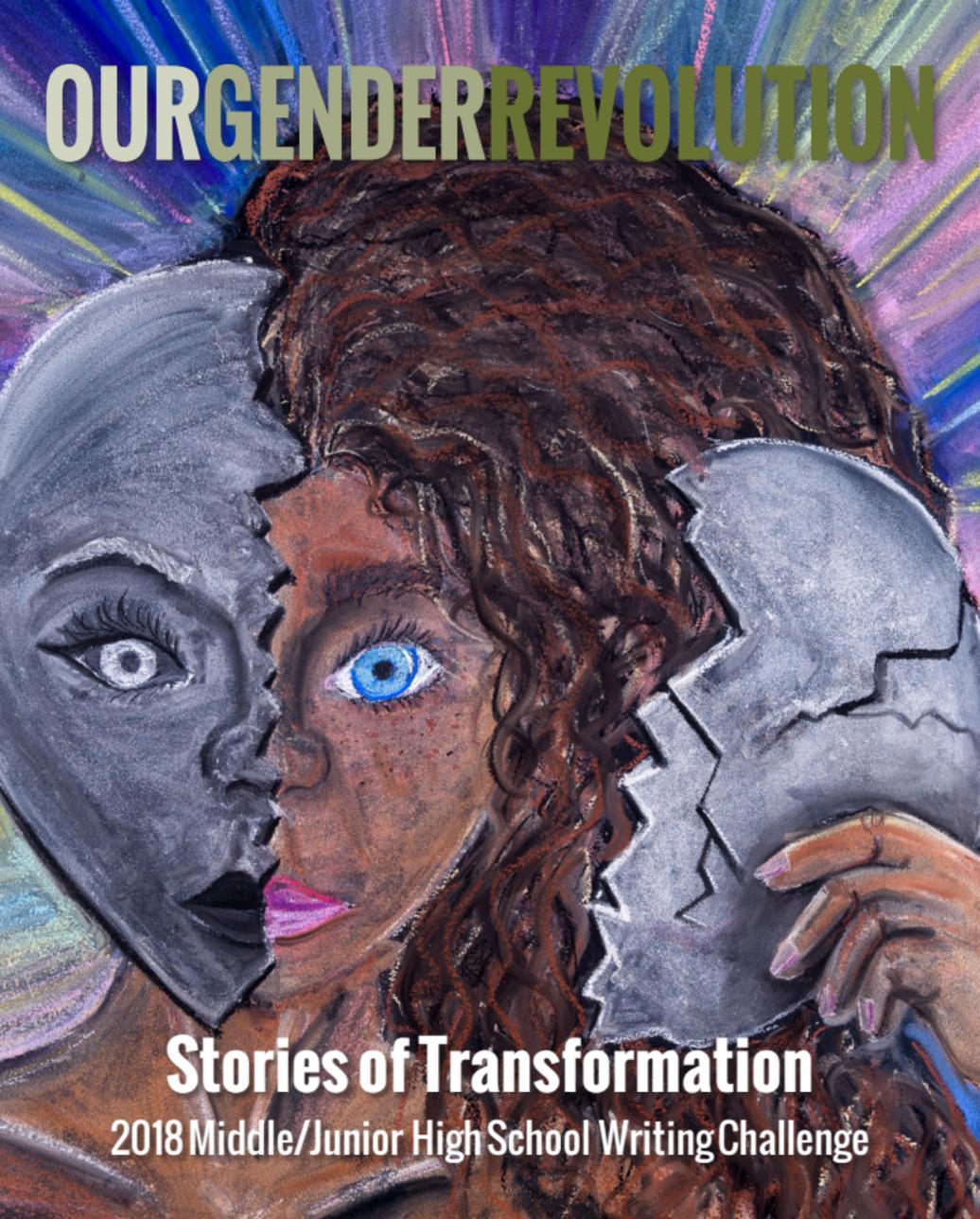


OUR GENDER REVOLUTION



Stories of Transformation

2018 Middle/Junior High School Writing Challenge

Pressed Against the Glass

My body, an object	I've learned,
Portrayed in the media	Accepted
as a prize	I am beautiful just like you
My other qualities	Not only on the outside
Hidden under a disguise	On the inside too
I didn't choose to wear	I rise above your labels
I was born with my mask	I am strong, brave, kind
Breaking free	That's not on my body
My unsolicited task	It's inside my mind

Aspen Palmer

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel – Teacher
2017 Stories of Transformation*

*Cover art inspired by "Pressed Against the Glass," 2017.
North Junior High School – Artists: Kailey Owen, Brinn Waibel, Sasha Kingston and Sydney
Teacher: Hiram Miranda*

Stories of Transformation are poems and writings to create a future where everyone is valued, where everyone is safe, and where everyone can thrive.

Idaho middle school and junior high school students were invited to write on one of six themes - We Choose All of Us, Belonging to Beloved Community, Restoring Wholeness, Our Spirit, and Our Humanity, Together We are Stronger, Living in Abundance and Harmony, and Earth is Sacred, Water is Life.

At the heart of these writings, we seek to end our culture of domination, extraction, and violence, and create a world with social equity and collective liberation for all human beings - a world rooted in interdependence, resilience, and regeneration.

The 9th *Stories of Transformation* publication was compiled from over 2,000 student submissions. Congratulations to Idaho's middle school and junior high school student authors whose selections are published as well as the *Stories of Transformation Award* recipients who displayed critical thinking and excellence.

A special thank you to Idaho's teachers who encouraged their students to discover new insights through writing and to the judges who read the amazing submissions by thousands of young people.

— Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

OURGENDERREVOLUTION

www.ourgenderrevolution.org

We Choose All of Us

We are a people who choose
A world where everyone is
valued, where everyone is safe,
where everyone can thrive.
A world where love is love and
kindness is everything.
Nothing less than this.
Every day we choose love and
in this love everyone belongs to
beloved community.
Everyone.

We are whole human beings.
We believe in our collective
humanity and our deep
connection to all living things.
We will create the world we
want to see and move forward
with courageous love and
mutual responsibility.

We are all part of this story.
When believe when we
imagine together, we can
achieve the unimaginable.

We commit to bringing
forth a world rooted in
interdependence, resilience,
and regeneration.

