

## Sexual Violence Prevention Policy

E-04

LONG TITLE	Sexual Violence Prevention Policy	DATE OF ENACTMENT	4 April 2022
		LAST AMENDED	8 April 2024
REFERENCE No.	E-04	NEXT REVIEW	10 April 2026
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:

**“violence”**: “The use of physical force so as to injure, abuse, damage, or destroy [...] intense turbulent, or furious and often destructive action or force.”

**“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.”

**“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.”

**“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.”

“**consent**”: [Carleton University](#) defines consent as “an active, direct, voluntary, unimpaired, and conscious choice and agreement to engage in sexual activity.”

“**gender based violence**”: [Gender-based violence](#) is violence directed against a person because of that person's gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. For the purposes of this policy gender-based violence will be referred to as “gendered”.

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 CUSA volunteer, and to all CUSA adjacent bodies including but not limited to: any CUSA certified clubs, CUSA Council, and the CUSA Board of Directors.

4 Repealed.

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 BeForPlayAsk, and targeted advocacy towards high-risk groups such International students.

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. CUSA will call upon Carleton University to maintain a commitment of transparency and inclusion of student and survivor voices during the review period of Carleton University's Sexual Violence Policy.

13 CUSA commits to working closely with the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities to provide training for all CUSA staff, CUSA Council, CUSA club leaders and CUSA Board of Directors.

14 CUSA commits to providing community-specific resources on gendered and sexual violence prevention and supports for survivors. CUSA commits to working with all service centers on programming and events to support students.

15 CUSA commits to working closely with all certified and recertifying CUSA clubs to ensure that community-specific resources are accessible on club platforms and training is mandated for all club executive leaders.

16 CUSA commits itself to zero tolerance of any individual accused of gendered and sexual violence within any CUSA related event and space, including but not limited to CUSA service center's, CUSA club's events, CUSA council, until proven otherwise. Excluding the Unified Support Centre for access to resources.