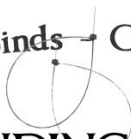


Breaking Old Binds → Creating New Ties



## THE BINDING PROJECT

### **Our Mission**

Anchored in Chicago and New York City, The Binding Project blends education, art, and dialogue to establish a community of empowerment by creating a focal point for the shared healing and strength of those dedicated to shattering the silence of sexual violence.

### **What is The Binding Project?**

The Binding Project seeks to unite people across the globe by empowering them to take ownership over zip tie bindings and other forms of restraint often used by perpetrators as a means of control and power. Victims, their loved ones, and others symbolically, spiritually and psychologically connect by participating in The Binding Project. As part of the Project, they will write a word that empowers them in times of struggle and adversity on a zip tie binding and wear it as a bracelet for 48 hours.


This action will indicate their solidarity with others across a broad spectrum of social, economic, racial, and cultural divides. Women and men will be asked to write their word of empowerment on one bracelet to be worn and to write the same word on a bracelet which will be submitted to the creators of The Binding Project. Participants are also encouraged to send photos of their wrists wearing the bracelets and write their first name, age, and city/state on the back of the photo. Bracelets submitted to the Project will become part of an installation art piece to be exhibited in Chicago and New York City.

### **Why is it called The Binding Project?**

On July 13, 1996, a violent abduction and assault catapulted Angela Rose into activism at the age of seventeen. Rose was leaving her job at a Chicago suburban shopping mall in broad daylight when she was kidnapped at knifepoint by a repeat sex offender who was on parole for murder. After bounding her wrists behind her back, the assailant taped Rose's eyes shut. Unbeknownst to him, Rose could see out of the corners of her eyes and this is what ultimately led to his arrest and conviction. Weeks following the attack, Rose worked with the assailant's previous victims to support changes in Illinois state law. Their efforts were successful in passing the "Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act" in 1998. In 2000, after a four year battle with the criminal justice system, Rose's perpetrator was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Most survivors are troubled by "triggers," objects that invoke painful memories of their experience. The plastic zip ties that the assailant used to bind Rose's wrists behind her back during the abduction have been her trigger. "Every time I saw those zip ties in a store, it was very difficult and emotional for me. For some reason, that was the sole object that always brought me back to being restrained in the car the evening I was kidnapped. That feeling of being trapped and powerless was very traumatic for me," Rose said.

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July 13 marked the anniversary of Rose's harrowing experience. Accordingly, she chose this date to launch The Binding Project as part of her commitment to helping sexual assault survivors heal.

### **Why are men invited to participate?**

For centuries, rape and sexual assault have been considered a women's issue. The fact is that sexual violence impacts everyone in our society. According to the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, studies have indicated that 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused during childhood. Most adult female victims of sexual assault face challenges in interacting with important men in their life after an attack – including boyfriends, husbands, fathers and coworkers. At the same time, sexual violence knows no boundaries, and countless male victimizations go unreported each year. The Binding Project will showcase community solidarity against all types of sexual violence.

### **What You Need:**

- Binding Ties are available on PAVE's website [www.PavingTheWay.net](http://www.PavingTheWay.net): 100 ties (for 50 people) for \$10.95 or [http://www.tiewraps.com/idtags\\_bindingproject.html](http://www.tiewraps.com/idtags_bindingproject.html).
- Black Sharpie Marker(s) with fine tip
- Large Nail Clippers

### **Get Empowered! (How The Binding Project Works)**

The Binding Project seeks to receive zip tie wristbands representing people from all over the world. In order to achieve this goal, the Project creators seek leaders to enact The Binding Project Kit in communities across the United States and abroad. Each group will be asked to discuss sexual assault with its respective persons and encourage them to commit to a renewed level of empowerment both on an individual and collective level.

### **Instruct participants:**

- Take the flat end with the clasp facing up and write the empowerment word on two Binding Ties in the rectangle area next to the clasp. Feel free to have them write their names on the long part or decorate as they wish.
- One of the ties is to have the participants wear - keep it loose enough to slip on and off. NOTE: ONCE IT IS CLASPED, THE ONLY WAY TO REMOVE IT IS TO CUT IT - *BE SURE NOT TO CLASP IT TOO TIGHT*. You can use the large nail clipper to snip off the extra past the clasp. Cut the loose end of the zip tie bracelet as close to the clasp as possible to avoid a potentially sharp edge.
- A duplicate tie is to send back to the Binding Project. Please send them along with the Binding Project Connection form and any photos/videos to: PAVE – PO Box 476991 – Chicago, IL 60647
- Encourage them to participate in a community art project (see below).

