

Sexual Violence Prevention Policy

E-04

LONG TITLE	Sexual Violence Prevention Policy	DATE OF ENACTMENT	4 April 2022
		LAST AMENDED	4 April 2022
REFERENCE No.	E-04	NEXT REVIEW	4 April 2024
CATEGORY	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	COMPETENT CHAMBER	Council

MANDATE

To outline the preventative measures CUSA will take in terms of sexual violence, including education, prevention and training. CUSA strives to be active advocates on campus for the prevention of sexual violence and work closely with campus partners to create a cohesive network to ensure all lines of communication are open to ensure the safety of students is a top priority. This Policy shall be reviewed every two years by Council.

INTERPRETATION

1. This Policy may be called the *Sexual Violence Prevention Policy*.
2. In this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **Violence:** "The use of physical force so as to injure, abuse, damage, or destroy [...] intense, turbulent, or furious and often destructive action or force."
 - b) **Sexual violence:** [Carleton University](#) defines sexual violence as, "...any sexual act or act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person's consent. It includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism and sexual exploitation. For further clarity, sexual assault includes rape."
 - c) **Rape culture:** [Carleton University](#) defines rape culture as, "a culture in which dominant ideas, social practices, media images and societal institutions implicitly or explicitly condone sexual assault by normalizing or trivializing sexual violence and by blaming survivors for their own abuse."
 - d) **Bystander intervention:** [Concordia University](#) states: "Bystander intervention occurs when a person sees a situation and voices an opinion about someone else's language and/or behaviour that is inappropriate, hurtful, abusive or dangerous. Bystanders can prevent sexual violence when they recognize a situation could escalate and intervene. This approach is used to address the behaviours of others, with the goal of creating safer

communities and preventing sexual violence.” [Carleton University](#) states: “Active bystanders are those who assume responsibility for intervening in a situation. This can impact the outcome positively and deescalate violence.”

- e) **Consent:** [Carleton University](#) defines consent as “an active, direct, voluntary, unimpaired, and conscious choice and agreement to engage in sexual activity.”
- 3. This policy applies to all CUSA spaces including but not limited to: office spaces, businesses, service centres, online and in-person events, and to all CUSA staff including but not limited to: executive, full-time, part-time and volunteer.
- 4. CUSA condemns all acts of gendered and sexual violence and commits to holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.
- 5. CUSA denounces all forms of rape culture and commits to raising awareness on this topic.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

- 6. The VPSI has the responsibility of maintaining and working with campus partners like Equity and Inclusive Communities, to raise awareness of consent culture, rape culture and sexual violence/harassment through campaigns. The VPSI will ensure proper support is provided to students who report sexual violence while also striving to prevent sexual violence on campus through training and education.

POLICY

- 7. Working with university stakeholders, CUSA will take a proactive approach to gendered and sexual violence prevention.
- 8. CUSA commits to consent education through campaigns and events such as BeForePlay Ask.
- 9. Working in tandem with the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities and the Rideau River Residence Association, CUSA will ensure students are aware of both on-campus and off-campus supports if they experience gendered or sexual violence.
- 10. CUSA commits to upholding the university standard of gendered and sexual violence prevention.
- 11. CUSA commits to advocating for Carleton University to review its sexual violence policy every 2 years.
- 12. CUSA commits to having students' voices involved in conversations surrounding gendered and sexual violence prevention.
- 13. CUSA commits to working closely with the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities to provide training for all CUSA staff.

14. CUSA commits to providing community-specific resources on gendered and sexual violence prevention and supports for survivors. CUSA commits to working with the Womxn's Centre on programming and events to support students.