We will live into this new
story of Idaho with sacred
responsibility, in silence,
We look to the stars for lessons
of interconnection,
And abiding spirit.
We believe in the wonder of
what wholeness can look like;
the small glimmers of this
place, first; and then the soft
voice, growing stronger and
clearer, until this world is fully
realized.

Our choices have power.
We will be bold.
We invite you in.
We choose all of us.

Join us at
www.WeChooseAllofUs.org

Gender and Violence

Gender is one of the core
ways we learn to identify and
expresses ourselves. Gender
is socially and culturally
constructed — it's something
we learn — not just something
we inherit though our biology.

We learn and create our gender
through our relationship to
ourselves and our interactions
with the people around us.
And, even though much of
gender is socialized, it is still
very real; it shapes each of our
experiences in profound and
different ways.

Unfair treatment, harassment, or
discrimination based on gender
or gender expression is wrong
and creates the conditions for
gender violence – abuse and
sexual assault – to occur.

We do not live single issue
lives: we see the limitations
of single identities of gender,
sexual orientation, race, ability,
class, religion, immigration and
refugee status.

When identities like gender,
race, religion, and many others
are linked to power, control
and domination, many people
are devalued just for being
who they are. When people
are devalued it creates harm,
including hurtful words,
discrimination, and eventually
physical violence.

We can change this by
redefining what gender means
to us and valuing everyone
in our diverse communities.
We can interrupt and end all
forms of hate, oppression,
and violence and create a
world where everyone is
safe, everyone is valued, and
everyone can thrive.

We Choose All of Us

When we choose all of us, that means no one is left behind.

No one.

Whether they're gay or straight, or their gender or race.

Every single person is important.

No matter who they are.

No matter where they come from.

No matter where they're going.

When you choose to see someone's full humanity,

You're not just choosing to see their problems,

You're choosing to see their victories.

You choose to see

They. Are. Human.

Abigale Berg

Hawthorne Middle School

Jordon Hofman – Teacher

We are All the Same

I came here for freedom,
I was going to lose my mind, looking for wisdom
Don't want to lose my family
People call me alien, drug lord;
that's what the new president roared
I'm normal, I'm good
But I'm misunderstood
The only thing I want to say is, "we are equal"
We are hard working families, good people!
Together we can build a new future.

Hugo Cabrera

*North Jr. High
Donna Hale - Teacher*

Told To

He feels like
He was born in the wrong body
She feels like
She loves the wrong gender
They both feel like
Normal is out of reach
Both
Don't know how to contemplate
The judgment of others
They dress to fit in
He dresses to stand out
They love because they're told to
She loves because she wants to
You wouldn't notice unless they told you
Don't judge them
Even if you're told to

Kat Clark

*Hillside Jr. High
Mike Baker - Teacher*

I am capable of doing what I can now
Because of the women who have come before me
The ones who pounded their fists--
To the cries of those who fought for equality
The ones whose blood and tears
Stain the soil where we now walk
For without them
I could not build upon where they wrought
So that the women who come after me
Do not live like the women who came before me

Lindsey Crandall

Fairmont Jr. High

Adam Phillips - Teacher

A World Without Labels

We are placed in boxes
Limited in what we do because of where we come from
We are locked inside our own bodies
Constricted in our acts and thoughts
It's inhuman
Imagine if we could break free
Let the restrictions fade into the deep depths from which they came
We could only be judged on what we hold inside
Not what everyone presents us to be
A world without labels
Now wouldn't that be something.

Joshua Emara

South Jr. High

Amber Strickler - Teacher

Being a black girl

Being a black girl
is having gold
but everyone telling you it's copper.
is having a voice of a lioness,
but never allowed to roar
or you will be too loud,
too angry.
is being on the verge of extinction
as they steal your courage,
lips, hips, and tell you it's outdated.
Is to continue the tradition of defying odds,
breaking, then remaking society's rules.
A black girl is strange,
Terrifying and
Beautiful.

Charlotte Iradukunda

*South Jr. High
Tyler Bevis - Teacher*

Beldagi, My Home

Beautiful hills and green grass
Elephants, and cobra snakes, and birds
Life was great
Deepen, my name, was given by a priest
All of the community speaks Nepali
Gods, we believe in different ones
I miss my community

Deepen Mangar

*South Jr. High
Tracy Zarate - Teacher*

Dear Ancestors,

I don't know about you
But I'm scared
I'm so scared
I'm scared for my future
I'm scared for our future
The people's future
The Earth's future
Sometimes
I just want to go back in time
I want to see how it was
I just want to understand
How did our Earth turn to be this?
I might have never known you
But please
Remember me
And please understand
That we could use your help

Jenna Thomas

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker - Teacher*

I am layers of
Dirt and rock.
I imagine my face is beautiful,
But I have yet to find a mirror
That I can see myself in.
I've lived in darkened space
For over four-million years,
Still I am not respected.
Your ears
Are filled with nonsense.
All I ask is that you,
Teach the future,
That I am here.
But someday,
I won't be.

Ava Tyler

*Hillside Jr. High
Julie Davis - Teacher*

Stories of Transformation Award

Solo el amor de una madre
Solo el amor de una madre confiar cuando nadie más lo hace,
Solo el amor de una madre te cuidará cuando estés en peligro,
Solo el amor de una madre te amara cuando nadie te quiere,
Solo el amor de una madre mantendrá fuerte,
Solo el amor de una madre mantiene la comunidad unidos.

Only the love of a mother
Only the love of a mother to trust when nobody else does,
Only the love of a mother will take care of you when you are in danger,
Only the love of a mother will love you when no one loves you,
Only the love of a mother will keep strong,
Only the love of a mother keeps the community together.

Edwin Vargas

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Assumptions

You're never alone.
Stereotypes stand meaningless, we're human.
This life, won't last,
Go along with a day without
Assumptions, stereotypes,
Without taunting people for gender, or race,
Become unidentifiable.
All smiles, be different, be unique.
Voices will share a compliment.
Kinds of all age, gender, and race, can come together.
They will share peace.

Rebecca Abbe

*Crossroads Middle School
Robert Zumbrun - Teacher*

My People

My people are the ones who stick their fists in the air and protest
the wrongdoings of this nation.

My people are the ones who do not stand for sexism, racism,
lgbt+ phobia, or anyone who stands for hatred.

