



FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

CHOICES CAMPUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WORLD'S LARGEST PRO-CHOICE STUDENT NETWORK

CAMPAIGN TO END CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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Addressing the campus sexual assault epidemic is at the forefront of the feminist movement due to increased student activism. Federal agencies are investigating more than one hundred colleges and universities across the country for mishandling sexual violence. Survivors are using the courts to hold schools accountable, winning monetary settlements and forcing universities to change how they handle reports of sexual violence. We demand safer campuses - and by harnessing this momentum, we can create them!

THE BASICS RAPE CULTURE

“Rape culture” is a complex set of beliefs that create a social environment in which sexual violence is prevalent and normalized. Rape culture is perpetuated through the use of misogynistic language, objectification of bodies, and glamorization of violence. Behaviors commonly associated with rape culture include victim-blaming, sexual objectification, trivializing rape, denial of widespread rape, or refusing to acknowledge the harm of sexual assault.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

The term sexual assault refers to any non-consensual touching or sexual activity. Sexual assault is violence that can take many forms - including rape, non-consensual sexual activity and sexual harassment. The federal government and individual states have their own legal definitions of sexual assault that can vary.

CONSENT

Consent is the explicit and enthusiastic expression of mutual desire and permission between parties to participate in a sexual activity. Definitions of consent also vary according to campus, state, and localities. Sexual activity without consent is sexual violence. Consent isn't always spoken, but the absence of a “no” is not a “yes!” Minors, people who are mentally incapacitated or unconscious, and people under the influence of drugs or alcohol are unable to give consent. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity.



COERCION

Coercion refers to threatening or intimidating someone in order to persuade them to engage in a sexual behavior. Someone saying “yes” because they are too afraid to say “no” is not consent. Someone changing their mind about a sex act and then being pressured into engaging in it is not consent.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is actual or threatened physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional abuse by a current or former spouse, or same or opposite sex partner. IPV does not require sexual intimacy between partners. IPV exists along a continuum, but several types of IPV can occur simultaneously. Behaviors on the IPV spectrum include:

- **Physical Violence:** When a person hurts or tries to harm a partner with physical force.
- **Sexual Violence:** Forcing a partner to take part in a sexual act when the partner does not consent.
- **Stalking:** Repeated, unwanted attention and contact that causes fear or concern for someone's safety.
- **Psychological Aggression:** The use of verbal and non-verbal communication with intent to emotionally or mentally harm or exert control over another person.



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SEXUAL ABUSE

Any situation in which you are forced to participate in a degrading sexual activity is sexual abuse. Forced sex, even with a partner with whom you have had consensual sex, is an act of violence, and people with abusive partners are at a higher risk of being seriously injured or killed.

FAST FACTS

- Anyone can be a survivor of rape, sexual assault, or intimate partner violence. 33.5% of multiracial women, 27% of American Indian and Alaska Native women, 15% of Latina women, 22% of Black women, and 19% of white women have been raped. The LGBTQ community and people with disabilities are also uniquely vulnerable.
- 1 in 5 women will experience sexual violence during her time in college.
- 43% of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors.
- Some 85-90% of college women who report sexual assault know their attacker and one half of assaults occur on a date. Of female survivors, more than half of female victims are assaulted by a current/former intimate partner and 40.8% by an acquaintance. 52% of men and boys report being raped by an acquaintance and 15% by a stranger.
- Sexual offenders are often serial offenders. One study found that of men who admitted to committing or attempting rape, 63% said they committed an average of six rapes each.
- Alcohol is the most frequently used weapon in sexual assaults.
- 46.4% of lesbians, 74.9% of bisexual women and 43.3% of heterosexual women reported sexual violence other than rape during their lifetimes, while 40.2% of gay men, 47.4% of bisexual men and 20.8% of heterosexual men reported sexual violence other than rape during their lifetimes.

IF SOMEONE IS ASSAULTED...

WHAT IS HELPFUL?

- Give them options. When a person is assaulted, their power and control is taken away. Give them control. Listen to them and respect their wishes.
- Tell them it's not their fault.
- Ask before you hug or touch them. After experiencing a physical assault, they might not want to be touched.
- Keep their information private.
- Provide resources for counseling and medical care, including emergency contraception. Survivors have a right to a rape kit and exam by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, but it is advisable to do so immediately but no later than 72 hours after the crime.

