

TO REPORT, OR NOT TO REPORT: SURVIVOR TESTIMONY OF THE (IN)JUSTICE SYSTEM

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Chapter Writing Structure Guide.

For those of you who decided not to report, if you like, you can use the following questions (or some of them) as a structure for your chapter. Feel free to add more elements if you wish, it's a flexible structure to guide rather than dictate. Please elaborate your answers, chapters submitted in this style must be at least 1,500 words, minimum.

1. How old were you when the assault/s happened? How long ago was that? Was it in the UK, or elsewhere in the world?
2. Like 85% of victims, you chose not to report. Let's help the reader understand why that is. What were your reasons for deciding not to report? (Please be specific – was it about disclosing your attacker; friend/family relationships at risk; not labelling it rape at the time; feeling to blame; feeling that you wouldn't be believed; wanting to just move on and file it away in the past; distrust of the system; prioritising your recovery; advice of someone else; other reasons)
3. Did press or entertainment media influence your decision? In what way?
4. How do you feel now about your decision not to report?
5. How do you feel not reporting has helped or hindered your recovery?
6. Have you told any friends or relatives about your assault? If not, why not? If you did, how did they respond? (positively/negatively). And how did their responses impact your recovery?
7. What are your thoughts about the justice system today? (Please state if commenting on the UK, or elsewhere in the world).
8. What would you like to say to those reading this? (the general public, or those working in the justice system)
9. What message of hope can you impart to other survivors reading this?
10. What is your dream for the future?

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For those of you who did report, but who withdrew your statement before a decision was made by the police or CPS as to whether to proceed, if you like, you can use the following questions (or some of them) as a structure for your chapter. Feel free to add more elements if you wish, it's a flexible structure to guide rather than dictate. Please elaborate your answers, chapters submitted in this style must be at least 1,500 words, minimum.

1. How old were you when the assault/s happened? How long ago was that? Was it in the UK, or elsewhere in the world?
2. You were part of the minority who chose to report. Over one third of those that report end up withdrawing from the process. Let's help the reader understand why that is. What were your initial reasons for reporting? What was your experience of reporting to the police? And what were your reasons for withdrawing from the process?
3. Did press or entertainment media influence your decision? In what way?
4. How do you feel now about your decision to withdraw?
5. How do you feel not going forward with the reporting has helped or hindered your recovery?
6. Have you told any friends or relatives about your assault? If not, why not? If you did, how did they respond? (positively/negatively). And how did their responses impact your recovery?
7. What are your thoughts about the justice system today? (Please state if commenting on the UK, or elsewhere in the world).
8. What would you like to say to those reading this? (the general public, or those working in the justice system)
9. What message of hope can you impart to other survivors reading this?
10. What is your dream for the future?

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For those of you who did report, but who's case was not taken forward by the police or CPS, if you like, you can use the following questions (or some of them) as a structure for your chapter. Feel free to add more elements if you wish, it's a flexible structure to guide rather than dictate. Please elaborate your answers, chapters submitted in this style must be at least 1,500 words, minimum.

1. How old were you when the assault/s happened? How long ago was that? Was it in the UK, or elsewhere in the world?
2. You were part of the minority who chose to report. About 50% of reported rapes (excluding those that aren't withdrawn by the victim) fail to make it to prosecution. Let's help the reader understand how that feels. What were your initial reasons for reporting? What was your experience of reporting to the police?
3. Did press or entertainment media influence your decision? In what way?
4. How did you feel then about the failure to achieve a prosecution? And how do you feel now about it?
5. How do you feel not achieving justice has helped or hindered your recovery?
6. Have you told any friends or relatives about your assault? If not, why not? If you did, how did they respond? (positively/negatively). And how did their responses impact your recovery?
7. What are your thoughts about the justice system today? (Please state if commenting on the UK, or elsewhere in the world).
8. What would you like to say to those reading this? (the general public, or those working in the justice system)
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For those of you who did report, and who's case was taken forward for prosecution, if you like, you can use the following questions (or some of them) as a structure for your chapter. Feel free to add more elements if you wish, it's a flexible structure to guide rather than dictate. Please elaborate your answers, chapters submitted in this style must be at least 1,500 words, minimum.

1. How old were you when the assault/s happened? How long ago was that? Was it in the UK, or elsewhere in the world?
2. You were part of the minority who chose to report. What were your initial reasons for reporting? What was your experience of reporting to the police?
3. Did press or entertainment media influence your decision? In what way?
4. Please describe how it felt to have the case prosecuted. What was your experience of the trial? Did you have access to support? What kind? How long did it take from decision to prosecute to the outcome?
5. What was the verdict (and if applicable, sentence)?
 - a. If the verdict was not guilty, how did that make you feel? (Up to 60% of cases prosecuted do not result in a conviction, let's help the reader understand how that feels).
 - b. If the verdict was guilty, how did that make you feel? What were thoughts on the sentence given?
6. How do you feel not achieving justice / achieving justice has helped or hindered your recovery? (How has the court process helped or hindered your recovery?)
7. Have you told any friends or relatives about your assault? If not, why not? If you did, how did they respond? (positively/negatively). And how did their responses impact your recovery?
8. What are your thoughts about the justice system today? (Please state if commenting on the UK, or elsewhere in the world).
9. What would you like to say to those reading this? (the general public, or those working in the justice system)
10. What message of hope can you impart to other survivors reading this?
11. What is your dream for the future?

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For those of you who did report, and who's case is still within the justice process with an unknown outcome, if you like, you can use the following questions (or some of them) as a structure for your chapter. Feel free to add more elements if you wish, it's a flexible structure to guide rather than dictate. Please elaborate your answers, chapters submitted in this style must be at least 1,500 words, minimum.

1. How old were you when the assault/s happened? How long ago was that? Was it in the UK, or elsewhere in the world?
2. You were part of the minority who chose to report. What were your initial reasons for reporting? What was your experience of reporting to the police?
3. Did press or entertainment media influence your decision? In what way?
4. Where are you with the process at the time of writing? Please describe your experience of the justice system to date. Do you have access to support? What kind? How long has it taken to date to not yet have an outcome?
5. How do you feel reporting is helping or hindering your recovery?
6. Have you told any friends or relatives about your assault? If not, why not? If you did, how did they respond? (positively/negatively). And how did their responses impact your recovery?
7. What are your thoughts about the justice system today? (Please state if commenting on the UK, or elsewhere in the world).
8. What would you like to say to those reading this? (the general public, or those working in the justice system)
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