



Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)  
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## IMPACT SUMMARY:

Did you know that if you are a victim of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment or domestic violence in the military, you cannot quit your job, and you cannot sue your perpetrator or the military for damages? The Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) is the first advocacy organization in history to hold the US government accountable for the crimes committed against servicemembers and to end the impunity granted to perpetrators and negligent commanders.

Founded by women veterans, SWAN's vision is to transform military culture by securing equal opportunity and the freedom to serve in uniform without threat of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or assault. SWAN therefore tackles the most under-recognized crises and threats affecting military personnel and veterans, including sexual and intimate partner violence, legalized discrimination against military women, the enormous rejection rate of VA disability claims filed by sexual trauma survivors, the denial of full reproductive rights to military women, and gay-bashing and homophobia against LGBT servicemembers.

In under three years, SWAN has rocked the government and media establishments by holding Congress, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) accountable for sexual and physical violence committed against servicemembers, veterans and family members.

In 2009, SWAN spearheaded a national movement to end military rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment by testifying five times before Congress on the epidemic of sexual violence against women and men serving in uniform. In late 2010, SWAN and the ACLU requested a series of FOIA's related to all documentation of sexual and domestic violence incidents in the military. SWAN ended up litigating against VA and DoD and discovering outrageous, never before known facts about military sexual and domestic violence. In February 2011, SWAN partnered with the human rights law firm Burke, PLLC on a historic federal lawsuit filed against Secretaries of Defense Robert Gates and Donald Rumsfeld on behalf of 16 military rape survivors.

Overnight, SWAN became a media and legislative phenomenon. SWAN spearheaded over a dozen pieces of never-before seen legislation, including the Holley Lynn James Act that would allow survivors to sue their perpetrators or employer for damages in federal court. Today, SWAN is the single point of contact for dozens of congressional offices on both sides of the aisle working on sexual and physical violence against military personnel.

SWAN has been featured on hundreds of national and international media outlets, including Piers Morgan Tonight, CNN Situation Room, NBC Nightly News, MSNBC with Kyra Phillips and Contessa Brewer, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Time and Newsweek magazines.