



Voices Against Violence,
a program of the
UT Counseling and
Mental Health Center,
addresses relationship
violence, sexual violence,
and stalking through
counseling services and
dynamic programming that
increases safety, cultivates
support, and promotes
growth.

Founded in 2001

Staff

Associate Director

Theatre for Dialogue
Specialist

Prevention and Outreach
Specialist

Counseling Specialist

Graduate and Undergraduate
Student Leaders

Voices Against Violence addresses issues of relationship violence, sexual violence and stalking in four key ways:

prevention

I AM A SAFE PERSON.

VAV works to prevent interpersonal violence through helping community members think through consent, healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors, and personal boundaries. VAV works to shift campus culture to one in which everyone is responsible for safety.

- VAV facilitated 27 workshops and trainings during the 2013-2014 academic year. VAV partners include: UT athletes, residence halls, Sorority and Fraternity Life, academic advisors, Gender and Sexuality Center, Multicultural Engagement Center and Services for Students with Disabilities.
- During the 2013-2014 academic year, there were 40 performances of the Theatre for Dialogue programs "Get Sexy. Get Consent." and "I Like, Like You... Exploring Relationships" serving 1,979 people.
- VAV offers an upper division academic course on the use of Theatre for Dialogue to explore interpersonal violence. This two-semester course has run for thirteen years and has trained 147 peer educators.

intervention

WE CAN BUILD A SAFER CAMPUS.

VAV encourages the campus community to take a role in intervening in harmful situations.

- VAV is a proud partner of BeVocal: The Bystander Intervention Initiative of the University of Texas at Austin.
- VAV sponsors an active student organization that meets weekly and hosts events on campus through the year.

awareness

IT'S HAPPENING.

VAV raises awareness about the dynamics of interpersonal violence through poster campaigns, workshops, trainings, and large scale events such as Take Back the Night. VAV hosted 9 public events during the 2013-14 academic year.

- The Be An Anchor Campaign invites registered student organizations to participate in a fundraising drive for the VAV Survivor's Emergency Fund. In 2013-2014, 25 student organizations registered, collectively raising \$7,970.
- During 2013-2014, VAV reached 7,135 individuals through direct programming.
- Every year, VAV works closely with New Student Services to train Orientation Advisors. Since 2001, VAV has reached 93,844 incoming students through orientation.

response

IT HAPPENED.

VAV supports survivors of interpersonal violence through confidential individual and group counseling and advocacy appointments at the Counseling and Mental Health Center.

- VAV counselors have supported students in 1,671 incidents of interpersonal violence since the founding of VAV in 2001.
- \$12,014 was given to survivors from the VAV Survivor's Emergency Fund between 2007-2014 to cover expenses such as legal fees, new locks and medical bills.
- VAV counselors connect students in crisis to University Health Services, Student Emergency Services and outside agencies, including hospitals.

program overview

Definitions

Relationship Violence

- A pattern of behavior that is used to establish power and control by one person over another in an intimate relationship

Sexual Violence

- Any kind of sexual contact against a person's will and without consent

Stalking

- A pattern of behavior directed toward a person that leads them to feel threatened or afraid

Rape Culture

- Makes fun of, minimizes, denies or condones experiences of sexual violence. Examples include, but are not limited to, victim blaming, rape jokes and gender-based stereotypes

Consent to Sexual Activity

- An enthusiastic, mutual agreement that can be revoked at any time for any reason
- A conversation that requires consciousness and clarity
- Asking, not assuming: a yes to one thing does not imply a yes to all things
- Assent, meaning to agree to something after thoughtful consideration

Healthy Relationship

- A relationship in which all partners feel safe to be themselves

How We Work

Primary Prevention

- Cultivate a campus culture that values respect, healthy boundaries and worth of all people where individuals feel safe to be themselves

Bystander Intervention

- Respond to a potentially harmful situation or interaction in a way that should positively influence the outcome. VAV is a proud partner of BeVocal: Bystander Intervention Initiative of The University of Texas at Austin

Risk Reduction

- Provide individuals with strategies to decrease vulnerability to interpersonal violence and increase safety

Building Awareness

- Provide education about the dynamics of interpersonal violence and information about resources for victims/survivors

Response (Post-Incident)

- Provide confidential support and empower a victim/survivor of interpersonal violence via individual and group counseling, advocacy, and safety planning

For more info about survivor rights, resources and reporting options, please see the Title IX Resource Guide:
www.utexas.edu/student-affairs/policies/title-ix

More information about VAV issues and prevention can be found at cmhc.utexas.edu/vav

Questions, Comments or Requests? E-mail us at voicesagainstv Violence@austin.utexas.edu



Together we can build a safer campus



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