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Each organization participating is encouraged to create a community art piece in whatever way the collaborators envision and send a photo back to the project creators. The empowerment words can be included into other art projects to raise awareness in the community about these issues.

Some ideas include:

1. **These Hands are Not for Hurting:** A giant sheet of butcher paper is placed on the floor or a wall encouraging people (especially men) to trace their hands on this paper and sign their name. This action will speak to personal commitments to nonviolence and support for sexual-assault survivors.
2. **Silent Witness Project:** Life-size outlines of women and men featuring anonymous survivor stories, statistics, etc. This can be made of butcher paper and hung on the walls or wood with free standing bases.
3. **Quilting:** This can be done with paper or cut up fabric. Each person will take their own piece of the quilt and incorporate their word of empowerment. Each individual piece will be attached to the other pieces to form the community quilt.
4. **Magazine Body Image Collage:** The notion of this project is to cut out images in media of how women and men are portrayed and how this feeds into the rape culture we live in. This can be large, collective or individual collages. The bracelets can be connected and used as a frame around it.
5. **Clothesline Project:** Each participant will decorate a tee-shirt displaying their emotions about violence and their empowerment binding bracelet. This can be done with markers, cut up with scissors, etc. These tee-shirts will be hung out on a clothesline or otherwise publicly displayed.

It is encouraged for the collaborators to keep a list of the participants with the included Binding Project Connection Form and send back to the project creators. If an email is included, updates on the project will be sent out periodically and they will be added to PAVE's monthly newsletter and action alerts.

The goal is to collect thousands of bracelets and photos of various group art projects in order to display an installation art piece in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago. The project is organized through PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment where Angela Rose is the Founder and Executive Director.

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# THE BINDING PROJECT

## Project Creators

The Binding Project was created by Lisa Rainwater and Angela Rose. Lisa met Angela at a Take Back the Night Rally in Madison, Wisconsin where Angela spoke of her abduction and sexual assault. In years to follow, the two developed a strong personal friendship, professional connection, and commitment to work toward a better civil society.



**Lisa Rainwater** received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 2002, where she studied German and European cultural, social, and political movements. In 2000 she began her not-for-profit work as President of the Madison NOW (National Organization for Women) chapter. She worked as Indian Point Campaign Director for the renowned New York environmental group, Riverkeeper. Rainwater combines her revolutionary spirit with her commitment to civic action and democratic participation to lead the efforts to shut down the Indian Point nuclear power plant located just 24 miles north of NYC. Early on Rainwater felt that the environmental and women's movements were ignoring the interconnectedness between

environmental degradation and the health and wellbeing of women. Her personal work seeks to bring leaders from both movements together in order to create the greatest impact for social and political change. Her activism has been featured in national broadcasts, publications, and numerous media outlets. She is a published author and translator. [www.lisarainwater.com](http://www.lisarainwater.com)



**Angela Rose** is an outspoken sexual assault survivor who uses her voice to shatter the silence of sexual violence and dispel commonly believed myths regarding sex crimes. She is the Founder of PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment, a national organization aimed at shattering the silence surrounding sexual violence. In 2002, Angela Rose was a guest on various daytime talk shows such as The Montel Williams Show and The John Walsh Show. Her story was featured in several teen magazines including CosmoGIRL and Girl's Life. She now travels the country spreading her message of awareness

and empowerment. Although her assailant was a stranger, Rose highlights in her lectures the fact that most victims are attacked by people they know and trust. Rose has presented workshops and keynote addresses at state and national conferences, as well as intimate college and high school classrooms. [www.AngelaRoseinfo.com](http://www.AngelaRoseinfo.com)



PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment is a national nonprofit that uses education and action to shatter the silence of sexual violence by using social, educational and legislative tactics: [www.PavingTheWay.net](http://www.PavingTheWay.net)

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THE BINDING PROJECT

**How Can I Help?**

We are currently seeking individual and corporate donations. Your tax deductible contribution can be made out to:

PAVE – PO Box 476991 – Chicago, IL 60647 – memo: Binding Project

THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!!

We are also seeking affiliates of PAVE – join the national, grassroots movement! Learn by emailing: [chapters@pavingtheway.net](mailto:chapters@pavingtheway.net)

Thank you for shattering the silence of sexual violence!



