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## Restore Dignity Gives Financial Assistance to Survivors of Campus Sexual Assault

Washington, D.C.: <u>Restore Dignity</u> is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides financial assistance to Survivors of power-inequality trauma, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, domestic violence, stalking, or hazing during their pursuit of a higher education. Restore Dignity's mission is to **engage, unite, and empower Survivors by reducing the financial burdens accrued in the aftermath of an unjust trauma.** Their primary focus is to ensure **equal access to education for Survivors** through the creation of a case-based assistance fund.

The founders of Restore Dignity spent several years in the activist community connecting with other survivors and providing personal testimony to Congress. To transform this support into tangible relief, they created <u>Restore Dignity</u> to help survivors of power-inequality trauma continue their college education through financial aid. This aid can be in the form of tuition assistance to manage coursework, counseling services, or aid in relocating to safe housing.

- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2014), women ages 18-24 are at the most risk than any other age group to experience sexual harassment and violence. Restore Dignity targets aid to this at-risk population to protect a Survivor's path to achieving an education at a time that is crucial in launching their future careers.
- Power-inequality trauma disrupts a Survivor's natural progression towards a college degree. Victims face sudden and unexpected challenges including PTSD, depression, social isolation, physical relocation, and increased financial and medical burdens. Restore Dignity aims to reduce the unanticipated financial barriers that prevent survivors from continuing their education.
- Anne Clougherty, the Director of Restore Dignity, believes that the issue of campus sexual assault does not have to be so polarizing: "Standing with a survivor does not mean you have to be against the accused. As much assistance as possible should be given to those who come forward as victims of assault. This assistance can have an enormous impact on the life of a student with little or no consequences to the alleged abuser."

**About Restore Dignity:** Restore Dignity is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides financial assistance to Survivors of power-inequality trauma, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, domestic violence, stalking, or hazing during their pursuit of a higher education. *It's hard to be a Survivor; it's easy to support one.*