Rachel Alonso

*Fairmont Jr. High
Nicole Jones - Teacher*

Kindness.

as the kids who are normally picked on and teased walk in the halls
All eyes fall onto them
But they don't see any judgmental gazes.
They only see acceptance in their eyes.
They only see compassion
No one yells at them for being gay, trans, non-binary, asexual,
anything.
They just accept it.

Rachel Alonso

*Fairmont Jr. High
Nicole Jones - Teacher*

Belong.

when I said to you that I was into girls, you saw my leg shake and
tears run down my face, you said it's okay, that I was not a different
person, I was still the same person as I was yesterday
And I knew that I was safe.
I knew I belonged.

Rachel Alonso

*Fairmont Jr. High
Nicole Jones - Teacher*

We are all the same
Regardless of...
How we look,
What we believe,
Our sexuality or genders,
Our past and future,
Our skin colors,
Our style or taste,
Regardless we are all the same
We are all humans.

Alisha Arndt

*Crossroads Middle School
Anna Kreiger - Teacher*

Earth

Earth is our home
We are destroying it
We leave colossal footprints in the atmosphere and the oceans
The oceans are drying up
The animals are going extinct
The air is thick, it slows us down
Where did it all go
The animals,
The people,
The oceans,
It's all gone
Destroyed by only us,
The humans

Jack Bales

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel - Teacher*

Together

Together, we are a community.
Together, we are the future.
Together, we are valued.
Together, we eat.
Together, we are peaceful.
Together, we are strong.
Together, we are golden.
Together, we are not alone.
Together, we are one.
Together.

Konrad Benner

*South Jr. High
Amber Strickler - Teacher*

Dear Great Grandmother

Dear Great Grandmother
The world is different now
People are being judged
For who they really are
Everyone has to be the same
But why can't we be different
Why am I forced to act a certain way
Dear Great Grandmother
We need your help

Sadie Berry

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

When we stand strong

When one falls we have others to help us get back up
When one gets back up and watches another fall
Then helps the other up
When this keeps happening over and over
Then soon all of us
Will stand strong

Chloe Brooks

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Connection

Water connecting us all to the Earth
Running, snaking along the banks
Winding through canyons
Tumbling, washing down from the peaks of mountains
That stand like unwavering sentinels
Keeping watch over all of us
Water, connecting us to each other
Making us feel whole
A bond between us that
is unbreakable and everlasting
Water reminds me of her
Beautiful, calm, quiet

Dartanian Brown

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Things Not to Say to Someone That's Been Sexually Assaulted

"You were asking for it."
"Boys get raped too."
"What were you wearing?"
"Boys will be boys."
"Did you make this up for attention?"
"That was a long time ago, just get over it."
"Well you know what they say, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger."
"It could have been worse."
Maybe instead of teaching girls that molestation is normal,
we should teach boys not to sexually assault.

Lucy Brown

*South Jr. High
Tyler Bevis - Teacher*

Water is life
Without water we would die
We need water to survive
We have water everywhere
In water you hydrate, you play, you grow
Without water we slowly lose ourselves
We need water to survive
In water I swim
Swimming I feel happy, weightless, and free
Water gives us life
We are lucky to have water in our lives.

Emma Brumfield
Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher

Welcome Everyone To The World

When you come to this world you should be accepted
But some people aren't accepted
Just because they are different
But different is good
Good is something we have in all of us
It can be hard for others to see
But let us try to
Welcome everyone to the world

Connor Brusso
Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher

Our World

In society's "perfect" world
I am allowed
To only like pink
I am okay
To play with dolls
I am supposed
To be frail
I can only
Be the same
But in society's former world
I was allowed
To only like blue
I was okay
To play football
I was supposed
To be tough
I could
Be unique

Keeahna Clary

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany Scripser - Teacher*

You're Not Alone

You aren't by yourself, we're all together
We fall apart without one another
We change the world, that's all of us
One by one, we'll all make a fuss
Our hearts are true, we'll say what we believe
Never backing down, we won't retreat
You are different, that fact is true
We've all grown up together, and feel like we've known you
Strong and fierce, that's what we are
Brave together, never afar

Hannah Clay

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany Scripser - Teacher*

Only Eyes

Imagine, this same world.

The same people, the same faces, the same bodies.

Imagine all that your mind notices, is the two eyes looking back at you.

They don't see gender, race, or size.

Just two eyes, looking at two eyes.

If all you see is a spherical montage of color,

Would you care?

Would it matter to you if they were something different?

Or would you notice that you're the same.

Ashton Cooper

Eagle Middle School

Natalya Winkle - Teacher

The Truth of Gaia (Greek Earth Goddess)

Mother Earth

Protector of all

Whose trees stretch towards the sky

And roots embrace the underworld.

She is the symbol of balance,

Of sacrifice, revenge, and regret.

Giving all that she has

And watching as her children betray,

Poison her,

And leave her to rot.

Yet she keeps moving forward,

Beyond her past and into her future.

Waiting for no one

And letting nothing stop her.

Alec Cottrell

West Jr. High

Travis Lynn - Teacher

I was made of glass
delicate and thin
they broke me apart
shattered by my pieces
never to shine again
but I picked myself up
glued all the fragments back together
all the cracks still show
some gaps still need to be filled in
but now I am whole
ready to love again

Lindsey Crandall
Fairmont Jr. High
Adam Phillips - Teacher

Why Judge?

LOUD, with the words of our President,
Telling the public **transgender** people are **not allowed** in the ARMY.
We feel pain, sadness, and weakness,
We see the world turning on us.
We work, and try anything we can,
We are pushed away and judged,
We cannot get through to show how we feel, yes this is "Loving Community",
We are "*Belonging here*" and "*Loved*"
What about "*We the people*"?

Mykenzie Crawford
South Jr. High
Amber Strickler - Teacher

Water Hallow

Droplets splashed as the promontory overlooked the sea of many bright colors.

She and the sea awakened like a morning bird, a glittering yellow in the far horizon brought her and her fellow ocean dwellers upon the edges of soft blue ripples.

The sea creatures from far and near spiraled around her and closed in, encircling her in a consummate round of light and color that moved as one in chorus and synchronization.

