



SEXUAL VIOLENCE



WHAT IS IT?

Sexual Violence (SV) is sexual activity that occurs when consent is not obtained or freely given. It affects people of all ages, sexual orientation, and gender whether they are a victim of SV or the perpetrator. Often, a perpetrator is someone the victim knows.

SV occurs in different ways, such as sexual harassment (unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors) and sexual misconduct (a range of behaviors including nonconsensual contact, rape, intimate partner violence or other conduct of sexual nature that is unwanted, and/or involves threatening, intimidating or coercive behavior).

In the United States, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience SV in their lifetime and nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 38 men have experienced attempted or completed rape.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED “CONSENT”?

Consent is when a person who is legally and functionally competent communicates informed approval or agreement to have sexual contact or sexual intercourse.

Someone can be legally or functionally unable to provide consent due to their age, illness, mental or physical disability, being asleep or unconscious, or too intoxicated as a result of voluntary or involuntary use of alcohol or drugs.

HOW TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

- Trust your instincts. If your gut tells you that you’re not safe, find a friend and remove yourself from the situation.
- Be prepared. Before going out, make sure your phone is charged and you have money for a cab, or have the Uber/Lyft app installed on your phone.
- When you’re out, stick with your friends or let them know where you’re going.
- Hold onto your drink. Whether it’s alcoholic or non-alcoholic if you leave it unattended, get a new drink. Don’t accept a drink from someone you don’t know.
- If you’re walking alone, stay alert and pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don’t compromise your standards. Set your boundaries and be firm. Saying, “No,” is all you need to say.
- When someone says “stop” or “no”, stop.

IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED:

- Get to a safe place and call a friend or family member to be with you.
- Do not shower or bathe. Doing so may disturb physical evidence.
- Contact the local police and file a report. If you are on campus, also contact Public Safety.
 - Lower Gwynedd Police: (215) 646-5303
 - Public Safety: 215-641-5522
- Seek medical attention at a hospital emergency room, even if you do not think you have any injuries.
- Write down as much as you can remember about the assault and the identity of the assailant.
- Seek counseling, information, and legal assistance.
 - Victim Services of Montgomery County Crisis Hotline: 610-277-5200
 - Women Against Rape (WOAR): 215-985-3333

HOW TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual Violence is not your fault. Gwynedd Mercy University’s Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy can be found in the Student’s Code of Conduct.

For free, confidential counseling for Gwynedd Mercy University students, contact:

Counseling Services | Griffin Complex | 2nd Floor
counseling@gmercyu.edu

If you are in need of assistance due to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, contact:

Tia Brown | Title IX Coordinator
215-646-7300 Ext. 21140
brown.t8@gmercyu.edu