

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

Official Statement

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CONTACT: Christine Palm, Communications Director at 860/240-8449; or 860/836-2145

FROM: Teresa Younger, executive director

DATE: 3-28-13

RE: Rape of 13-year-old in Torrington, CT

“Here in Connecticut, we find ourselves trying to make sense of the broader implications of this case, including a post-event attitude prevalent among so many young people: blame the victim. As the details continue to emerge, it’s critical to keep in mind that repeating and recirculating accusative comments in social media is another kind of victimization and is a yet another example of discrimination. And we must educate *all* people – young and old – that blaming the victim is never funny, defensible or acceptable.”

About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes to study and improve Connecticut women’s economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in all State agencies for their effect on the state’s women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media, in order to promote awareness of women’s issues.