Tessa Crook

*Sawtooth Middle School
Shannon Glabe - Teacher*

Mountains

In the Mountains
It's wide and open
In the Mountains
I feel wind wisping across my body

In the Mountains
You can explore

In the Mountains
I feel whole

In the Mountains
There is beauty inside

In the Mountains
I feel love like my parents used to love me

In the Mountains
I can think

In the Mountains
I can be myself

In the Mountains
What happens, stays

Tazyrae Dischinger

*Salmon River High School
Ashley Mayes - Teacher*

Alone Together

Only dark shadows cast upon those who left. Only one had stayed,
afraid of leaving a one and only chance open.

The door creaked open, casting those shadows upon her. She
looked up into the sky at her bright ancestors, glimmering in the
dark night.

She forbade to let herself imagine a life alone, though she felt
alone at the time.
But they were there, keeping her safe, together, watching over her.

Tessa Crook

*Sawtooth Middle School
Shannon Glabe - Teacher*

Together as one

One can make a difference, but a group will make it bigger.
Not all agree; don't let that get to you because most do agree.
You are not alone, and neither is anyone else.
Be strong, help each other out, anything is possible as a team.
Be smart and creative, the sky's the limit.
Be nice and great.
Be the friend that will change the world.
Be who you want to be.
You are special!

Robert Dransfield

*Crossroad Middle School
Robert Zumbrun - Teacher*

The Bitter Truth

Truth
Hates
Excuses
But
It's
The
Tool that
Excuses
Racist acts
Instigators
Recognize
Offending statements and
Never even
Try to justify

B Edgar

*Les Bois Jr. High
Amy Myers - Teacher*

Being a Woman

I can't be president
For it's too controversial
I can't play football
Unless I fight for it
I can't take a walk at night
Without some protection
I can't wear what I want
Without getting objectified
I am a woman
And I choose to be me

B Edgar

*Les Bois Jr. High
Amy Myers - Teacher*

Spicy

I am not spicy or opinionated because
of the color of my skin.

I am not pure or perfect because of
the color of my skin.

I am not associated with food because

I am a certain color.

I am not pure because of the
color of my skin.

I do not wear certain colors
because I have to, I wear
what I want.

I am not pure or spicy,

I am mikaela.

Mikaela Elkins

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel – Teacher*

Solemnity

Mexicano

Gang Member, Rapist, and Thieves

Americano

Selfish, Arrogant, and Thoughtless

Medio Oriente

Terrorist, Bomber, and Evil

Africano

Drug-Dealer, Violent, and Rude

Stereotypes and “rules”

Part of nature’s laws

Can’t escape race

One day united

One day of freedom

One day of humanity

No one judging

No one hurting

No one with sadness

Everyone’s happy

Santiago Fernandez-Juarez

*South Jr. High
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

Imagine living in a whole new world,
A world without discrimination,
A world without judgment,
A whole new experience where we are all equal
No one will judge you for your color
A world where we all support others
We love people by the inside and not the cover

Daniela Garcia

*South Jr. High
Amber Strickler*

No one left behind

No one left behind
A phrase they use in the army
They say this because they are a team
They are Stronger together
So if they are stronger together then let's
Be stronger, let's say
We got through this
We can get through everything

Audri Green

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

With you
We can bond through four simple words
Together we are stronger.
What do those words mean?
They mean we can have peace
We can bond even if we don't want to
We can look into someone's eyes and say
You matter, without you we will be incomplete

Audri Green

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Hand in hand, light the night stronger, better.
We can go farther when we work together,
standing side by side, right to left, standing together
cause we are better together.
Stand, come together, work together.
Equal as whole, one by one, equal to equal.

Trinitee Gurley

*Fairmont Jr. High
Adam Phillips - Teacher*

Together we are Stronger

Even as I grow older, I need you to hold my hand because your love is the reason I have strength when I am weak. I love you to the moon and back my dear mother because you have always been there for me. Together, our love makes us stronger for all eternity.

Neekey Habibi

*Fairmont Jr. High
Adam Phillips - Teacher*

Light a Fire in Your Heart

Everyone blames other people
for the world's problems
that's the real problem

We stumble and fall
into a pit that we dug for ourselves,
blinded by selfishness

One thing lights the way out
It spreads like wildfire
Lighting up the darkness

Love is our weapon against darkness
It can change the world
We can become stronger together;
Put a stop to the suffering
Choose Love

Kristen Halcomb

*Riverglen Jr. High
Jeanette Griggs - Teacher*

Together we are!

Together we must not hate,
Together we must live,
Together we must love,
Together we must trust,
Together we are family,
Together we are friends,
Together we are life.

Ketner Haldorsen

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

As a woman

As a woman,
I am only worthy of \$0.80,
Compared to the \$1.00 you make.
I am expected to be thin and beautiful,
not bulky and plain.
I can't be muscular,
Because that's "unattractive."
I cook, clean
take care of you.
You're the provider.
generations after us,
daughters will grow to raise their children like this.
Unequal,
Rather we should teach everyone how important they are.
men and women are powerful,
And equal.

Shelby Hale

*South Jr. High
Amber Strickler - Teacher*

I watch

The wind howls as I look at the cliques outside
I watch as beautiful girls make fun of shy boys
A teenager told he has to like sports more than school
A girl, alone because people say she's different,
for liking another girl
And a baby,
Cradled in their mother's arms
And I worry
Is this the type of life
That the baby would grow up
A world where there's so much
hatred and judgment?

Carol Hardinger

*South Jr. High
Amber Strickler - Teacher*

DREAM

Dream about a world where we are treated the same.
Read in the news where we are treated the same.
Earth would be different.
Always people will be treated the same.
Move with kindness into my new world as it is already waiting for you.

Kohl Haynes

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Unstoppable
All alone.
I am weak.
One heart
one breath
one body
against all odds.
All the mountains I must climb,
all the people I must beat
they terrify me.
But with you I am strong
We win together, we lose together, we struggle together.
You lift me up and we fly on the wings of the eagles.
Because we are one team.
Because we are stronger together.
Together we are unstoppable.

Ava Hicke

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany Scripter - Teacher*

To Live in Wholeness

Wholeness is a state of mind
It is when you are happy with yourself.
You love your body, life, and everything you are blessed with.
Wholeness is enjoying all of the little things.
When you are able to realize benediction
That means you are whole.
You feel one with your spirit, mind, and heart.
To live in wholeness is to take all of these points,
Put them together,
And be unbroken.

