



Donna Palomba is a nationally-recognized speaker, author, and advocate for survivors of sexual crimes. Following a harrowing home invasion and assault in 1993, Donna faced further victimization when the police department mishandled her case. Her extraordinary strength, perseverance, and leadership brought meaningful change to both police policy and [Connecticut state law](#). In 2007, Donna's case was the impetus for the removal of the statute of limitations on sexual crimes with DNA evidence in CT.

Donna's experience led her to found [Jane Doe No More](#), a nonprofit charity dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual crimes to find their voice, advance their healing and educate others. Since 2007, the organization has grown to include thriving programs including Survivors Speak®, Escape Alive Survival Skills®, Safe Student Initiative® and an award-winning first-responder video, "Duty Trumps Doubt," which is used in police stations all over the country. Moving forward, Jane Doe No More will continue these critical programs while focusing on the expansion of the Survivors Speak Program, giving as many survivors as possible a voice to change their own lives and, through their transformation, educate and inspire others.

Donna's story was featured in a two-hour show on [Dateline NBC](#) in 2007 and again in a new show in 2022, [The New York Times Magazine](#) in 2018 and is chronicled in her book, "Jane Doe No More," published in 2012.

Awards and accolades include:

2005 'Woman of the Year' Business Women's Forum

2007 Connecticut Working Woman of the Year by CT Dept. of Labor, Westfarms Mall
& L'Oreal Paris

2009 Liberty Bell Award Waterbury Bar Association

2009 Community Service Award Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Waterbury

2011 Stephen Sasala Health Advocate Award Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce

2012 Soroptimist Ruby Award Northeastern Region & Greater Waterbury Chapter

2012 Toastmasters District 53 Communication and Leadership Award

2013 Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame (one of 20 honorees)

2013 Are You Dense? Esther Award 'For a Time Such as This'

2015 Silas Bronson's Waterbury Hall of Fame

2017 National Organization of Italian American Women, CT Chapter 'Epiphany'

2019 Heart of Women Award – Business Women's Council - Danbury Chamber of Commerce

2019 Pontelandolfo Club Honoree

2019 Waterbury Sportsmen's Club Community Service Award

2020 John P. Burke Community Hero Award – Post University