

# Student Engagements With Title IX



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# Alone



The flower depicted in the photo is by itself. There are no others around it. One thing that stands out is the fact that this lonesome flower is small and barely above the ground. This flower is a metaphor for what it's like to be a survivor of sexual assault. Survivors are often alone, both physically and mentally. This is a cause for concern because survivors are more often than not unknown to us. Many people suffer in silence. To change this, we need to delve into the issues associated with sexual assault as well as why students aren't heard when they ask for help from Title IX offices.

# What is Title IX?

- Title IX emerged from civil rights amendments in order to support individuals experiencing sexual discrimination in federally funded universities.
- In order to cooperate with legislative, Title IX offices are required to minimize sexual assault across communities by educating members about sexual assault and sexual assault prevention.
- When sexual assault does occur in a community, Title IX must implement steps and resources to help survivors adjust to campus life after an assault.
  - Step 1: Conduct an investigation in order to find the responsible party.
  - Step 2: Enact disciplinary action on those who commit assault and work to educate the community on needs for change.
  - Step 3: Offer support to survivors (counseling, educational adjustment, no contact) (Holland & Cipriano, 2021).

# Know YOUR Title IX Rights

At the University of New Haven, students can view their Title IX rights at certain campus locations. The rights listed include [sex discrimination](#) for pregnant women. Although it is important to know your rights as a pregnant woman, Title IX reaches beyond that. Your rights include [being treated equally](#) and fairly as [a man, woman, or other gender identities](#). Among sex discrimination is [sexual harassment](#). If you or someone you know is being sexually harassed or has been sexually assaulted, you can contact their Title IX office for resources. Know your Title IX rights.

## Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972:  
prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions.

- Students seeking accommodations may contact ARC to schedule an appointment. The Dean of Students Office may also assist and facilitate communications with professors.
- Students are expected to regularly and promptly attend and participate in their classes.
- Student seeking modified attendance must meet all course requirements as stated in the course syllabus. They are responsible for communicating with their professor and obtaining all material and notes from missed classes.



# Student Experiences (Holland et al., 2021)

- Unfortunately, sexual assault is a major issue across higher educational institutions across the United States
- While there are formal supports to report someone's assault, there is a service barrier:
  - Survivors may feel like their assault was not “serious enough”
  - Survivors fear they may receive backlash from their peers when they come forward about their assault
  - 80 percent of participants in a study reported that minimization served as a barrier that prevented them from reporting



## Protesting Ally

Someone in this photo is at a protest, supporting sexual assault survivors. They have not personally experienced sexual assault, but they want support others that have experienced such a traumatic event. They are standing alone, but still want to be heard. When someone is coping with a traumatic event, they may look for support from not only formal supports but social support from their family and friends. If you know someone that has suffered from sexual assault, please offer endless support to them.

# The LGBTQ+ Community (Nightingale, 2022)

- Trust within one's own college community is very important, especially within the LGBTQ+ community.
- The sexual assault reporting climate (SARC) is the climate that the community fosters.
  - The perceptions and attitudes of the campus community
    - The faculty administrations, staff, and students, and how they respond when a formal report of a sexual assault is brought up (Nightingale, 2022).
- Sexual minority students are
  - significantly more likely to receive a poor response to a report of a sexual assault from a campus official.
  - significantly less likely to consider that their campus officials will respond adequately to them reporting a sexual assault, rather than a report by a heterosexual student

# Bleeding Queer



This is a depiction of the pride flag on someone's skin. This is to represent the queer people who have not been given the proper resources or does not feel safe reporting a sexual assault because of their gender identity or sexuality. This is something that is a very real reality for many queer people. Those who identify as a different gender might experience transphobia when reporting Those who are gay might experience homophobia when reporting This prompts students to not feel safe in reporting which can expand to them not feeling safe with the whole school environment. There needs to be more acceptance with diversity in universities



# Sexual Violence Prevention (Marine & Nicolazzo, 2020)

- Sexual violence prevention has been prevalent on college campuses dating all the way back to the 1990s but its effectiveness has been questionable
- Sexual violence prevention at universities does not address issue of trans sexual violence.
  - largely attributed to genderism, which is the assumption that there are only two, genders.
  - While trans individuals are clearly at heightened risk of sexual assault.
- SVPEs are typically employed at universities and are in charge of creating programs to promote awareness of the causal and contributory factors inherent in campus sexual violence.
  - In charge of developing, implementing, and evaluating sexual violence education for college students.
  - These professionals are especially important actors in the ongoing effort to reduce sexual violence.

Mopped

Don't let your  
voice be  
wiped away.  
Speak now.



# Stay Silent



There is a student here with a piece of tape over their mouth saying stay silent. This is to show the amount of students who were silenced when they have tried to speak out about either sexual assault in general or their own assault. Often students are not given the proper resources or just not believed when reporting a sexual assault. Victim blaming often happens a lot in universities and this will make a student not want to report an assault because they will not truly be helped. This prompts students into unwillingly staying silent. There needs to be better resources offered and less push back given when students report.

