

CASE STUDY



SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS

STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE 2021-2022

# CASE STUDY GOALS

- Determine how to improve campus safety
- Find ways to better our campus resources  
for survivors of sexual violence
- Find ways to ensure perpetrators are held  
accountable for their actions

# PARTICIPANTS

Vicky: CNAS, 3rd year

Anonymous: CNAS, 1st year

Seaman: CHASS, 3rd year

Kimia Tahipour: CNAS, 5th year

Celeste: CNAS, 4th year

Evin: CHASS, 4th year

Ulises M.: CHASS 1st year

Donald: CHASS, 4th year

Thanaa: CHASS, 3rd year

Aaron Song: CNAS, 1st year

Transfer

(10 total participants)

WHAT DOES SEXUAL VIOLENCE MEAN TO YOU?

MISCOMMUNICATION

NO

CONSENT

**PHYSICAL**

ASSULT

MENTAL

THREAT

**TRAUMA**

ABUSE

HARASSMENT

UNWANTED SEXUAL ATTENTION

# DO YOU BELIEVE THE UNIVERSITY DOES ENOUGH IN REGARDS TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

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Most students believe the university does a good job of making the resources available known to students. Many referenced the first-year sexual harassment training module, flyers posted on campus, and student organizations on campus.

One student said that it fails to provide adequate support to survivors of sexual violence after the event occurred. Two students reported that the resources aren't given enough attention and that they can be hard to find for survivors .

Another student pointed out the format of the training module can be improved by adding real-life scenarios and queer representation.

# DO YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE CAPABLE TO OFFER HELP OR SUPPORT TO A SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Overall, students believe they can offer general emotional support and lead survivors to other resources for more in-depth assistance.

# WOULD ATTENDING A WORKSHOP ON HOW TO OFFER SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Almost all participants would be interested in attending a workshop.

# WORKSHOP FORMAT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Mostly in-person
- Online for convenience and comfort
- Small and intimate
- Survivor-led
- Different gender identities present
- Warnings (could be triggering, mixed groups, participate to the extent you can)
- Personal perspectives and real-life situations

# DO YOU BELIEVE SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS PREVALENT ON-CAMPUS? IF SO, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE MAIN DRIVER OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS?

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Christine: "Yes, there is a frat-like culture at UCR. There are many Greek-life cases where people got away with it. Frat guys would also talk to girls who are extremely drunk. The main driver is a lack of education, horrible modules, and lack of attentiveness. Sexual violence also occurs in Residential Life".

Anonymous (M): "I had heard of sexual violence on campus through parties, and drinking. I did not have the expectation that it will happen to me. Yet, when it occurred, I felt violated. "It was a fun night until it wasn't. It was also difficult to deal with that type of violence".

Vicky: "Many things that are reported do not get released. She lives in Glen Mor and she had heard that someone got into a residence's room. There were definitely many cases that are not reported. It could be related to partying, and lack of education."

Many students reported that sexual violence often occurred during partying, and drinking. There was also a consensus that the perpetrator of sexual violence often got away with it.

# SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS

- Most students have not experienced or witnessed sexual violence on campus.
- One student reported a sexual harassment event that occurred off-campus on apartment grounds. Changes were made after the event occurred, but it was unclear whether the harasser was held responsible for their actions.
- Another student reported being assaulted by a residential life employee, who has now been promoted to a higher position.

## HOW CAN THE UNIVERSITY HELP PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE FROM OCCURRING?

- Increasing awareness of sexual violence and potentially increasing security presence on campus
  - Increase training on sexual violence
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# DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW UCR COULD BETTER HELP SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

- Students were interested in confidential support groups on campus to help cope with trauma.
- Most students believed the sexual violence orientations presented at the beginning of the year were helpful.
- Some students were educated on resources available on campus, such as the RA.
- Students believe the email alert notifications they receive when an incident occurs are helpful.
- UCR should properly handle situations of abuse by holding offenders accountable most students believe that UCR does not do enough once an event has occurred.

# QUESTIONS RELATING TO SURVIVORS

AFTER THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE EVENT OCCURRED, DID YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE REACHING OUT TO CAMPUS RESOURCES?

All survivors, except for one, reported that they did NOT feel comfortable reaching out to campus resources. The one survivor who did reach out to campus resources, did not feel supported by them.

IF YOU REPORTED THE EVENT, DO YOU BELIEVE THE PERPETRATOR(S) WERE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS?

Half of the SA survivor participants reported their incidents to on- or off-campus authorities. Nothing came from any of their cases. Perpetrators were not held accountable.

# QUESTIONS RELATING TO SURVIVORS

WHAT RESOURCES WOULD YOU HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACCESS TO FOLLOWING THE EVENT?

- Peer group
- Off-campus resources
- Someone unaffiliated with UCR
- More informative modules (from orientation)
- Queer representations in resources
- Better sexual awareness training for student workers

IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN A UCR AFFILIATED SUPPORT GROUP FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Yes, but student-ran. By having such a resource, UCR can work to remove the stigma of sexual assault, grow a supportive community, and make survivors feel comfortable on campus.



# MESSAGE TO SURVIVORS

Seaman: You are not alone. Although it is very difficult and explaining the event is “retraumatizing.” If you report, people will be there for you. And if you do not, your experience is just as valid.

Thanaa: You are not alone. This experience that you are going through doesn't reflect on yourself. The crime is not your fault and there are people there that can help you. It does get better and gets easier to live with.

Vicky: It's not your fault, and that there is help out there. Finding it is the difficult part. Please know that there are other survivors out there.

Most of the students in the case study want other students to know that there are resources available for survivors of sexual violence, and that they are not alone.

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# CONCLUSIONS

- Some student suggestions for increasing campus safety were: increasing security presence on campus, raising awareness of sexual violence, and improving the training modules for first year students.
- Most survivors reported that following the event they wanted someone to listen to them, without feeling pressure to report the event to legal authorities.
- Our recommendations:
  - Create collaborative workshops that prepare students to offer support to survivors of sexual violence
  - Create support groups for survivors that are inclusive of all genders and scenarios
  - Improve the training modules to include queer representation and more realistic scenarios





# CONTACT US

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