



To the campus community at the University of Victoria,

Recently, there has been an unfortunate rise in violence targeting trans people both on campus and in online spaces. This follows the unfortunate rise of hate incidents faced by several marginalized groups throughout the pandemic. This has resulted in trans students feeling unsafe at UVic.

It is important we take note of how transphobia is perpetuated and how we can condemn it. Transphobia is complex and can take many forms. There are the obvious violent attacks, but we also face much less explicit forms such as ridicule, microaggressions, questioning how trans people present themselves, consistent misgendering; or in the direst of circumstances, getting targeted by the university's offices for reporting the violence. Defending the actions or attempting to discredit or lessen the experiences of trans people is another form of transphobia. Not every act of transphobia has an active intention of doing harm, but outcome is more important than intent. We all hold unconscious biases that we must actively fight to unlearn.

These acts are not particular to any group or faculty and have occurred in queer spaces as well. This is not an issue of isolated incidences; it is one of structural harm. The burden of calling out and finding solutions to transphobia should not rest solely on the shoulders of trans students. We as trans students should not have to sacrifice resources, capacity, and time to fight for a peaceful and safe existence. That is our right in Canada under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We are calling on the University of Victoria and the student body to do the work and reflection necessary to make campus a safe space for all. We ask UVic and its faculties to implement mandatory consent and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training, courses, or additional modules to existing mandatory training and continuing education units for all levels of students, faculty, and staff. We want campus safety enhanced through the instalment of emergency call stations. We also want a system for reporting violence that is accountable to students rather than an office on campus designed to mitigate the universities liability and accountability. For individuals seeking to become better allies, the Gender Empowerment Centre (GEM) and Anti-Violence Project (AVP) have resources and workshops available online and on campus. The Instagram page @wellmeaningcishets is a good place to find common microaggressions presented in the form of memes as a cathartic, light way for trans people to highlight the transantagonism we often face from cisgender people unintentionally.

The UVic community must be welcoming and safe for all students. This hostile environment must be transformed for the wellbeing of all trans, non-binary, and two-spirit students, faculty, and staff.

In the interest of achieving these goals UVic Pride is launching our campaign **Trans-protagonism** to highlight trans-voices and educate the community. We will be releasing more information and hosting events next semester. If you would like to find out more or get involved don't hesitate to contact us!

In solidarity, the Uvic Pride Collective