# Sexual Violence Prevention (Marine & Nicolazzo, 2020)

- In a study conducted by Marine and Nicolazzo 16 collegiate student affairs educators responsible for performing sexual violence prevention education were interviewed in order to redefine sexual violence prevention education to be more inclusive among different students specifically the LGBTQ+ population
  - Five dispositions were analyzed those being: gender unaware, gender defensive, gender aware, gender inclusive, and gender transformative
  - When examining the data under each category it was found that most student affairs educators displayed mixed views about certain policies pertaining to LGBTQ+ students and how those situations are handled on college campuses
- Overall it seems there is deep-rooted homophobia within sexual violence prevention making it difficult for all students to come forward and receive the appropriate resources
- The recommendation is that there needs to be more opportunities for gender inclusivity and gender diversity education to combat these challenges that no student should face in their most vulnerable times

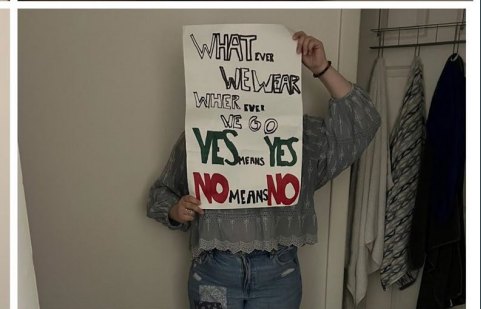
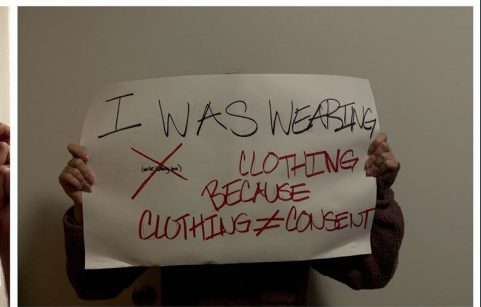
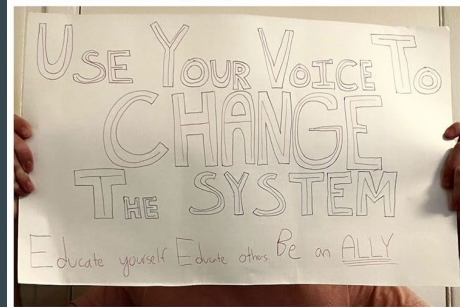
# No Two are the Same

This is a picture of two flowers that are in the same vase. This is to show how the resources given are very important to a person. In this picture one flower is more desolate than the other one. So even though both flowers have the same water only one flower seems to be doing well. This can translate to the resources that schools give students Just because the resources provided can be helpful to one person does not mean it will help the next person. Every person has a different experience when it comes to assault. Each person will need something different. There needs to be more availability in resources so people can have the proper resources that will help them.



# Stand Together

Students are protesting against Title IX offices in an attempt to bring light to their negligence against students and make others aware of their wrong doings. ALL students deserve a safe space where they can confide in university officials and know they will be protected and justice will be served. Students are demanding to be heard and their voices are getting louder and here they are challenging the system that oppresses them. Universities need to take action to protect their students no matter the situation or they will hear their students roar.



# Potential Solutions for Change

Across many campuses, there have been ways that people have tried to improve the environment for all students to make them feel safer. For example, in a study that aimed to measure the connectedness that students feel while their on campus, as well as measures that were taken to prevent sexual assault, the American College Health Association recommended that campuses take part in bystander training programs. These proactive programs would be experiences where students could actively take part in real life scenarios where they could learn prosocial behavior and methods to try and prevent sexual assault amongst their friends/peers (Jouriles et al., 2020). While realistic situations like this may feel overwhelming, they can be effective because they show students what situations could look like in the real world at parties or other types of social events where sexual assault and rape are more likely to occur.



## Walk a Mile in my Shoes

This is a picture of a pair of shoes. No one knows what someone has been through unless you take a walk in their shoes. This may not apply just to sexual assault survivors, but can be applied to either other incredibly traumatic events, or human experiences in general.

Everyone has different experiences and react to situations differently. Some people may assume that every survivor has the same reaction and same coping strategies We should not judge someone's reactions to a situation and offer them gratitude and empathy.



## Potential Solutions for Change (Continued)

A focus on campus support, a sense of belonging, and better training for all administration can all increase the climate of a campus community (Nightingale, 2022).

In addition, there can be more training for the people who would first be contacted when an assault has happened such as RA's. Depending on that RA's beliefs, they may not be helpful to the person (Holland et al., 2020). Such negative beliefs are Rape Myths. This includes beliefs that the victim “deserves it” or “was asking for it”. Better training for RA's about rape myths beliefs, and how to respond to a sexual assault will greatly improve how an RA can respond to a person who comes to them with a report of a sexual assault (Holland et al., 2020).

# Alone Together

This photo is a contrast to the first photo with the lone flower. As opposed to the single flower, these flowers are standing together. They are higher above the ground, but take note that they are slightly wilted. The message here is that no matter what happens, sexual assault changes a person forever. Their story will always be a part of them. But that doesn't mean they aren't going to be better off if they get help and if they are surrounded by people who love and support each other. Everyone may all have certain burdens to bear. But it's important to acknowledge each other's pain and unique story. Even those who haven't been directly affected can be allies and *listen* to those who need to be heard.



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