

UVIC Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy Review

We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territories the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

CONVERSATION CAFÉ: GUIDELINES FOR RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE

The topics addressed by UVic's *Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response* policy are serious and impactful. Conversations about sexualized violence can be emotional, painful, and difficult.

Below are some recommended guiding principles for conversations about the SVPR policy. The conversation host and participants should collectively review these guidelines before the conversation begins and make whatever modifications are required to respond to the needs and desires of conversation participants. As the conversation unfolds, each participant should feel free to pause the group process, to make further modifications.

ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT INTERSECTIONALITY

- Everyone is differently impacted by sexualized violence and encounters different barriers to disclosing and reporting. Each person's experiences are shaped by the interaction of different social positions and are rooted in interconnecting systems and structures of power that produce intersecting forms of privilege and oppression.

APPROACH LISTENING WITH OPENNESS AND RESPECT

- Be open to receiving and processing information and ideas shared by others without judgment. Try to listen for understanding. Do your best to suspend judgment while listening and be mindful of any judgments that do arise.

'MOVE UP/MOVE BACK'

- Reflect on how you generally function in a group discussion. With that self-knowledge, consider what you can do to balance your own participation in the conversation while also creating space for others to speak, if they wish.

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SPEAK FROM YOUR OWN POSITION AND EXPERIENCES

- Speak from the 'I'. Talking for someone else may bring assumptions that could do a lot of harm.

WITNESSING IS PARTICIPATION

- No one is required to do anything that does not feel right to them, including sharing their opinions or suggestions. Witnessing is a form of participation and is a way of contributing to the conversation.

BE MINDFUL WHEN ASKING QUESTIONS

- Be mindful of the difference between asking questions about theory and practice and asking questions of someone about their story or identity. Consider that some people are subjected to intrusive questions on a regular basis. This does not mean never ask, it just means being thoughtful and finding out if the other person is truly ok with sharing. Consider if you are asking the question simply out of your own curiosity, or whether it is to inform the work that is being done.

DISAGREE WITH THE IDEA, NOT THE PERSON

- Have a healthy respect for differences of opinion. Be open to receiving multiple perspectives.

MAKE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO COME AS THEY ARE

- No one can know more than they do at any given moment. All each of us can do is to try to move forward in a good way, seeking greater understanding and learning how to apply that understanding in tangible ways. Be responsible for your own learning and be mindful that not everyone will have the same level of understanding.



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MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY

- Conversation participants should not share anyone else's personal stories unless they have express permission from the other person.
 - Because the stories shared belong only to the people involved
 - Because conversation participants may attend classes together, or be part of a team, or work together, it is especially important
 - Because participants should not feel like what they choose to share here, or their struggles as they engage in a good faith process of learning, be used against them outside of this space