Alyssa Holtz

*Riverglen Jr. High
Jeanette Griggs - Teacher*

United

United we stand
Together, never alone
When one falls
The rest shall help to rise together
In the dark of the night
And in the light of the day
To rise and be the light in the dark
Where there is evil there is good
And where there is good there is a
Brightness, a shine
The challenges a society can face,
Can only be overcome by the society itself
United We Shall Stand

Mashaal Jan

*Riverglen Jr. High
Gretchen Schulz - Teacher*

Dear Those Before Me,
Dear The Greats,
The Grands,
Is this what you wanted for us?
We waste away
Kept serenely in the clutches of solitude
With our thoughts
Our judgments
Our lies
Our grudges
Or would you prefer us to rise together?
To stand together?

Holly Johnson

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

844 million lacking
We Waste 560 Gallons
100 million dead
We throw away
133 Billion Pounds
We Have Our Extravagance
We Still Find Time To Count Our
Woes
How Sacred is our Earth?
How Precious Is Our Water?
Of Course We Care We Yell
...At Each Other
But
100 Million without clean water
100 Million starve
Are They Just Numbers?
How Sacred Is Our Earth?

Sarah Johnson

*South Jr. High
Tyler Bevis - Teacher*

Expectations

I expected hate.
I believed that you would think I was strange,
That I was a bad person
Or worse,
Less than human.
What I did not expect was
Smiles,
Support,
Love.

Liliana Krigbaum-Horn

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Deep in the woods
Hidden behind a mountain
Near the river
The grass emerald, the sky azure
Deer and cubs come to play
But they're not alone
We too come to fall for the land's charm
The sense of peace
Stillness surrounding it
The clear skies
Land to roam
In nature's embrace.
Earth's heartbeat roars,
Calling to those who dare listen
Showing them the pleasures of untold secrets
Of life

Stephanie Lancaster

*South Jr. High
Tyler Bevis - Teacher*

As a male Latino stereotypes hit me
"His family sells drugs."
 "His family is poor."
 "His parents own a taco truck."
From the eyes of the world I'm this brown skinned human
I eat tacos
I am very poor
I am from Mexico
I am here illegally

From the eyes of my friends, family
I'm Mexican
I'm not poor
I play all sports
I'm helpful
I eat many types of foods
I am here legally

Brian Leon

*South Jr. High
Amber Stickler - Teacher*

When I step outside into the forest
I smell the wind and everything it carries
I hear the trees and everything in them
I taste the sky and all it holds
I feel the river run around me
In the snowy mountains
I smell the fresh pine
I hear the powder fall
I taste the cold bite my throat
I feel the wind rush past me
I see how I wish life could be

Cadee Lindmeood

*Fairmont Jr. High
Adam Philips - Teacher*

Family is forever

Family is forever
Those who pass on
Live forever in you
In your heart,
Mind and
Soul
When you learn that
You will find
True peace
Family will give you
Strength
Happiness
Love
Family is forever

Nick McCarty

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Together we are stronger.
Together we work harder.
All of us are like arrows.
Some of us hit the bullseye but with all of us together
it's impossible to miss.
We are stronger than one.
We are all chain links, with more working together we
can stretch farther to achieve our goals.
Together we would be there for the falls and the wins.
But we will make with no one left behind.
Together we're one.

Zachary Martindale

*West Jr. High
Travis Lynn - Teacher*

We all belong to a community
We all help create our community
We sometimes bring our community up
We sometimes bring it down
We help create a strong community
We help create a weak community
We create charities for our community
We help our neighbors of our community
Everyone belongs and helps create our communities
Creating and belonging to a community
Is what brings our world together.

Naquan Maurice

*Fairmont Junior High
Adam Phillips - Teacher*

Open

You look around,
surrounded by people, your peers.
You're trapped, you're beyond your peers,
beyond what they can think and what they will ever know,
and it's torture
I'm writing now, to you, I think... and I ask of you,
open your mind, expand the possibility of others' thoughts,
Realize that you could be wrong. Understand how large you could
be, or small,
Open your eyes and see... open yourself for people like me.

Malachi McMillan

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel - Teacher*

Me with ease

I see but don't respond
Because I know I don't belong
I'm for freedom and happiness
But everybody seems so lifeless
I'm attracted to confident souls
Especially the ones
With rips and folds
Because I believe
That I was sent here
To hear
Their stories

Ari Meikle

*Riverglen Junior High
Gretchen Schulz- Teacher*

Dear Ancestor

Dear ancestor, from some distant time
What would you say to me if you could see me now
Would you just look in disgust, or ask how things are in mine?
Dear ancestor, what do you fear
Do you ever wonder what will happen to your family?
Which way will they go, left or right, driven by love or tears
What path you take
What you see
What you do
That will lead to me

Diesel Messenger

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

The Mountain Speaks

The mountain speaks
The mountain calls
The mountain sleeps
The mountain dreams
Underneath its rocky surface
Lies its terrible power
A fiery birth
With the urge to devour
The mountain shakes
The mountain falls

Diesel Messenger

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Because of this world
I am too scared to speak my mind
Because of this world
I am too scared to walk in my own neighborhood
Because of this world
I make less money because I am a woman
Because of this world
Hate overpowers love
But I believe in a world
Where we are all equal and
Where love is the key to success

Ahnyana Mills

South Jr. High

Amber Strickler - Teacher

Because of who I like
I am evil
Because of who I like
I should die
Because of who I like
I don't deserve kindness
Because of who I like
I will fail
Because of my choice to
Be gay and bi

Ahnyana Mills

South Jr. High

Amber Strickler - Teacher

The desert.
An infinite expanse of sand and lifelessness.
Dead.
But add a single drop of water and they will come.
Hope.
They will come from everywhere to scavenge what you left behind.
Resilient.
Nothing is wasted in the desert.

Natasha O'Dell

*South Jr. High
Tyler Bevis - Teacher*

Opposite

He does the housework,
She puts a roof over their heads.
When the kids go to school, he sends them off with paper sacks,
handwritten notes, and cookies made with love and care.
She's greeted after work by her ecstatic kids jumping on her back,
loving smile from her husband, reading by the fire, and a warm
homemade meal.
Femininity, masculinity,
Why let society's standards get in the way of what we love to do?

