Sexualized Violence

Navigating the Sexualized Violence Policy

PURPLE FOLDER
The Purple Folder is your guide to responding when someone shares an experience of Sexualized Violence. The Purple Folder outlines appropriate and supportive responses when someone shares an experience of sexualized violence, a full list of supports and resources on campus and in the community, reporting options, and more. Visit dal.ca/purplefolder

SUPPORT/RESOURCES ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY
Experiencing Sexualized Violence can be confusing and traumatic but there are resources on campus and in the community available to support your healing process. Support can also be found in family, friends, counsellors, family doctors, Residence Assistants, coaches, and other individuals and organizations.

Supports within the Dalhousie University Community:
- Dalhousie Employee & Family Assistance Program (for employees)
  https://www.dsu.ca/das
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service
  http://www.dsu.ca/dsas
- Dalhousie Student Health & Wellness Centre
  (for students)
- Dalhousie Student Union Survivor Support Centre
  http://www.dsu.ca/survivorsupport
- Human Rights & Equity Services
  https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.html
- Ombudsperson (independent and impartial support)
  https://www.dal.ca/ombudsperson
- Security Services
  https://www.dal.ca/dept/facilities/services/security-services/contact.html
- South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre
  https://southhousehalifax.ca/
- Union or employee group (for employees)

Additional Resources in the Broader Community:
- Avalon Sexual Assault Centre
  http://avaloncentre.ca
- Central Nova Women’s Resource Centre
  http://cnwrc.ca/
- Colchester Sexual Assault Centre
  https://www.colchestersac.ca/
- Halifax Regional Police
- Nova Scotia Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Survivors Program
  https://novascotia.ca/sexualassaultlegaladvice/
- Nova Scotia Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Survivors Program
  https://novascotia.ca/sexualassaultlegaldvice/
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Colchester County detachment
- Sexual Violence Prevention and Supports – Nova Scotia Department of Community Service
  http://www.breakthesilencens.ca/
- Town of Truro Police

report through the Criminal Code, you can contact the Regional Police Department at 902.490.5020 (Halifax) or 902.895.5351 (Truro) or 911 for emergency response.
**DEFINITIONS**

**Sexual Assault** is any form of unwanted, forced or coerced sexual activity, including kissing, fondling, touching, and any kind of intercourse, that is done without their Consent; or any attempts or threats to force sexual activity.

**Sexual Harassment** is vexatious sexual conduct or comment that is known or ought reasonably to be known as unwelcome; It includes sexual solicitations or advances by an individual in a position to confer a benefit on, or deny a benefit to whom the solicitation or advance is made. It also includes a reprisal or threat of reprisal for rejecting a sexual solicitation or advance.

**Sexualized Violence** is an umbrella term that refers to an act of violence, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is characterized by an attempt to threaten, intimidate, coerce or engage in any unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature.

**Consent** refers to the voluntary agreement of an individual. It is positive, active, ongoing, at every step of intimacy, and can be withdrawn at any time. Consent cannot be obtained where a person is incapable of consenting – as may be the case when intoxicated. Consent cannot be given where a person is induced to engage in the activity by someone abusing a position of trust, power or authority.

*Please note that definitions listed in this document are adapted from Dalhousie’s Sexualized Violence Policy. Please refer to the policy for complete definitions at: dal.ca/senate*

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**DISCLOSURE VS. REPORT**

**Disclosing** can mean describing an experience of sexualized violence to the Sexualized Violence Advisor or any member of the university community. When disclosing, you can share as little or as much as you are comfortable with. Disclosing an experience of sexualized violence does not necessarily start any other process. You may disclose in person or anonymously online via the Dal Security App.

You may want to disclose because you would like to know what supports and accommodations are available to you, to better understand what your reporting options are, or just to tell someone what happened.

**Reporting** can mean describing your experience of sexualized violence in writing to the Sexualized Violence Advisor (and in some cases other members of the university community). When reporting, you will need to provide the names of everyone involved, a detailed description of the behavior that forms the basis of the report, and what you would like to see from this process. Reporting an experience of sexualized violence can start a university process through an Investigative or Non-Investigative stream. Reporting to Police is also an option.

You may want to report because you would like to have an official record of your experience, you would like to launch an investigation, and/or you are seeking remedial, educational, and/or restorative outcomes.

Disclosures and Reports of Sexualized Violence will be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible, within the limitations described in the Sexualized Violence Policy.

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**WHAT TO EXPECT FROM AN ADVISOR**

The Sexualized Violence Advisor in Human Rights & Equity Services is trained to help individuals who have experienced sexualized violence. The Sexualized Violence Advisor offers confidential support, crisis intervention, liaises with medical/legal/police services as needed, coordinates safety plans with Security Services, refer Complainants to counselling and ongoing support, advises Complainants on possible accommodations and processes outlined in the Sexualized Violence Policy, and provides other consultation and case management services (including incident logging).

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**REPORTING OPTIONS**

If you would like to report your experience of sexualized violence to Human Rights & Equity Services, you may do so by contacting the Sexualized Violence Advisor at hres@dal.ca or 902-494-6672. A report can follow an investigative or non-investigative stream. Investigative stream refers to the process where the report is investigated by an Investigator and disciplinary, remedial, educational and/or restorative outcomes may result. A non-investigative stream refers to the process where the report is addressed without an investigation through remedial, educational and/or restorative outcomes.

You can also consider reporting your experience of sexualized violence to the Regional Police Department or RCMP to initiate a report through the Criminal Code. This report can be initiated whether or not a university report is made. To initiate a