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 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 academic year, there were 18 performances of the Theatre for Dialogue program “Get Sexy. Get Consent.” serving 1,189 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 16 years and has trained 175 peer educators.

**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 12 public events during the 2016-2017 academic year.

- The Support Campaign invites registered student organizations to participate in a fundraising drive for the VAV Survivor’s Emergency Fund. In 2016-2017, 11 student organizations registered, collectively raising approximately $8,291.
- During 2016-2017, VAV reached 6,591 individuals through direct programming.
- Every year, VAV works closely with New Student Services to train Orientation Advisors. Since 2001, VAV has reached approximately 126,265 incoming students through orientation.

**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.
- In collaboration with BeVocal, VAV developed a workshop to help students recognize early warning signs of potential dating violence, explore the barriers to intervening and ways to overcome them, and how to safely take action to intervene and help a friend who’s experiencing dating violence.

**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 2,182 incidents of interpersonal violence since the founding of VAV in 2001.
- $38,227 was given to survivors from the VAV Survivor’s Emergency Fund between 2007-2017 to cover expenses such as legal fees, new locks and medical bills.
- In 2015-2016, Voices Against Violence partnered with Student Emergency Services and Title IX to develop a new program called Interpersonal Violence Peer Support that is training students to offer confidential, peer-based support to students who have been impacted by interpersonal violence.
- In 2015, UHS began offering Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFE) at no charge through a partnership with the Safe Alliance and VAV.
**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.

**Risk Reduction**
- A component of interpersonal violence prevention work that provides individuals with strategies to decrease vulnerability and increase safety. In general, this is not a methodology that VAV utilizes.

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**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.

**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.

**Self Care**
- Acknowledge and address the effects of trauma and secondary trauma to take care of ourselves as we commit to interpersonal violence prevention work.

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](http://www.utexas.edu/student-affairs/policies/title-ix)

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More information about VAV issues and prevention can be found at [cmhc.utexas.edu/vav](http://cmhc.utexas.edu/vav)

Questions, Comments or Requests? E-mail us at [voicesagainstviolence@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:voicesagainstviolence@austin.utexas.edu)

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Together we can build a safer campus

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

UT Counseling and Mental Health Center