Successful Strategies for Cultivating a “Community of Action” in Response to Sexual Assault

Jill J. Green, R.Psych, MacEwan University
Kimberly McCall, Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton
“We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

-Elie Wiesel
“People think [consent] only applies to sex but the idea is important in lots of ways. It’s about respect.”

-MacEwan University Student
“Radical simply means 'grasping things at the root’.”

-Angela Davis
“I feel safer on campus knowing there is a project like U-SOLVE advocating for change.”

-MacEwan University Faculty Member
“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.
National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2014

Federal Symposium

April 7, 2014
U-SOLVE

- Joint initiative
- Funded by Status of Women Canada
- Address sexual violence on campus
Taking Action

• Struggles are inherent to enacting change
• Struggles are made easier by support
• Support of all kinds are acts of triumph
• Acts of triumph are active resistance
• The majority must resist for culture shift
Rape Culture

- Includes ‘tips’ that limit and are inconsistent with research
- Victim blaming
- Re-victimization
- “Othering”
- Ignoring broader context
Everyone’s Issue

• Most perpetrators are men; men must be part of solution

• Privilege allows some the option to ignore

• Silence is tacit support

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_aEQLNTFH_iU/SsFXqZ9FwLI/AAAAAAAAEW0/AKdxTtkivIA/s400/sexual-assault.jpg
## Campus as Site of Change

### Demographics
- High risk: 16-24 year old women
- Social environment (victims and perpetrators known to each other)
- Drug and alcohol use

### Resources
- Community members as agents of change
- Knowledge acquired is useful on campus and in larger community
- Student initiatives reflect student engagement
Appropriate Use of the Word Rape

Diagram 1: Pie chart

- When naming instances of sexual violence

Get the facts. Resist rape culture.
I don't always hook up...

but when I do, I hook up

you for consent!
CONSENT IS AN ONGOING CONVERSATION.
SEX WITHOUT CONSENT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT.
BLAMING RAPE SURVIVORS

I FELT ISOLATED
I FELT SILENCED
I WAS BLAMED
I DOUBTED MYSELF

SUPPORTING RAPE SURVIVORS

YOU ARE NOT ALONE
WE ARE LISTENING
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
WE BELIEVE YOU

WHICH CULTURE DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN?

UPSETTINGGRAPECULTURE.COM
IT'S NOT SEX...

WHEN SHE DOESN'T WANT IT

sex without voluntary consent = sexual assault

DON'T BE THAT GUY.

sexualassaultvoices.com
IT'S NOT SEX...

WHEN HE CHANGES HIS MIND

sex without ongoing consent = sexual assault

DON'T BE THAT GUY.

sexualassaultvoices.com
IT’S NOT SEX...

WHEN SHE’S WASTED

sex with someone unable to consent = sexual assault

DON’T BE THAT GUY.

sexualassaultvoices.com
Love is not Abuse

Love IS...

#UTSC

Love is...

- Gym
- Feels like sunshine
- Kindness
- Respect
- Caring

Love is...

- Unconditional
- Fiery
- Accepting the whole person
- Kind
- Patient
- Patience
- Food

- Therapy
- Noticing
- Listening
- Not judging
- Not controlling
- Not pressuring
- Not humiliating
- Not excusing
- Not indicating
- Not verifying
- Not comparing
- Not experimenting

- Happiness and no regrets
- Letting go
- Being vulnerable
Hey, Valentine!

Let's build a more caring world together...

here's how:

Designed by Jessica Matteazzi, a DGD student
Have you talked about privilege today?

Privilege is when you think something is not a problem because it’s not a problem to you personally.

David Gaider

Have you considered your privilege today?

I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets... like an invisible weightless backpack of special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools and blank checks.

Peggy McIntosh
Privilege from skin colour, ability, orientation, sex, or class is unearned.

We all have some; it’s what you do with it that matters!

Get informed: what role does privilege play in your life?

Be accountable: be ready to own your mistakes.

Get involved: find ways to create change in your community.

Visit u-solve.ca for more information.
Best Practices

- Commit to Action
- Response Team
- Develop Policy and Procedure
- Security Services
- Education and Training
- Monitor and Evaluate
- Physical Environment
Internal Accountability

Trickle Up

Policy Procedure

Commit To Action

Psychological Space
Education

education  
capacity  
building  
lasting  
change  

education
Policy & Procedure

Offers
- recourse
- support

Reinforces
- education
- internal accountability
“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is a process. Working together is success.”

-Henry Ford
References


Katz, J. (2012, November). *Violence against women – it’s a men’s issue* [Video file]. Retrieved from [http://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue](http://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue)


References


