

# Sacrificing Futures: Campus Sexual Violence, Unmet Survivor Needs, and University Complicity

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## Needs Statement

University students currently lack adequate, survivor-oriented resources and supports to aid them in the process of healing from sexual trauma and intimate partner violence committed against them during their college years.

## Motivation and Dedication

My curiosity and motivation behind this project began during my undergraduate years, when a close friend of mine received news that their abusive former partner, who had been stalking and harassing them, would not be receiving Title IX sanctions or removed from campus. Since my completion of undergrad, I have worked professionally with adult survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and trauma, many of whom indicated that their victimizations took place during college.

This project is dedicated to all survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, abuse, and exploitation.

## Goal Statement

Universities will provide student survivors with increased access to mental and physical healthcare, survivor safety resources, and increased academic support in order to aid survivors in staying in school and feeling safe on campus

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## Key Theories and Assumptions

- Universities have a responsibility to keep their students safe
- Trauma is life-altering, regardless of the intensity of the event
- A long life that is safe, valued, and protected is a human right
- There is no such thing as justifiable sexual or intimate partner violence
- Universities want to minimize their responsibility in the issue of campus violence as much as possible

## Important Legislation

- The Clery Act:** a federal law that requires all universities receiving federal financial aid to publicly disclose information about crime occurring on their campuses, including crime statistics; named after Jeanne Clery, a college freshman who was murdered on campus
- Title IX:** a federal law that protects students from sex-based discrimination and sexual violence in schools; applies to all schools receiving federal financial aid

## Interventions

- Requirement for university health centers and hospitals to employ at least 10 SANE certified nurses and sexual assault advocates
- Campuses adopt modifications to registrar policy that will allow students to modify their class schedules beyond the cutoff period due to safety concerns or to avoid/minimize interaction with perpetrator; opportunities for students to switch to fully virtual learning for safety reasons
- Advanced safety planning resources for students choosing to remain on campus and attend in-person classes; additional academic support services including aid in transferring credits to another school
- Campus law enforcement and Title IX office legally required to conduct adequate investigations of all **reported** sexual assaults, rapes, and IPV complaints; risk of legal action, investigation, and large fines against the university if found to be non-compliant
- Semesterly/quarterly surveys sent out seeking student feedback, offering opportunities to report, and on-campus and independent resources for survivors
- 100+ hours of sexual assault prevention, restorative justice education, reporting information required annually for all students - students cannot graduate if they fail to complete these requirements
- 3-5 campus support groups led by mental health professionals geared towards survivors and their experiences; open to all survivors and no identifying information documented

## Outcomes and Indicators

### 01. Survivors report higher rates of satisfaction with availability and quality of resources and supports provided by universities

- Indication: Survivors report feeling safe while on campus and having their needs supported, measured by semesterly/quarterly surveys and anonymous self-report

### 02. Continued access to trauma-focused therapy on campus improves survivors' ability to stay in school in the wake of victimization, and improves their experiences with resources offered

- Indication: Invitation to anonymously self-report sent to survivors 1 year post-grad, asking about how they were supported, if they were satisfied with services, and what they would change/want more of

