#MeToo, a movement that started because women decided to reach out for help and talk about their experience, whatever that may be. Men and women everywhere started sharing their stories once the movement started to let everyone else know they are not alone. All the numbers who shared were just far too many and it seems unfair. The movement is targeted toward people who have survived sexual violence and want to let others know how to deal with what they have gone through, and also share what may be done to prevent it.

I have spoken to some about their experience, and others about a protest they had encountered and became a part of around the time President Trump had been elected and was sharing his own ideas on women’s rights.

Let’s start from the beginning and lead up to the protest. If a woman is at a party and she is drinking, and a man decides he has a desire to take advantage of her, if she is not coherent enough to say no, he will probably succeed in his desires. This is just one scenario of the many when it comes to sexual assault. Going further in this hypothetical, the drunk women who was taken advantage of is now pregnant, what does she do? She may not remember who the male was and who knows if he’ll confess to what he had done. And even so, if she does remember and she does have his baby and wants to be its mother, what will the man be like in her life and now their child’s life? He could continue to be sexually abusive and maybe even physically abusive. The child will then be witness to these acts and possibly grow up to do it themselves to others or turn to something else negative in life. A protest for the women to decide what happens to her and her child due to sexual assault had taken place all around the United States, a female from a protest done in Milwaukee agreed to share her story and opinion.

Taylor Amell is a mother of three and had grown up in an abusive home both sexually and physically and her first child was born due to a sexually abusive relationship about 19 years ago. She loves her children, as any mother does, but the experience still haunts her. “I am anti-abortion but how can a rapist get custody? Where is the common sense and why are states letting them do it,” Amell said throughout her story. In her story, she was talking about a situation such as the hypothetical above. It is her first-born child’s choice whether to see the father or not at this point in their lives.

In today’s society, women aren’t given the choice if they do or do not want the father of the child to be a part of their lives. “It used to be if a woman chose life, they got primary placement. It was her child and her choice. Now it’s 50/50 between both parents and this means the woman can never get away from the person who raped her or took advantage of her,” Amell adds, getting a little bit hyped up and angry. She continues to stand up for those who do not want to share or possibly those who don’t have a voice. She doesn’t want women of any age to have to spend the rest of their life with a bastard who impregnated her, if that be the case. Amell protests for women to be able to have the free choice and the right to choose what to do with her body and her child in horrific situations such as sexual assault. Amell said before walking out that “choosing life can be a literal life of hell” for those women who try to apply for assistance in today’s day in age because states make the father be a part of it all as well.

Sexual assault cases are not a joke and the male involved usually knows what they are doing and has a certain incentive. It’s not completely non-consent sexual intercourse that is sexual assault, but it is also simple touching making one uncomfortable or even degrading comments towards someone. Sexual assault doesn’t just happen to females either. Plenty of males were tweeting and posting the #metoo as well and coming forward with their stories. Society just doesn’t take men’s cases as serious, even though they know they should.

A young woman under the legal age of 18 had shared her story as well. Madisyn Harley was brave enough to come forward and share her story. A few years ago, she was in a relationship with a guy older than her and being a teenage boy, he had desires he wanted met. She was much younger at the time and had consistently told him no, however, he kept pushing. She just wasn’t ready. When they would spend time together, he would take it upon himself to try to “feel her up” and she would always push his hands away because she didn’t feel comfortable. He would then continue pushing. “He always pulled the “don’t you love me” and “I’m going to break up with you if you don’t …” and I just got tired of it and didn’t see a point anymore,” says Harley. Not all women are strong enough to just walk away, and even then, the male, in many cases, will follow.

Being a woman at any age and going through something such as this is hard enough, and then being so young and still smart enough to know better and able to stand up for oneself is huge, props to her for being so brave. Harley goes on to say that she is a CNA and her job often involves older men being “purvey” and that they make comments towards her. She said there’s always going to be that one old man that thinks he’s being funny and she just brushes it off and ignores it to humor him. “It’s another thing when I have family members of my residents come in and then hit on me or grab my bottom and tell my coworkers that “I’m a nice piece of ass” and lately it’s getting worse from the family and not so much the residents,” said Harley. She doesn’t know what to do about those kind of family members and she is now reporting it to her boss as it is getting out of hand.

Today, almost anything could be considered sexual assault from males or females, however, females don’t tend to get noticed or scolded if they try something. Harley said she is happy to share her stories and that she wants to tell future girls, “be careful and don’t get mixed up with the wrong people. These guys may know how to sweet talk you, but they aren’t worth your time.” That’s often the trick as well, males are good at talking and will try to talk a female into something or possibly even blackmail. There are so many stories out there and some are unique, most of us never even thought it to be sexual assault or abuse.

If we look around the world at other culture’s and how they treat their women, we think it’s disgusting. We have come to know that women in countries such as Syria or Afghanistan don’t have a right to their own bodies at all. They are controlled by men from the day they are born until the day that they die. That is no way to live. Women everywhere should have the right to their own mind and bodies at all times. Other culture’s often send a young woman to get married to a strange man and have children with him and she doesn't need to consent for they almost consider her nothing. Women are often looked at as objects, not as people. As heard in many protests throughout the United States, a woman’s body is hers and should not be taken advantage of. Maybe one day the world will unite and there will be one common culture and one way of life, everything else will be history and sexual assault may come to an end, but that’s doubtful.

Now, from sexual assault cases to what happens after a baby is born from such a case as no consent from both parties. In her protesting on that January day in 2017, Taylor Amell was not only protesting the government on women’s rights to their own children, but also for the Republican party balancing a budget and causing hundreds of children to have to find their own way of paying for things such as their school lunch.  The government had decided that children without a family should initially somehow pay for their own school lunch and Amell asks “how is that fair,” as many others have asked as well.

The United Nations International Children’s Fund(UNICEF) is an organization based on the needs of families and children, with the child’s best interest at hand. This organization works with the government to help children in traumatic and unsafe situations. Children are often taken from their families and homes for more reasons than one and are then put into foster homes, residential care, or even supervised independent living, depending on the child’s age. When a child is put into foster care or, for whatever reason, is independently living, who pays for the child to go to school or eat lunch? Often, children are almost left to fend for themselves and are forgotten because of new situations coming about within the organization in which are trying to help that child.  “I protest for the forgotten ones. It is my right and my faith to do so,” Amell says. As Americans, we all have the right to do so through the Constitution. Thank you, Taylor. We are all able to help children in such situations as well. Americans can become a foster parent for children or we can donate to the UNICEF organization, so they can do their job the best they can and help provide to the needs of children across America and throughout the United Nations.

From starting off with stories about the #metoo movement, to ending with thoughts and ideas towards children well- being, a lot comes into play from a sexual assault type situation, whatever it may be. A male or female could turn to sexual abuse towards others because of the lack of support and family guidance they had growing up, who knows. We can all do multiple things to prevent situations such as sexual assault and children without families from happening. We can take a step up and step out to reach out to others and provide support and let them know they are not alone. Children need help every single day in many ways and every 98 seconds, some form of sexual assault is taking place. Working together, we could help prevent sexual assault cases, we can help more children and families and that may possibly end up lowering the numbers of incarcerated prisoners. Everything has an effect on something.