

The old proposal is below the blank form!

Issue: Support for Survivors of Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence

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Endorsements:

[Strategy Chart.](#)

1) Describe the Issue (what is the problem & what is the solution).

Sexual violence on our college campuses is a real issue for all students across the country. Ranging from unwanted stalking or touching, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and rape. An estimate of one in every five womxn are sexually assaulted while they are in college and only around 13% are able to report due to personal or institutional barriers. On top of this, campuses often perpetuate victim-blaming, a huge part of rape culture, which has manifested itself in our universities. Some beginnings of a solution include our Counseling Center, which is currently underfunded and too understaffed to support students who are survivors of sexual violence. Although there are resources on campus for survivors, the process of knowing where to go isn't always clear. Trying to navigate the information that is out there can be an additional barrier to a person who is thinking about getting help/wanting to report.

3) Please explain briefly how/if this issue meets the following qualifications:

1. Is it winnable?

Yes, sexual assault prevention campaigns are highly supported on college campuses because there is little opposition to the concept of preventing sexual assault. Our biggest barriers are not direct opposition but a lack of awareness and a lack of funding for institutions of Higher Ed. We can combat the first by running information campaigns that teach students, faculty, staff, and administration about what the problem is and what they can do to help. This is a personal issue for many individuals so there will be support from many different communities. By building the movement we can combat the second barrier, because sexual assault is so pervasive, building power will help to pressure legislators into taking action. By working with the WSA and USSA we can show that this is a large enough problem that it deserves to be addressed.

2. Does it directly impact and improve students' lives?

Yes, by eliminating or greatly reducing the likelihood of experiencing sexual assaults on campus we can allow students to focus entirely on their lives as students, they can feel safer on campus, focus more in the classroom, and have a better student experience overall.

3. Does it have a clear target?

Yes, the following legislators have control over the budget and policies regarding higher education, depending on what part of the issue we are focusing on (funding v. policy.) and where the issue is located (House v. Senate) the target will be one of them.

Drew Hanson (D), Hans Zeiger (R), (House Higher Ed.)

Barbara Bailey (R), Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D) (Senate Higher Ed.)

Hans Dunshee (D), Bruce Chandler (R) (House Approp.)
Andy Hill (R), Jim Hargrove (D) (Senate W&M)

4. Does it build a measurable amount of power?

Yes. There are many campus groups, community organizations, and individual students who will want to get behind this campaign because sexual violence 1) is an issue that is experienced across the identity spectrum and 2) drastically affects a victim/survivor's ability to be an active and healthy member of the campus community. Because of who strongly this issue impacts people on our campus and because of how deeply it is felt there are going to be many people that can relate to or care about this issue.

5. Does it have a clear and realistic time frame?

Eliminating something as systemic as sexual violence will be an ongoing process. The sooner we receive support from the campus administration and the state, the sooner we can make substantive changes to the way we handle sexual violence and the way we support survivors on our campus. This issue is currently receiving a lot of wide-spread support and from many different local, state, and federal organizations, which helps to leverage our pressure and increasing the likelihood decisions will be made around the issues soon.

6. Does it have a state organizing and lobbying angle?

There are many organizations and movements at the state and local level lobbying on the issues of sexual violence, one is the Washington Student Association, which is in it's second year focusing on the issue with legislators and university administration.

7. Could students build a diverse campus coalition around this issue?

Yes, students can. Collaborating with offices like the Sexual Awareness Center, the Women's Center, the Queer Resource Center, the Ethnic Student Center, the Equal Opportunity Office, and Consultation and Sexual Assault Support (CASAS) and getting students who would like to be a part of this would be great. There are also strong community organizations that would likely welcome collaboration, including Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS). There are also many different local, state, and federal organizations that are focusing on this issue that we could potentially collaborate with, some examples would be the It's on Us White House Campaign, the Project Respect Campaign through yesmeansyes, as well as many others.

8. Is it likely to be debated and acted upon by the Legislature in the next year?

Increased attention has been given to sexual violence on college campuses per the national investigation of many institutions on their sexual assault policies. This year the Office of Civil Rights from the U.S. Department of Education has been on campus looking into allegations of mishandling of students' reports of sexual assault. A federal investigation of ineffective policies for supporting survivors of sexual violence pushes Western and the State of Washington into the spotlight around this issue. The campaigns launched from the White House also has the attention of many concerned people. It is likely that the legislature will address

sexual violence issues within the next year, even more likely if we motivate specific legislators to take a stand with us.

9. Will it strengthen and expand efforts within WSA?

Yes, the potential to create coalitions around this issue is incredibly high, which can increase the recognition of WSA (or the AS) as a relevant force representing students interests. By doing this we create an easier pathway to other legislation benefitting students.

10. Can you provide background information and the current context of the issue?

historically, national legislative acts such as Title IX and the Clery Act were created to make higher education safer and more accessible for marginalized communities, especially womxn. Though they have had some positive impact, these legislative acts haven't been enough. Western is one of 106 schools across the nation currently under investigation by the Dept, of Education's Office of Civil rights, and this proposal begins to cover ways that WWU could greatly improve its support services for survivors to ensure that we don't have to undergo investigation again.

11. What creative and/or innovative tactics could we employ to engage the media and excite new students around this issue?

- Carry that weight style awareness actions
- Send legislators small cut-outs of people (gingerbread style) representing how many people on campus are affected by this issue (reference the 1 in 5 statistic)
- On campus educational tactic- clip cut outs to a string and wrap around the light posts on red square to represent the number of victims
- Potentially send letters to legislators with an account (anonymous or not, up to individual) of a survivor's experience and explain how many people on campus are affected by this issue.