Contents

Acknowledgements vi
Guide to transcription of interviews vii
Introduction ix

1 ‘Sharing a particular pain’: researching sexual violence 1
2 A central issue: sexual violence and feminist theory 20
3 The knowledge explosion: an overview of previous research 43
4 ‘It’s happened to so many women’: sexual violence as a continuum (1) 74
5 ‘It’s everywhere’: sexual violence as a continuum (2) 97
6 ‘I’m not sure what to call it but . . .’: defining sexual violence 138
7 Victims or survivors?: resistance, coping and survival 159
8 ‘It leaves a mark’: coping with the consequences of sexual violence 186
9 ‘I’ll challenge it now wherever I see it’: from individual survival to collective resistance 217

Notes 239
Select bibliography 266
Index 268