

Resource for Helping Students Who May be Experiencing Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Relationship Violence

Interpersonal violence is a potential problem that may impact the safety and self-confidence of both male and female students. Faculty and staff members spend a great deal of time with students and for that reason should have information readily available to them to assist students in need. While students of both sexes may be victims of abusive relationships, a recent PULSE survey found that **10%** of women at University Park reported they had been **victims of sexual assault**, **12%** reported being **stalked**, and **9%** said they had experienced **relationship violence**. Expanded information on sexual assault and relationship/domestic violence can be found at www.sa.psu.edu/protocol.htm

What You Can Do

- ❶ Look for potential signs of trouble, some of which may include:
 - An abrupt attendance problem or change in classroom participation
 - Change in personality, signs of depression or hopelessness
 - Missing assignments when this had not previously been a problem
 - Unusual patterns of coming late to class and/or leaving early
 - Signs of bruising or injuries, multiple hospital or doctor visits
 - Decreased social interaction
- ❷ Approach the student — let him or her know you are supportive and can be trusted.
 - Ask the question — most victims welcome your concern and have been hoping someone would notice
 - Some examples of questions to ask include:
 - "I hope you don't mind my asking, but is something going on that concerns your safety?"
 - "I have noticed that you've been missing classes for ___ days now which is unusual for you. If there is something going on that you would like to talk about, I'm here."
 - "I have noticed a lot of bruises on you lately. Is everything ok, or is something happening that you need to talk about?"
- ❸ Be supportive — try using one of the following statements:
 - "I am so sorry this happened to you."
 - "You are not alone — there is help."
 - "You are very courageous for sharing this with me — thank you."
 - "How can I help?"
- ❹ Refer the student to the Center for Women Students (CWS) or another appropriate resource.
 - CWS can help students obtain information about all available options
 - Additional resources on reverse side can be used to aid students who may request specific services
- ❺ Let students know you are safe to approach with concerns
 - Talk about these issues in your classes — relate them to the course outline. For example, a business class could discuss measures to take when workplace violence becomes a threat to an employee.
 - Invite CWS staff to your class — CWS staff can relate these issues to topics in your course. It will show students that you, as a faculty member, can and are willing to talk about issues currently facing them. CWS often co-presents with campus and community partners.

Center for Women Students Web and Programming Resources

Below you will find programming services and web links with information about sexual assault, rape, stalking, and relationship violence. These sites also provide other resources that may prove helpful to victims.

Programming/Services: The Center for Women Students

<http://www.sa.psu.edu/cws>

Staff is available for:

- Advocacy — networking with other PSU units/locations. Helping students get connected.
- Consultations — meetings to discuss student(s) you are concerned about. These can be anonymous. If the student wishes, staff can visit your location to talk about concerns s/he may have as well.
- Resources and Referrals — providing options and accurate information for students — staff, and faculty, too!
- Educational Programming — staff can come to your class, staff meeting, or department meeting to speak on any number of topics — sexual assault, relationship violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and healthy relationships
- Facilitated Educational Programs — a variety of videos can be presented and followed by staff-facilitated discussions on topics such as: images of women in advertising and media, date rape, eating disorders, the acculturation of men in modern society and the impact on violence.

Web Sites

Sexual Assault/Rape/Relationship Violence Information:

<http://www.sa.psu.edu/cws/images/sexualassaultinformation.html>

Protocol to assist victims of relationship, domestic, and sexual violence:

<http://www.sa.psu.edu/protocol.htm>

Stalking and Chilly Classroom Information

<http://www.sa.psu.edu/cws/images/brochure.html>

Resource Directory

<http://www.sa.psu.edu/cws/images/resourcedirectory.html>

Video and Book Collection

<http://www.sa.psu.edu/cws/images/collections.html>

IMPORTANT LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

REFERRAL INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY

Center for Women Students
135 Boucke Building
863-2027

State College Police
243 S. Allen Street
234-7150

Ferguson Township Police
3147 Research Drive
238-4651

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Counseling and Psychological Services
221 Ritenour Building
863-0395

Patton Township Police
100 Patton Plaza
234-0271

Centre County Women's Resource Center (24 hours) Hotline
1-877-234-5050

Victim/Witness Advocate
Eisenhower Parking Deck
865-1864

MEDICAL SERVICES

Centre Community Hospital
Emergency Department
234-6110

District Attorney
Centre County Courthouse
Bellefonte
355-6735

University Health Services
Women's Health — 863-2633
General Medicine — 863-0774

SAFETY
Escort Service (dusk to dawn)
865-WALK

POLICE AND LEGAL INFORMATION

Police Emergency Number
911

University Police
Eisenhower Parking Deck
863-1111

Judicial Affairs
135 Boucke Building
863-0342

NATIONAL HOTLINES
National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE

Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network Hotline
1-800-656-HOPE

National Center for Victims of Crime (Service Referral line)
1-800-FYI-CALL

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