Creating Cultures of Consent

Introduction to core concepts and skills for building safer campuses

AMICCUS-C 2023

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect that the lands on which this presentation and conference are taking place are the unsurrendered and stolen shared lands of the Lilwat7úl and Skwxwú7mesh nations, whose relationships with the land have existed since time immemorial. This mountain's name is Cwítima/Kacwítima (Lilwat7úl), and Skwikw (Skwxwú7mesh).

We recognize the interconnected nature of sexualized violence, gender-based violence, and colonial violence against Indigenous peoples, lands, and bodies.

Learning Outcomes

- What we mean by Sexualized Violence, Gender-Based Violence, and Sexual Assault
- How to identify and push back on harmful and victim-blaming myths
- Taking a gender-inclusive approach to violence prevention
- The roots of sexualized violence and rape culture
- What consent and consent culture are
- The core principles of receiving disclosures and supporting a survivor



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Introductions



antiviolenceproject.org

Accessibility & Participation

Accessibility Needs:

• Raise your hand to speak, we will do our best to meet your needs

Participation:

- Lots to cover
- Need clarification? Raise your hand to speak
- Q&A at the end



- If you are feeling upset, triggered, or activated, please feel free to leave at any time.
- If you would like to talk to someone and seek support, **Kate Jarman and Chris Girodat** are available.
- We are both available after the session for support as well.



Resources:

- Sunshine Coast/Sea to Sky Crisis Line: 1-866-661-3311
- VictimLink: 1-800-563-0808 or VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca
- KUU-US Indigenous Crisis Line: 1-800-588-8717
- Trans Lifeline: (877) 330-6366

Group Agreement



Definitions

Sexualized violence: Anything that disrespects your sexuality (including disrespect of asexuality) or is violence in a sexualized context. This is many things and can look like comments, leering, intimidation, coercion, expectations, discrimination, non consensual touching, sexual assault, sexual harassment, etc.

Sexual harassment: a variety of unwanted sexualized acts that create an intimidating, humiliating, or hostile environment. These acts threaten a person or group's personal boundaries, physical choices, and/or emotional well being.

Sexual assault: any unwanted sexual contact.

Definitions

Gender-Based Violence: Violence rooted in gender-based oppression and power inequalities based on gender identity, perceived gender identity and/or gender expression, such as sexism, cissexism, misogyny, and transmisogyny. Any act of interpersonal, institutional or systemic act of violence (physical, sexual, economic, emotional, spiritual, social) that devalues and/or reinforces expected entitlement to women, girls, and trans, Two-Spirit, genderqueer, non-binary, and gender non-conforming bodies and lives.

Myths & Realities

Myths & Realities

There are many commonly-held beliefs are around sexualized violence that not only **incorrect**, but deeply **harmful**.

This activity introduces some common myths, and helps us learn how to **recognize** and **challenge** them when they arise.

Number 1

Myth: People who are assaulted "ask for it" by the things they wear, the places they go, the jobs they have, the things they drink, the drugs they do, etc.

Reality: Every person should be free to wear what they want to wear, go where they want to go, drink and party, and go to work without being (or fear being) assaulted.

Number 2

Myth: People are most commonly assaulted by a stranger.

Reality: Over 80% of the time, people are assaulted by someone they know.

Number 3

Myth: Cis women are the only victims of sexual assault and cis men are the only ones who cause harm.

Reality: People of all genders can be assaulted; people of all genders can cause harm.

Myths & Realities

- 1 Where do you see this myth perpetuated?
- **2** Who benefits from this myth?
- **3** If we believe this myth, how might it impact the way we/institutions/society respond to sexualized violence?

Myths & Realities

Reflections

- Myths are everywhere in our daily lives, the media and our own attitudes
- Myths impact survivors' healing and whether they are believed
- Myths shift responsibility away from perpetrators and institutions onto survivors themselves



Gender: Binary Expectations



Gender: Binary Expectations

Penis Boy Man Dominant Assertive Aggressive Masculine Emotionless Vulva Girl Woman **Submissive** Passive Gentle Motherly Emotional

Making Connections:

How does policing these gender categories and making gendered assumptions of people perpetuate sexualized and gender-based violence?





Roots of Violence: Understanding R*pe Culture

Sexual assault doesn't exist in a Vacuum. So, what enables it to happen?



R*pe Culture: Definition

The culture in which we live that normalizes and glorifies sexualized violence, creating violence and a sense of entitlement to other people's physical, emotional, and sexual beings without consent.



Slut shaming, Dress coding, Catcalling, "Wearing her down", R*pe jokes, Unsolicited nudes, Body shaming

SA

Sexism, Racism, Colonialism, Patriarchy, Homoantagonism, Transantagonism, Class oppression, Ableism, Fatphobia, White supremacy

SA

Slut shaming, Dress coding, Catcalling, "Wearing her down", R*pe jokes, Unsolicited nudes, Body shaming Sexism, Racism, Colonialism, Patriarchy, Homoantagonism, Transantagonism, Class oppression, Ableism, Fatphobia, White supremacy

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SA

Slut shaming, Dress coding, Catcalling, "Wearing her down", R*pe jokes, Unsolicited nudes, Body shaming, Microaggressions, "you're overreacting"



Wants

The things we enjoy doing, that turn us on, and/or give us pleasure.

No one is responsible for fulfilling our wants.

Needs

These include boundaries, safety measures and things related to our bodily and mental care and abilities.

These are typically non-negotiable.

Consent

6 Elements

- 1. A mutually communicated agreement
- 2. Enthusiastic
- 3. Responsibility of the person initiating or changing the activity
- 4. Ongoing
- 5. Cannot be held to a predetermined agreement
- 6. Think about substances

Listen, Believe, Refer, Care

Listen

Listen to hear, not to respond.

Don't interrupt, or ask a bunch of unnecessary questions.

Be present and open.

Believe

Perhaps the most important.

Being met with belief increases chance that they will continue to seek further support.

Disbelief or scepticism is incredibly damaging.

Refer

Ask if they would like to be connected with resources or reporting options.

Let them take back power to decide what their next steps will be.

Have some referrals on hand, or google other options with them.

Care

Care for them in the way that they need, while also caring for yourself.

Vicarious trauma is real-make sure you have support in your own life.



Individual Reflection

How can you model and practice consent and care in your own life?

How can you bring consent-based practices into your work as a student union staff?

What lessons will you bring back to share with your home student association?

Is there anything else related to these topics that you want to explore further?



We are available after this session and after our session later today to talk if you need support.

Come meet us after the presentation if you want to chat.

Contact Information

Questions, workshop requests, consultations.

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