



#72

What is #72

The number 72 defines the time in which survivors are encouraged to seek medical treatment after rape. Rape unlike other crimes is a medical emergency which requires certain services to be acquired within a specified period of time. Within 3 days (#72 hours) survivors can access free treatment from their nearest health facility to help prevent HIV, STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

Other reasons to report during 72 hours is for the preservation of evidence that could be used in the court process in instances where a survivor decides to report their case and the evidence can also be used to catch the perpetrator.

A lot of survivors who report late have attributed this to the lack of awareness, some fear of not being believed and others a mere fear of the unknown. #72 is to encourage survivors in such scenarios to at least consider their health before all else whether or not they decide to pursue the case in future.

The Zimbabwean Statute of limitation is 20 years which means a survivor can always report a rape whenever they are ready to, as long as it is still within a 20 year period.

What happens if a rape is not reported within #72 hours?

Rape has many effects which could be physical and psychological; just because a survivor did not report early it does not mean that they cannot receive help from an SGBV centre nearest to them. At ARC there are qualified nurse counselors and psychologist who offer psycho social support to survivors and take them through trauma counselling.

The best way to eradicate SGBV as speaks to ARC's mission "a society where SGBV is unthinkable " is to have an informed society that understands and takes action towards response to SGBV issues, how do we respond to SGBV, how do we manage SGBV cases, how do we assist survivors when they speak up? #72 is a conversation starter for that.

For more information contact ARC

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#72 every hour counts