Jenna O'Hearn

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel - Teacher*

Do Not Ignore
Do you see them on the streets
All alone
With no place to call home
They are families
Children and adults
They are struggling
While we are content
We must share the wealth
So all are happy
Do not ignore them
Help

Delaney Ott
Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher

Forest

In the forest I feel strong
I feel safe among the trees
I can express myself freely
And not worry about who sees
I can connect myself to nature
And let my worries go
There, I am free
There, I am whole

Delaney Ott
Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher

Taking a risk

I always tell myself "Be yourself even if it means taking a risk."
But that's hard because a wall of words comes crashing down on me
Telling me that I'm not perfect.
I'm sorry I don't meet your standards of being a girl.
No, actually I'm not.
Because I'm gonna listen to myself and take those risks
because one day I will defeat that wall of words.

Kayla Paine

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel - Teacher*

Words

Words are something we can't live without.
They're good.
They're bad.
They hurt.
They heal.
But it's you as a host who uses your words.
As your mouth opens they come out one by one
and as they break free it's you who faces the bad or good
or the healing or hurting
With your words.

Kayla Paine

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel - Teacher*

Missing a loved one

Life is too short,
But I know you will still be with me.
As we leave the airport,
You will now be free.

As we snuggle on the couch,
We watch movies,
And as we hug,
I always gave a little squeeze.

You will always be my angel,
And I will always remember you,
Now I'm looking back at a different angle,
I will always call you grandma.

Nicholas Perry

*Riverglen Jr. High
Gretchen Schulz - Teacher*

Humanity

Humans.
Always fighting,
Not really caring
About what we do.
Destroying and killing and hurting.
Is this just our human nature?
Is this what our species essentially is?
BUT,
There is still love within our hearts.
We can work together to help
Those who can't help themselves.
This is our nature,
Our real character,
Our truth.
Kindness.

Hector Price

*Riverglen Jr. High
Gretchen Schulz - Teacher*

If only I could talk to Molly

If I could talk to you great grandma Molly, I don't know where I'd begin. Maybe I would ask about your boat ride to America. Was it long, cold? Maybe I would ask why you stopped speaking German when you came. Perhaps I would ask what gave you strength to start your own company as a single mom. You were such a strong, smart woman. If only I could talk to you.

Olivia Reifschneider

Riverglen Jr. High

Jeanette Griggs - Teacher

Understanding

If love is a beautiful thing, why do some hate it?
If anyone can do anything, why ask of my gender?
If we all are made equal, why shun someone based on their color?
Because we don't know what it's like to be like those people.
Because that lack of knowledge makes us afraid.
So we hurt those we don't understand.
But if we let them explain to us,
We can understand

Lucy Reynolds

Fairmont Jr. High

Adam Phillips - Teacher

Everyone

Everyone. Everyone is a strong word.
It may not seem like a powerful word,
but when it is put to thought, it means everything,
because we are stronger together,
and together we are everything.

Will Richards

*Meadows Valley School
Devond Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

United

We can't choose the broken, the suffering, and the hurt
but even more so why can't we choose a world filled with
peace and happiness
a world that is safer and cleaner
A world where there are no more tears
where everyone does everything equally
and a world with love instead of hate
instead, its war, sickness, hate, suffering, death
why can't we choose all of us

Kily Rogers

*Idaho Virtual Academy
Carrie Stuart - Teacher*

My Sacred Place

A sacred place:

A weeping willow, its slender branches swaying in the summer breeze.

A wide expanse of green grass, full of happy children.

A home, its white walls and blue trimming protecting.

What if it isn't physical?

That one person who makes you feel alive.

That one smile that holds all the world in its brightness.

That one laugh that sounds more like an angel's joy.

It's not the place, but the memories.

Autumn Russell

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany VanArsdel - Teacher

Why don't people matter?

Why is it easier to say millions are lazy

And not doing their jobs

Instead of a few hundred being greedy

With their thousands of dollars?

Why doesn't our earth matter?

How is it possible to ignore

Drying oceans and forests

Instead of working harder to be eco-friendly?

It can change.

We must change for the better;

We mustn't live in ignorance and self-pity.

Nimue Savage-Cotton

South Jr. High

Tyler Bevis - Teacher

The Earth is a boy
And the boy is strong.
The boy is smart and nice, tall and big.
The boy has a brown skin color.
The boy has black hair and eyes.
The boy has a good day every day.
He has fun and he is happy.
He does not like to be bullied.
He likes to be alone
Because there are no people to bully him.
He is Earth.

Ed Doh Say

South Jr. High

Tracy Zarate - Teacher

Let go of the past, you're not young anymore
And those days are gone
Piety and gratitude brought you goodness
You'll find comfort in contentment
Giving up on the past is what's needed
Start by greeting your enemy, but be cautious
And careful of them all your life
And if your friend is disingenuous you should know
They are the enemy and should be put aside
Don't befriend liars as liars dishonor when they befriend
And be cautious of befriending the cunning
As they infest you like a scabies rash
Be cautious of the arrow of the oppressed
And know that their prayer will not go unanswered

Fatema Shaker

South Jr. High

Amber Strickler – Teacher

دع الصبا فلقد هداك زمانه
والزهد فحمدك مر منه الطيب
واقنع ففي بعض القناعة راحة
واليأس مما فات فهو المطلوب
وابدا عدوك بالتحية ولتكن
منه زمائك خائفا تترقب
واذا الصديق لقيته متملقا
فهو العدو وحقه يتجنب
ودع الكذوب فلا يكن لك صاحبا
إن الكذوب يشين حرا يصحب
واحذر من المظلوم سهما صائبا
واعلم بان دعاه لا يحجب

i wish

i wish i lived in a world where you can be who you want.
girl, boy, neither, none of these are accepted.
people tend to be scared of the things they don't understand.
i wish
i wish i lived in a world where girls don't have to be afraid.
where the girls that hide don't know who to tell
that their body has been violated.
i wish
we could learn to fit people's needs.

Kembrie Souza

*South Jr. High
Amber Strickler - Teacher*

I want equal rights.
I will try my hardest.
I won't ever give up.

I dream of a world where we are the same
Where you can do what you want, be what you want, think what you want
Where I will declare for the world to hear "Everyone's equal,"
And the only sounds in the air will be exclamations of triumph.
Because we are all free.

Kembrie Souza

*South Jr. High
Amber Strickler - Teacher*

Belonging

Gender stereotypes are meaningless because each individual person is their own. If every person did the same thing no matter what, then there's no point in having any emotion at all. A day with no assumptions, stereotypes, or biases is what everyone needs. To know people for themselves and not their identity is why we show compassion. Why not show everyone that compassion? Gender stereotypes are from the past, why not live in the present?

