

Programs of Healing After Sexual Violence: Tackling the Double Violation

Purpose

This project seeks to rectify institutional and governmental problems in dealing with sexual violence, in a variety of international and domestic contexts, seeking to devise programs that promote victims' physical and mental wellbeing. The theme of wellbeing is one of the university's Discovery themes, and experiencing sexual violence can be a huge obstacle to physical and psychological health.

Impact

To interview victims (initially students, later other groups) about their experiences of treatment in institutions in cases of rape or sexual assault, and make recommendations about how training or education could improve that treatment.

To develop a program of best practices in aiding victims for a variety of institutional settings - beginning with campus but later expanding - including directives on how to facilitate, not simply healing, but resilience.

To produce a set of materials to aid individuals in institutions dealing with victims of sexual violence, who, while being well-meaning, might inadvertently traumatise the victim for a second time (the double violation).

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

I am based in the English department and Sexuality Studies, and I am seeking input from Sexual Civility and Empowerment in the Office of Student Life.

How you can get involved:

- To provide input on best practices for institutional processes in dealing with victims.
- To offer input as to the situations and needs of different groups at risk, e.g. black women, trans women, Native American women, and the homeless are at higher risk of assault, and have different needs.
- To contribute ideas to the materials designed to help victims.
- To be interviewed about the difficulties faced in your own organization if dealing with traumatized victims.

To get involved, contact:

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