

Sexual Violence & Prevention Centre Statement on Events at UWO:

Everyone deserves to live, work, and study free from sexual violence. Recent news about sexual violence at Western is a reminder that our work to create a supportive, healing culture of consent and care on campus is vital. Sexual violence is a serious issue on Canadian campuses, and we stand in solidarity with anyone who has been impacted.

Generally, when we see an increase in conversations about sexual violence, we also see an increase in disclosures among our community. We also know that news around sexual violence can be overwhelming and difficult, particularly for survivors of violence. The Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre (the Centre) is here to provide support to anyone at the University who has been affected by sexual or gender-based violence or who wants to learn more.

We know some members of our community are hurting as a result of this news. Remember: you're not alone, and we're here to help. Please know that you can reach out to us at any time.

Support from the Centre is available on all three campuses. We work to provide a clear pathway for people seeking referrals to counselling, medical services, academic or workplace accommodations, financial aid, legal aid, and more. Staff at the Centre centralize supports, resources, and can review available options so that a student will have a clear point of contact and support person no matter what pathway they choose. This structure is intended to limit the number of times they will have to share their experience.

Under the University's [Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#), the Centre provides support and accepts disclosures and reports of sexual violence, and is deeply invested in education initiatives. The Centre is continually working to raise awareness with workshops, training, and campaigns that promote a culture of consent on campus.

Please note that there is no obligation for a member of the University Community to file a report in order to access Centre services. This practice is in keeping with our anti-oppressive, trauma-informed approach to violence prevention and intervention. Any member of our community who has experienced or witnessed sexual violence or who has received a disclosure of sexual violence at any time can contact the Centre for support.

In the past year, the Centre has grown our tri-campus education portfolio, increasing public awareness of our services; expanding programming and making improvements to our structures and processes. We're excited to now be offering a [monthly survivor support group](#), in addition to our regular, individualized survivor support. We're [hosting training](#) opportunities this year where students, staff, and faculty can learn about healthy boundaries, consent, and pleasure. And we're expanding awareness of our services by building-up our [digital presence](#).

Additionally, we've invested in two new roles. We're now better resourced to help our community with the support of an Assistant Director and an Education and Communications Coordinator.

We rely on the support and feedback from the UofT community. We're constantly reviewing the needs of those we serve, and seeking out opportunities for consultation. We welcome feedback from the UofT community. We want to hear what's working and how we can do better. A

feedback form is available on our website:

<https://www.svpscentre.utoronto.ca/contact/how-are-we-doing/>

Further information about what we do is available in our [recent Annual Reports](#). We encourage you to [reach out to us](#) with any questions or concerns about our safety and well-being when it comes to sexual violence. Our colleagues at the [Community Safety Office](#) are also available to support with concerns of personal safety.