



# EVAWI

End Violence Against Women International

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May 29, 2014

Managing Editor Ashley Schwellenbach  
Executive Editor Ryan Miller  
*New Times*, San Luis Obispo  
1010 Marsh Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear *New Times* Editors:

This letter is sent on behalf of the members of the staff and Board of Directors for End Violence Against Women International, a non-profit organization dedicated to the vision of creating a world where gender-based violence is unacceptable; where perpetrators are held accountable, and victims receive the compassion, support, and justice they deserve. Our mission is specifically focused on improving the criminal justice and community response to violence against women. As Board members and staff, we represent a wide range of professionals involved in this work, as well as survivors, family members of survivors, and others with a stake in this critically important goal.

We are writing to recognize the article written by one of your journalists, Colin Rigley. It was entitled "*Life after Rape*," and it appeared on May 7, 2014. The article was well researched and written, which is particularly noteworthy because the topic of sexual assault is not always covered in the media with such accuracy and integrity.

Some of the most difficult challenges we face in this work are the common misconceptions held by members of the criminal justice and community response system, as well as support people such as friends and family members. All too often, victims find themselves faced with the difficult task of convincing people that they were sexually assaulted and seeing it as a serious crime. Therefore, one of the most important things we can do to change such attitudes is to influence the reporting on sexual assault in the media. We appreciate the role Mr. Rigley played in improving this coverage and recognize *New Times* for supporting this effort and publishing the piece, even featuring it as the cover story.

Ultimately, better reporting on sexual assault means better educated jurors, as well as family members, friends, and other people who provide support for survivors. This type of media coverage helps us as professionals to achieve our goal of better serving the needs of victims and holding more offenders accountable.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors for EVAWI, we would like to express our appreciation for your role in supporting the development of this excellent article.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Archambault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joanne Archambault  
Executive Director