

HELP CREATE A CULTURE OF CONSENT

2017-2018 REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

**Sexual Violence Prevention
and Support Centre**

Our commitment to those we serve

We recognize that individual needs, circumstances and choices are unique. When you choose to access services from us, you will:

- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Receive non-judgmental, empathetic care
- Be free to ask questions and drop in and out of service
- Learn about on- and off-campus support, resources and accommodations, including emergency housing, short-term academic or workplace assistance and emergency financial aid
- Receive as-needed referrals to on- and off-campus services including counselling, medical and legal services
- Be fully informed about Centre policies, confidentiality and conditions of service
- Get the information you need to make informed choices about whether to report sexual violence and how and where to do it
- Know that your decision will be respected



A comprehensive response to sexual violence

Sexual violence is a serious issue on Canadian campuses. It can occur between individuals regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or relationship status. It is overwhelmingly committed against women, especially women who experience the intersection of multiple marginalized identities.

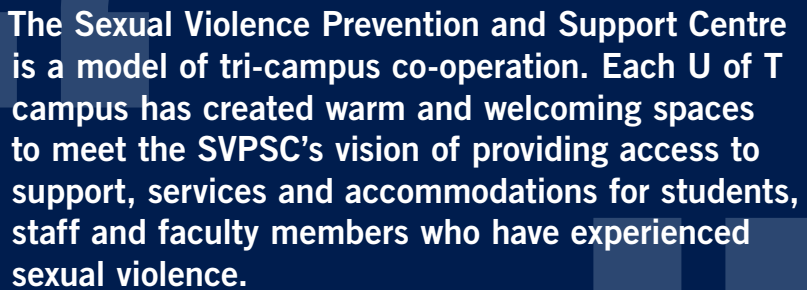
At the University of Toronto, the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre (SVPSC) is working to create a campus environment where all members of our community can study, work and live free from sexual violence. The Centre supports members of the U of T community who have been impacted by sexual violence and works to promote respect and uphold a culture of consent across the University's three campuses.

Established as part of U of T's response to sexual violence, the Centre has physical locations on the St. George, UTM and UTSC campuses. Since opening its doors in 2017, the SVPSC has grown in size and scope and dedicated itself to raising awareness in our community with workshops and training.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence, we are here to listen, connect you to resources and help you explore your options.

(Front, L-R) Devi Mohabir, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator (UTSG); Henna Khawja, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator (UTM); Derrick An, Executive Assistant, Sexual Violence Prevention and Support; Lisa Marajh, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator (UTSC). (Back, L-R) Angela Treglia, Director, Sexual Violence Prevention and Support; Payal Bhole, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator (UTSG); Bristy Chakrabarty, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator (UTSC). Not pictured: Paula Lam, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator (UTM) and Jennifer Flood, Education Lead – Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator (Tri-Campus)





The Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre is a model of tri-campus co-operation. Each U of T campus has created warm and welcoming spaces to meet the SVPSC's vision of providing access to support, services and accommodations for students, staff and faculty members who have experienced sexual violence.

— Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost

What we mean by sexual violence and consent

The University's definition of sexual violence is broad and includes a range of behaviours. Sexual violence can be physical in nature, such as forced kissing or touching. It can also be non-physical, as with stalking or verbal sexual comments. It can occur in private, in public or online, and it can occur between two or more people regardless of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or sexuality. One defining feature of sexual violence is the absence of consent: this means that the behaviour has not been discussed or agreed to by all parties and that at least one person in the situation has not said yes or agreed to the sexual interaction.

Examples of sexual violence might include but are not limited to:

- **inappropriate and unwelcome comments or physical contact of a sexual nature**
- **sexual harassment**
- **sexual assault (including assault by a partner or marital partner)**
- **stalking**
- **indecent exposure**
- **circulating degrading sexual imagery**
- **voyeurism**
- **cyber sexual harassment**
- **sharing intimate photos without consent**
- **stealthling (i.e. removing a condom without consent during sex)**

Consent is an everyday practice that needs to come before many different types of interactions. A part of creating a culture of consent on campus is normalizing the practice of checking in with each other before we act, from small ways that may seem innocuous to ways that directly link to sexual violence.

“Many members of our community have experienced sexual violence or know someone who has. The Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre is responsive to the needs of our community and plays a critical role in the prevention of sexual violence through its educational initiatives.”

— Kelly Hannah-Moffat, Vice-President, Human Resources & Equity



What we do

The Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre plays a co-ordinating role with other support services on campus and promotes education and prevention initiatives across the University.

DISCLOSING AND REPORTING

The Centre supports those who wish to disclose or report an incident of sexual violence they experienced.

Disclosing involves telling someone about an incident of sexual violence. For example, a student can disclose simply by speaking to a fellow student, a faculty member or a staff member about an experience of sexual violence. The Centre also hears disclosures and is a supportive place where an individual can go to disclose an experience of sexual violence.

Reporting involves telling a designated person at the University about an incident of sexual violence for the purpose of initiating official University procedures. A report is not required in order for someone to receive support, services or accommodations from the University.

SUPPORT

People affected by sexual violence need a welcoming, safe and confidential space where they can talk to caring professionals and learn about their options. This is what the SVPSC provides to the U of T community.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence, we are here to listen and to connect you to resources. Any member of our community who has experienced or witnessed sexual violence or who has received a disclosure of sexual violence can visit the Centre for support. It does not matter when or where the sexual violence happened or whether or not you choose to make a formal report.