Kenzie Sowell

*Filer Middle School
Sara Holley - Teacher*

We choose all of us.

We choose all of us is a statement that says, we are united as one. Even though there may be cracks, we still make up the sidewalks; the path that we walk on. When we see people's full humanity, we see them as humans, just like us. No discrimination, no judgment, no hatred. To understand and celebrate all of us as humans, is just having good morals such as empathy. We are all human.

Kenzie Sowell

*Filer Middle School
Sara Holley - Teacher*

We choose all of us, we choose how we think. Actions affect us mentally, actions affect how we speak. Words can hurt and so can lies. No matter what you do, your actions will affect what people think of you. We choose our path, we choose people. We choose all of us.

Jazmyne Stephens

Fairmont Jr. High

Adam Phillips - Teacher

Wholeness, Happiness, and Health

How do we get these sought-after things?

Some say money

Others say fame

But I say give one thing back to the Earth every day

Look around you

And cherish the trees

Cherish all living things

And that's a start

Go outside, smell the roses

If you so please

Because out of all these little things

Come three big things

Wholeness, Happiness, and Health

By making a small change every day

Avery Sterling

Fairmont Jr. High

Adam Phillips - Teacher

What's the ocean without the moon?
The Earth without the Sun?
The world without love?
Chaotic, cold, and sad
But add them back, what do you get?
Peace, Warmth, and Happiness
Together, we are stronger
When we work together to become one
There is no stopping us
Imagine
If we all worked together
Combined our technology, our resources
We would be much more
Than what we already are
Only if, we work together

Avery Sterling

*Fairmont Jr. High
Adam Phillips - Teacher*

All
What does that mean?
Man, Women and everyone in between
Straight or LGBTQ+
Rich or Poor
Working at a desk
Or at a convenience store
All colors and sizes
Everyone, everywhere
We all deserve to be treated right
With no discrimination
About the color of our hair
Whether it be dyed or natural
With no discrimination
About the ink etched in our skin
Everyone deserves love
That's what all means
At least to me.

Avery Sterling

*Fairmont Jr. High
Adam Phillips - Teacher*

My friends
The trees are my friends
They call to me
When the wind blows their long green limbs sway
Speaking of wisdom passed through their root
They tell you where to go
If danger is ahead
Without them we are lost

Gracie Strickland

Riverglen Jr. High

Gretchen Schulz - Teacher

a thriving world

humans need certain things to survive,
among them are food, water, and shelter,
but we sometimes forget,
that what we need most to thrive,
is in fact each other.
we are all humans,
yet every one of us is so unique,
and it is time to honor our differences,
while cherishing our similarities

Alekya Tanikella

Riverglen Jr. High

Gretchen Schulz - Teacher

Stereotypes

All the stereotypes need to stop
All the assumptions
All the presumptions
They need to stop
Men are not superior to women
We need to stop these biased comments
And detrimental remarks
Men are strong
Women are sensitive
Or
Men are sensitive
And women are strong
Or are we both?

Jenna Thomas

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

The Big Three

Our minds, body, and spirit are,
Sacred.
Treat them wrong and the balance,
of the tree will,
Decay.
We need to restore,
The balance of the mind,
Body,
And our spirits.
We need to stop dwelling,
In the past,
And too far into the future.

But our,
Mind and spirit,
Need to be in the,
Present day,
Present time,
And,
Present actions.
Become more,
Mindful,
In the world,
Around us.

Krystal Tracy

*Crossroads Middle School
Robert Zumbrun - Teacher*

Because She's a Girl

they tell her she can't
say she's not strong enough, not fast enough, not smart
enough
because she's a girl
they push her down
call her names
put labels on her
say she can't accomplish anything
but she rises up
she fights up
as she feels the triumph running through her veins, she
stands up
stands up for all the girls
who think they can't be amazing,
because of society who tells them that

Carly Turpen

Riverglen Jr. High

Gretchen Schulz - Teacher

Normal

I'm not an alien,
So why do people look at me like I am?
The shadows of subjective opinions darken the minds of our youth,
Turning us into someone everyone expects us to be,
Ruining any modicum of originality.
By accepting our own personal insecurities
We allow ourselves to walk out of the boxes that they force us into.
Because we don't fit into the overarching societal proclamation;
Normal
And why should anyone?

Drew Underwood

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Scriptor - Teacher

El Arbol

Desde una semilla crece un árbol.
El árbol con corazón muy grande.
Todos dicen que es feo.
Pero el sabe que es muy bonito por dentro
Con un corazón muy grande.
El comenzó a crecer y empeza a ser
mas bonito y mas bueno de lo ya era
"Se tu mismo no trates de ser
alguien mas solo por lo que te dicen
nunca cambies se tu mismo"

Leylani Vargas

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Se tu mismo

Nunca trates de ser alguien mas por lo que dicen
Se tu mismo nunca cambies por los comentarios que te digan.
Solo se tu mismo nunca trates de ser alguien mas, solo se tu mismo.
Y veras lo que tienes por dentro un corazón muy grande.
Si tu eres tu mismo todos se daran cuenta de lo grandioso que eres

Be yourself

Never try to be someone else because of what they say
Be yourself never change for the comments they tell you.
Just be yourself never try to be someone else, just be yourself.
And you will see what you have inside is a very big heart.
If you are yourself everyone will realize how great you are

Leylani Vargas

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

When we all have what we need
There's love
When we all have what we need
There's hope
When we all have what we need
There's trust
When we all have what we need
Happiness
There's forgiveness
When we all have what we need
There's no pain
When we all have what we need
There's strength
When we all have what we need
There's love
Only then will we find the
abundance
We find happiness

Sydney Weber

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

The Future You Make

Today on Monday, December 11, 2017

I think about all the things that
I've done or gone through
That nobody knows about

Nobody can save you from your past

But yourself

But when I'm the worst I make people feel their best

But when I'm the best I make people feel their best

Today I will be a great person

Today I will inspire people

Today be the person to inspire others

Until the end

Victoria Williams

*Meadows Valley School
Devon Barker-Hicks - Teacher*

Mother Earth

Even cracked, she is a flower
Her bones grow and connect
Giving life to those who need her
Her sweet skin is the bark
Her body is the land
Her hair is the flowers

Lilly Wilson

South Jr. High

Amber Strickler - Teacher

Understand

You can only understand
when you see it with your heart
instead of your eyes
they can only understand
with their hearts
when you're not hiding behind
invisible bars, pretending to be
someone you're not
when you're truly yourself
and they see your heart
they'll understand

Emily Winans

Riverglen Jr. High

Jeanette Griggs - Teacher

Together or not at all
Society is crumbling,
Falling beneath the waves,
Separated togetherness,
No one is the same,
We are all humans,
We cry just the same,
Stand together before we are consumed by the waves.

