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## Law Reform for Sexual Violence Survivors

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Inspiring Minds Submission  
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### **Law Reform for Sexual Violence Survivors**

The criminal justice system (CJS) is failing in its efforts to combat sexual violence, a fact reflected by the extremely low reporting rates of sexual violence to police. The need to address this serious access to justice problem, a problem experienced predominantly by women, motivated me, a former Crown prosecutor, to pursue law reform through my PhD studies.

My research, which is interdisciplinary, incorporating both theoretical perspectives and imperial data, focuses on the need to change the policies and practices that govern how complainants of sexual violence are treated by the CJS. I argue that the current treatment violates women's human and Charter rights. I also suggest that state-funded legal counsel for sexual violence complainants would mitigate many harms complainants experience and provide them with the empowerment and voice they currently lack.