

**The old proposal is below the blank form!**

Issue: Support for Survivors of Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence

Author(s)/Sponsor(s): Nora Selander, Bridget Williams, Josie Ellison

Endorsements:

2) Please fill out a Strategy Chart.

Goals:

- update information/references to things that have already happened

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. According to The Campus Sexual Assault Study which was done in October 2007, an estimate of one in every five womxn are sexually assaulted while they are in college and only 13% are able to report due to personal or institutional barriers. On top of this, campuses often perpetuate victim-blaming, which is a huge part of rape culture that has manifested in our universities. At Western, our Counseling Center is 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 even begin isn't clear. Trying to navigate the information that is out can be an additional barrier to the 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 safe 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.

**Commented [1]:** what does "power" mean in this question? does it mean there is power behind this issue?

**Commented [2]:** Hey! So here it means our ability to grow as an organization based on this issue and also our ability to show that people are on our side when talking with legislators

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 loth ersi.

**Commented [3]:** here would we want to add a sentences about the motivation behind a coalition (recent developments) on our campus or stick to just the vehicles available for students who want to come together on this issue.

**Commented [4]:** That actually might be better included in question #8, talking about why the issues is so widely felt right now and how that impacts how much focus it will receive during session

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

**Commented [5]:** JK Nora had that handled!

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?

Hxstorically, 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.

**Commented [6]:** really pull at those heart strings but also less extreme than sending cut outs? I thinking these could be generic stories.

**Commented [7]:** I'd be worried about this potentially being triggering for some of the people we're sending them too, but maybe something we could talk about for VLD or something? Potentially a training on how to share your story (if you want to) with legislators in a way that will be safe for you

**Commented [8]:** Yeah that could be a good way to do it! I was just thinking of a way legislators could hear a more personal account, so there can be a story attached to the number, but definitely would want to avoid making anyone feel uncomfortable. Also, thank you for those clarifications.

Sent from my iPhone

**Commented [9]:** No problem! Let me know if you have any other questions or if i need to explain something better!