Jaiden Wright

*Idaho Virtual Academy
Angela Farnes - Teacher*

* Stories of Transformation Award
+ More than one poem

Crossroads Middle School

Meridian

Rebecca Abbe
Alisha Arndt
Robert Dransfield
Krystal Tracy

Eagle Middle School

Eagle

Ashton Cooper

Fairmont Jr. High School

Boise

Rachel Alonso +
Lindsey Crandall*+
Trinitee Gurley
Neekey Habibi
Cadee Lindmeood
Naquan Maurice
Lucy Reynolds
Jazmyne Stephens
Avery Sterling +

Filer Middle School

Filer

Kenzie Sowell +

Hawthorn Middle School

Pocatello

Abigale Berg*

Hillside Jr. High School

Boise

Kat Clark*
Ava Tyler*

Idaho Virtual Academy

Meridian

Kily Rogers
Jaiden Wright

Les Bois Jr. High School

Boise

B Edgar +

**Meadows Valley
Middle School**

New Meadows

Sadie Berry
Chloe Brooks
Dartanion Brown
Emma Brumfield
Connor Brusso
Audri Green +
Ketner Haldorsen
Kohl Haynes
Holly Johnson

Liliana Krigbaum-Horn
Nick McCarty
Diesel Messenger +
Delaney Ott +
Will Richards
Jenna Thomas*+
Edwin Vargas*
Leylani Vargas +
Sydney Weber
Victoria Williams

Moscow Middle School

Moscow
Jack Bales
Keeahna Clary
Hannah Clay
Mikaela Elkins
Ava Hicke
Malachi McMillan
Jenna O'Hearn
Kayla Paine +
Autumn Russell
Drew Underwood

North Jr. High School

Boise
Hugo Cabrera*

Riverglen Jr. High School

Garden City
Dasia Garcia
Kristen Halcomb
Alyssa Holtz
Mashaal Jan
Ari Meikle
Nicholas Perry
Hector Price
Olivia Reifschneider
Gracie Strickland
Alekyia Tanikella
Carly Turpen
Emily Winans

Salmon River Jr. High School

Riggins
Tazyrae Dischinger

Sawtooth Middle School

Meridian
Tessa Crook +

South Jr. High School

Boise
Konrad Benner
Lucy Brown
Mykenzie Crawford
Joshua Emaras*
Santiago Fernandez-Juarez
Daniela Garcia
Shelby Hale
Carol Hardinger
Charlotte Iradukunda*
Sarah Johnson
Stephanie Lancaster
Brian Leon

Deepen Mangar*
Ahnyana Mills +
Natasha O'Dell
Nimue Savage-Cotton
Ed Doh Say
Fatema Shaker
Kembrie Souza +
Lilly Wilson

West Jr. High School

Boise
Alec Cottrell
Zachary Martindale

Support Friends Who Have Experienced Abusive Relationships or Sexual Assault

When someone is abused or sexually assaulted, they usually tell a friend first, if they tell anyone. Sometimes they don't say anything, but you may notice something is wrong and be worried about them.

While it can be hard to know what to do, you have a lot of influence in encouraging your friend to get the help they need. Here are a few suggestions to help a friend:

Start the Conversation – Begin a conversation from a place of concern, avoid judgment or lecturing. Let your friend know what you've noticed and don't be afraid to tell them you're worried. Be sure your friend knows that no one deserves to be hurt and that you aren't blaming them for anything.

Listen and Be Supportive – Ask them to share anything they feel comfortable sharing, then really listen. It's not your job to gather all the facts, just to support and listen. Let your friend talk about the abuse or sexual assault in the way that they need to. Make them feel safe with you as the person they choose to talk to and give them time to share their experience. Know your friend may not recognize the abuse (which may happen through texts, on the phone, or online), might be afraid or embarrassed to talk about a sexual assault, or may be confused about what happened to them. Also understand that your friend may not realize that coerced sex (when someone manipulates, tricks, or guilts a person into sex) is sexual assault. If your friend didn't want it to happen, then it shouldn't have. If your friend was sexually assaulted, encourage them to seek immediate medical treatment.

Things To Say – Encourage your friend to get help from a trusted adult, and help them connect to the resources they need. Don't judge your friend. Here's examples of things to say:

"I'm here for you."

"I'm sorry this happened to you. No one deserves to be hurt."

"It's not your fault."

"I am worried about you."

"How can I help?" or "What do you need?"

Stay Connected – Your friend needs you to listen and be supportive. Respond with understanding and empathy, not anger. Your friend may not want help from anyone. Understand what you see or hear may make you frustrated and upset. Don't close the door of communication by threatening to do something they don't want. Also, expect that your friend may share and then not say anything to you for several weeks or even months. Don't pressure them to talk, just let them know you are available when they want to talk.

Get Support – Your friend may feel more comfortable talking about the situation with someone anonymously over the phone, in that case, help them reach out to a local domestic or sexual violence organization, or one of the national support helplines listed on the next page. You can also call the helplines to get support in how to help your friend.

Where to get help

National Dating Abuse Helpline

1-866-331-9474 or www.loveisrespect.org to chat with an advocate online

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-833-656-HOPE (4673) or www.rainn.org to chat with an advocate online

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK (8255) or www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org to chat with a crisis counselor online

The Trevor Project

1-866-488-7386 for LGBTQ young people ages 13-24 or www.thetrevorproject.org to chat online

How to get involved with Our Gender Revolution

Learn how to get involved with Our Gender Revolution, a project of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, by going to www.OurGenderRevolution.org to learn more.

For more information contact the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence 208-384-0419 or 1-888-293-6118.

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OURGENDERREVOLUTION

www.ourgenderrevolution.org