We are here to help you decide what you want to do and to support you in any decision you make.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We offer a variety of education and training opportunities centred on preventing sexual violence and raising awareness of existing services and supports.

The Centre's education initiatives are designed to be interactive and thought-provoking and to enhance our community's ability to understand, respond to and prevent sexual violence. Our most popular workshop topics include:

- How to build a culture of consent
- Introduction to the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
- Bystander intervention training
- Training on receiving disclosures of sexual violence

In 2018, the University released an online sexual violence prevention training module, which includes tailored content for students, staff and faculty. The training—available through Quercus—introduces the Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and helps individuals to develop skills to help recognize sexual violence and respond supportively to a disclosure. The SVPSC was an integral partner in the development of this module. The module is now hosted on the Centre's website, which was launched in Fall 2018. By the end of 2018, 4,156 students, staff and faculty members had engaged with the online training. The SVPSC also hosted tri-campus consultations to inform the development of the University's consent campaign, which was launched in 2019.

What we have done

The data presented here offers a snapshot of the Centre's work in its first two years (January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018) as we established permanent sites on each campus, hired staff and launched several outreach programs.



4,156

students, staff and faculty engaged with the University's sexual violence prevention education online module in 2018

64

outreach activities across all campuses at resource fairs, SVPSC art circles and other campus events

7,920

students, staff and faculty received training in prevention and support

190

workshops delivered by the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre to members of our community

56

reports of sexual violence under the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

506

requests for support from students, staff and faculty

CREATING SAFE SPACES

Significant investment was made toward establishing the SVPSC on all three campuses. We are grateful to the various departments who partnered with the Office of the Vice-President & Provost to help us carve out a unique space on each campus.

Each of the Centre's locations was chosen to respond to the desire for a central, familiar and easy-to-find location. Renovations took place on each campus and design teams paid special attention to accommodate privacy and create an open and welcoming feeling. Each campus put its own special stamp on its respective location, working with campus service providers to meet the overall vision for the SVPSC.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE NETWORK

In June 2018, the SVPSC welcomed provincial colleagues from the Ontario University Sexual Violence Network to the University of Toronto for a two-day meeting. Front-line Sexual Violence Prevention and Response coordinators working at universities across the province gathered to network, share and discuss prevention and response strategies.

AFFIRMATION CARDS

In 2017, the SVPSC developed specialized affirmation cards that feature positive and reassuring messages. We invited clients to submit their favourite phrases and then worked with local artist Frizz Kid to create accompanying illustrations. Affirmation cards are offered to visitors to the Centre and at information fairs across the three campuses. They are very popular and in high demand.



We at the Centre are a compassionate, skilled team with extensive training and experience working with individuals who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence. We want our community to know they have a place to go, that we're here for them and that they're not alone.

We are thankful for the overwhelming support and engagement we have received from the University community in such a short period of time. We have just started. We look forward to future collaborations and continuing to serve the U of T community.

— Angela Treglia, Director, Sexual Violence Prevention and Support



Mississauga Centre



St. George Centre




Scarborough Centre

Where we are going

Going forward, we at the SVPSC are committed to expanding our services, building partnerships within and beyond the U of T community and raising awareness of our services across U of T's three campuses. We will:

- Continue to provide trauma-informed and client-centred services to support individuals affected by sexual violence and help them learn about their options
- Raise awareness on campus of the services the Centre offers
- Build and strengthen partnerships with the local community, student groups and campus services to improve our sexual violence prevention and response efforts
- Establish meaningful student involvement opportunities within the Centre
- Expand our educational efforts through collaboration and an intentional strategy that aligns with the Expert Panel on Education and Prevention of Sexual Violence's Guiding Principles



Through the training I received at the Centre, I learned the importance of empowering a survivor of sexual violence by respecting their autonomy and agency, and presenting options, rather than forcing them to proceed in a certain way.

— Participant in the ‘Responding to Disclosures’ workshop

This was an excellent module. The presenters were knowledgeable and fostered a safe environment for us to learn and contribute to the conversation.

— Student orientation leader

Last year I took the online training that was available through your centre...and it was really helpful and important. I also shared those modules with 800 students, and 100+ instructors and advisors.

— Faculty member

I worked with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre to embed a full-class workshop into my course to prepare my graduate students for the workplace. This topic is as complicated as it is important. It isn't something that can be “presented”, it requires a very special expertise. Centre staff did an amazing job sensitizing my students. The comments I had from students confirmed that this session was very well received.

— Faculty member



**SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION
AND SUPPORT CENTRE**

Visit: www.svpscentre.utoronto.ca
Phone: 416-978-2266 (all locations)
Email: svpscentre@utoronto.ca

St. George campus:
Gerstein Science Information Centre, suite B139

Mississauga campus:
Davis Building, room 3094G

Scarborough campus:
Environmental Science & Chemistry Building, room EV141

Thank You.

We would like to acknowledge current and past team members who contributed to the start up of the Centre during this foundational period, and the tremendous support we have received from our campus and community partners along the way. We are looking forward to continuing to work with you in our collective pursuit of building a culture of consent.



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