

Pop-UP Summaries: Consent culture

Helping Hands International/Atara

Young African and Caribbean youth create a dialogue that demystifies what rape and consent cultures mean. It includes health professionals, students, those who live in priority communities, immigrants and others. The narrative that develops from these discussions is fashioned into a compelling video that is shared through social media. Youtube stars of African and Caribbean descent will also be contacted to create short videos and will be asked to tag other young youtubers to take part in the challenge.

For Youth Initiative/blackwomeninmotion

This Means WAAR (Weekend of Action Against Rape Culture) is a two day event that aims to increase dialogue on cultural attitudes towards rape, between young women ages 16 to 24, who live in Toronto Community Housing residences and are from low-income communities. This project will provide interactive workshops, a youth forum and a film screening to explore the concept of rape culture and the role each of us play in fighting and pushing back against it.

Youthlink/Canadian Tamil Youth

Let's Talk About Rape Culture -- Many Tamil youth have never heard about "rape culture". They will learn about it by sharing insights and engaging in discussion through peer facilitated workshops. The documentation of these discussions will serve as the source for the creation of several short videos to be distributed through social media. This promotional awareness campaign will maximize the project's impact beyond the workshop participants.

Youth Assisting Youth/CANVAS Programs

To support consent education and online safety, CANVAS has developed an arts-based workshop called Consent in Social Media, which provides high school students with creative tools to speak out against rape culture. The full workshop is 5-hours in length and is intended to be run in grade 9 health classes. The workshop is divided into two sections: first, an interactive arts-based education session on rape culture, sexual objectification and consent; second, a student-led social action project using mural art and photography to be displayed on social media and in schools. Through arts-based activism, participants gain new perspectives and create strong community bonds through authentic self-expression.

League of Silence Assassins

For a video series project that introduces the concept of rape culture and how deeply ingrained shaming is when it comes to crippling the ability to speak out. It will also be a reminder how powerful words could force someone into silence and burden themselves with shame that never belonged to them as well as to create a network of survivors who were courageous enough to step forward and share their stories.

Tides Initiatives Canada/Lost Lyrics

To host a youth-led conference that explores issues relating to rape and consent through mainstream media. Four youth from Lost Lyrics Original Griot program will receive extensive anti-oppressive training and explore the history and implications of structuralized patriarchy, capitalism and violence against women with Lost Lyrics staff prior to preparing their workshops. Conference discussions and content will be compiled to become part of the Lost Lyrics Curriculum. The goal is to make rape and consent a core theme in Lost Lyrics' programming.

Love Yourself First

With the help of R2R radio, this group will produce an online radio show that is a platform for youth to express themselves without fear of judgement particularly around rape culture. They will interview youth and woman survivors in Scarborough to bring awareness through discussions and social media. They will also promote social service programs offered to young women who experience gender based violence and need help.

ManUp

ManUp is a group of student leaders who are working towards social change in regards to the treatment of women in their community. The centre piece of ManUP is a series of lunch-time meetings where the group invites friends in the school to discuss Violence Against Women issues - the causes and solutions to these problems. The group then has to produce something for the school (because it is not enough to simply talk about the issue: they preach that men Do something when faced with a problem). By equipping strong vocal leaders from different social groups in schools, the message that its alright to speak up against violence against women can become the norm.

Movement from the Margins

This project seeks to prioritize the voices of women of colour and centre the voices of Black, Indigenous, and trans people whose experiences are left unaddressed and marginalized in most discussions of rape culture. To do so, we will compile a zine and call for support and collaboration beyond the applicant group members. The goal of the zine is not only to open up space for nuanced dialogue regarding the ways in which interlocking systems of oppression have been productive of rape culture, undermined stories of survival, and hindered attempts to transform, reimagine, and actualize consent culture, but also to put together a visual resource that grapples with different modes of representation not limited to the textual in hopes that the many other youth in our communities can mobilize our zine to challenge the issue of rape culture and what it subtends.

Project Creative Users

This project examines the concept of rape culture from a disability lens, along with other aspects of identity (e.g., gender, race, class, sexual orientation). It focuses on this community because women with disabilities are 4 times more likely to experience sexual violence. However, disability (along with sexual violence) is generally erased from mainstream society. This project will help make sexual violence against people with disabilities visible and break this silence on this topic.

Scarborough Cares About Community

This youth collective will host a series of 4 "Speak Out" sessions to raise awareness of gender stereotypes, reporting rape, signs of abuse and life after rape. The goal is to enlighten other youth to feel safe and comfortable while addressing issues that can assist in breaking down stereotypes about reflective social media, healthy relationships and the terminology of consent.

Speak Sudan

Tongue Tied is a one day retreat/discussion for young East African women to dissect and examine the way in which rape culture manifests itself in their communities. Through sharing personal narratives, participants will strategize towards dismantling the language and patterns of behavior that make rape culture so entrenched in our communities. Stories and narratives will be published in an online anthology.

Spreading Consent Culture

The ultimate goal of this project is to Spread Consent Culture by providing Consent Workshops to groups of high risk and vulnerable youth, including teens in the care of child protective services. Given that many of these teens are frequently transitioning between schools or not currently attending school at all, it is important to provide opportunities in different venues. This grant will fund a two-day Training and Consultation event with key contacts met at the Talking Back Against Rape Culture event. It will involve student/researchers being trained by youth experts about best practices in running Consent Workshops with vulnerable adolescents as well as how to best inform staff and workers at social service agencies about being adult allies.

Stop Sexual Assault at York University

This project aims to connect with the York University community to promote systemic change from the ground level, directed by survivors, women-identified and LGBTQ members who are at higher likelihood of victimization and provide more information about how to handle instances of sexual violence within an anti-oppressive and intersectional feminist framework. Organizers will bring in speakers from all over Toronto to provide an informational session and hand outs of the different resources for survivors and students available for use. This space will allow for all individuals from the York community including undergraduate and graduate students, staff and faculty to come together to discuss issues of rape culture and sexual violence on campus in a safe space.

Sexual Assault Clothesline

To create an art exhibit aimed at raising awareness of the prevalence and effects of sexual assault and rape, while validating the experiences of survivors. The idea begins with creating a portable clothesline onto which are attached media art pieces resembling underwear (male, female, and unisex) and other clothing including pyjamas and hijabs. The exhibit will be featured in galleries, at the Hamilton Art Crawl and various other spaces including but not limited to city hall and the police station in order to spread awareness and to find a way for survivors' stories to be acknowledged while challenging institutions, which may have previously ignored their stories, to respond.

Younion

Partnering with Phoenix Rising, Algoma Family Services, and other community groups, Younion will conduct a three hour event immediately prior to the "Take Back the Night March" being held in Sault Ste. Marie in June. The event will highlight three original youth written and performed skits designed to stimulate awareness and conversation about consent as a prerequisite to engaging in sexual activity. The performances will be followed by an informal forum where an open question and answer portion will facilitate the flow of conversation, in this safe and open environment, modeled from "world café" practices, including arts expression.