WHAT IS HARMFUL?

- Asking the survivor pointed questions. ("What were you wearing?" or "Why did you get that drunk?")
- Forcing the survivor to report the crime, seek medical attention, or tell their parents.
- Hugging or touching without permission.
- Confronting an attacker. This may endanger a survivor.
- Asking the survivor to relive details of the assault.

WHAT'S REQUIRED OF YOUR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

THE JEANNE CLERY ACT

The Clery Act, a federal law passed in 1990, requires all colleges receiving federal funding to report crime statistics for incidents occurring on campus, in areas immediately next to the campus, and at some non-campus facilities (i.e. an off-campus Greek house). Schools must publish incidents reported to a campus security authority or local police agency in publicly available, annual crime reports and alert the campus of known public safety risks. Schools that fail to comply face a fine of \$35,000 per violation.

TITLE IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in education programs or activities that



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receive federal funding. It requires universities to remedy and prevent sexual violence, including sexual assault and harassment. Title IX legally obligates schools to investigate sexual and gender-based violence and requires that each school have an established procedure for handling allegations of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and rape. In addition, Title IX obligates schools to take steps to protect the complainant and ensure their safety, including, if appropriate, issuing “no contact” orders prohibiting accused attackers from contacting survivors. The school must also ensure that survivors are aware of any available resources and = that all complainants are protected from retaliation. Under the law, every school must have a Title IX coordinator who oversees all Title IX complaints and who can identify and address any patterns or systemic problems revealed by the complaints.

CAMPUS SAVE ACT

Congress passed the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), a provision of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013, in March of 2013. Campus SaVE strengthens Title IX by requiring schools to create prevention programs and clarifying schools' obligation to make survivors aware of their reporting options. Campus SaVE also strengthened the Clery Act by broadening the range of reportable crimes to include domestic and dating violence, stalking, hate crimes, and four categories of sexual assault: rape, fondling, incest, and statutory rape. After the Campus SaVE Act was passed, the Obama Administration issued new rules, which went into effect in July 2015, that clarify the rights of survivors and the responsibilities of schools to provide information on relevant disciplinary proceedings, possible sanctions for sexual misconduct, and resources available to survivors.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

CLERY ACT COMPLAINTS

Under the Clery Act, victims can file a federal complaint against their university if any of the following rights are violated:

- Schools are required to create proactive prevention education programs on healthy relationships, sexuality, consent, and bystander intervention.
- Both the accuser and the accused must have equal opportunities to have others present at disciplinary hearings or procedures.
- Schools are required to detail each type of disciplinary proceeding used by the institution, including the decision-making process, anticipated timelines, and processes determining the proceeding types used.
- Both the victim and perpetrator must be informed simultaneously and in writing of the outcome of the proceeding and hearings, appeal procedures, and any change to the result before and when it becomes final.
- School officials who conduct proceedings must be trained on how to do so in a manner that “protects the safety of victims” and “promotes accountability.”
- Survivors must be notified of counseling services in addition to their housing, academic, and reporting options.

Clery Act complaints have no statutes of limitations and can be submitted via mail, fax or email in any format. To learn more, email clery@ed.gov or visit knowyourix.org.

TITLE IX COMPLAINTS

Anyone, whether or not they are a survivor of sexual assault, may file a Title IX complaint against a school that has failed to comply with the law. Complaints may be filed with the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) within 180 days, which will launch an investigation and may lead OCR to enter into an agreement with a school to address violations if any are found. Schools may also lose federal funds, though no institution has ever faced this penalty. Title IX complaints are filed online or emailed to ocr@gov.edu and are confidential.

Between 2009 and 2014, the number of Title IX complaints related to sexual violence at colleges and universities increased by more than 1000 percent. This increase, together



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with a lack of appropriate resources, has contributed to severe delays in the resolution of complaints. The average duration of a sexual violence investigation in mid-2015 was 940 days, more than 2 years.

If you are a survivor, Title IX also allows you (or your parents, if you're under 18) to file a private lawsuit in federal court for money damages or to change your school's discriminatory policies with or without filing an OCR complaint.

In 2014, the University of Connecticut settled a Title IX lawsuit brought by five survivors for \$1.2 million dollars. Although not part of the settlement, UConn also created a Special Victims Unit within campus police and appointed a Dean for victim support services.

At the University of Colorado at Boulder, two women received a \$2.85 million settlement after a Title IX suit. As part of the settlement, the university agreed to implement policy changes. In the wake of the lawsuit, several staff members and administrators were forced to resign - including the President and Chancellor.

OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

PUSH TO IMPROVE YOUR SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Campus SaVE Act requires all universities and colleges to provide comprehensive sexual assault and dating violence prevention education for all students, staff, and faculty. Find out what department or official is developing the prevention education program and advocate for student involvement in the process. Work in coalition with other campus groups, student government, Greek Life, and professors to push for an in-person training with Q&A and encourage your administration to use successful prevention programs at UMD College Park and UC Berkeley as a model. Apply pressure with local and campus media buzz.

HOST AN ADVOCACY DAY

Encourage students to visit administrators and your Title IX coordinator and advocate for policy changes related to violence against women at your school or thank them for supporting existing policies. This helps create awareness, grow student involvement, and foster a working relationship between activists and administrators. University of Mary Washington's advocacy day also helped them identify decision makers and potential partners on campus. Your advocacy day should also be accompanied with an educational session on effective advocacy techniques.

TELL SURVIVORS' STORIES

The Clothesline Project is a visual display where survivor-made shirts with messages representing particular experiences with violence are displayed publicly. To host one, have a shirt-making party and arrange for survivors who don't want to decorate in-person to drop them off to you. Display the shirts on campus with counselors nearby to answer questions or assist survivors who are triggered.

HOST A DEMONSTRATION

Plan a protest or demonstration at your college. Common events include SlutWalks, Take Back The Night, and Denim Day commemorations.

SlutWalk, an international movement against victim blaming that originated in Toronto in 2011 after a police officer said women should "avoid dressing like sluts" to protect themselves from sexual assault. Women dressed in provocative clothing and marched to the police station to make the point that no one asks for sexual assault.

Take Back the Night is an event that raises awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence by inviting participants to rally around campus in great numbers - thus reclaiming the community as their own.

On **Denim Day**, people are encouraged to wear jeans to raise awareness. When a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court



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overturned a rape conviction because the survivor had worn tight jeans, women in the Parliament came to work the next day in jeans to show solidarity. Since then, Denim Day has grown into an international movement protesting against inaccurate and destructive attitudes about assault.

Here are some ways to get started planning a rally:

- Map out an accessible route covering your campus.
- Let campus security know about the event.
- Generate buzz with a Facebook event and event hashtag. Flier and chalk around campus. Alert campus media. Spread the word as best you can!
- Host a sign-making party a few days before the march so protesters can get to know each other.
- Invite campus officials who work on issues of sexual violence and give them a chance to inform protesters about the services they provide. Have them stay until the end in case anyone is triggered at the protest.

SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH SURVIVORS

The Handprint Project - in which students take a pledge not to commit or condone violence and place their handprint on a board - unites campuses in the fight to end sexual assault.

HOST A DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Select a documentary that focuses on sexual assault on campus. Use the film as a platform to bring together and educate students. Follow the screening with a discussion of the film and the larger issues at hand.

Example: "It Happened Here" is a documentary released in 2014 that encapsulates the epidemic of sexual violence on college campuses. It highlights the stories of five student survivors and their experiences with the institutionally flawed university systems that so often push these cases under the rug.

CREATE YOUR OWN MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Campus groups across the country have launched successful online campaigns to raise awareness:

- The "It Happens Here Project" is a website where Amherst College survivors anonymously submit their stories. Similar online projects exist at Harvard and Occidental.
- Project Unbreakable is a photo campaign of survivors holding signs quoting their attackers.
- Conduct a "Know Your Campus Survey" to investigate safety provisions, sexual assault policies, and police response to violence against women on your campus. Publicize your most impressive and startling findings through letters to the editor, editorial, or an investigative article. Create visibility with chalk, fliers, and posters to further publicize results. When you launch the project, include a press release for media outlets that may want to cover it. Make sure to include your contact information and fast facts about sexual assault.