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

**Prevention**

Stopping violence before it happens.

VAV works to prevent interpersonal violence by helping UT community members understand consent and healthy relationship behaviors and develop skills to put this understanding into practice. VAV works to create a campus culture in which everyone is responsible for safety.

- VAV facilitated 32 workshops and trainings during the 2017-2018 academic year. VAV partners include UT athletics, residence halls, first-year interest groups, academic advisors, Sorority and Fraternity Life, Gender & Sexuality Center, Multicultural Engagement Center, and Services for Students with Disabilities.
- During the 2017-2018 school year, there were 20 performances of the Theatre for Dialogue programs “Get Sexy. Get Consent.” and “I Like, Like You,” reaching 545 people.
- VAV offers two upper division academic courses on the use of Theatre for Dialogue to explore interpersonal violence. These courses have been offered for 17 years and have trained 175 peer educators.

**Intervention**

Interrupting violence when it’s happening.

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 throughout the year.
- During 2017-2018, VAV and BeVocal jointly presented to all UT Football student athletes about bystander intervention and interpersonal violence.

**Awareness & Education**

Understanding and acknowledging the impact of violence in students’ lives.

VAV raises awareness and educates about the dynamics of interpersonal violence through poster campaigns, workshops, trainings, and large-scale events such as Take Back the Night.

- VAV hosted 6 public events during the 2017-2018 academic year.
- The support campaign invites registered student organizations to participate in a fundraising drive for the VAV Survivor’s Emergency Fund. In 2017-2018, student organizations collectively raised $15,893.26 for the fund.
- During 2017-2018, VAV reached 3,566 individuals through direct programming.
- Every year, VAV works closely with New Student Services to train Orientation Advisors. Since 2001, VAV has reached approximately 136,335 incoming students through orientation.

**Response**

Supporting survivors.

Provided through the Counseling and Mental Health Center, VAV’s clinical services, including individual and group counseling, and advocacy services support survivors of interpersonal violence at UT.

- In 2017-2018, VAV clinicians provided support to students impacted by interpersonal violence through 697 appointments.
- Between 2007-2018, $48,477 was given to survivors from the VAV Survivor’s Emergency Fund to cover expenses such as legal fees, new locks, and medical bills.
- VAV staff serve on relevant committees around campus, including the Title IX Task Force, and in the community, including the Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team.
- Interpersonal Violence Peer Support (IVPS), a program of Student Emergency Services, provides private, peer-based support to students who have been impacted by interpersonal violence. VAV contributed to the development of IVPS in partnership with Student Emergency Services and Title IX.
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.

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.

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

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

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

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Together we can build a safer campus

Counseling & Mental Health Center and University Health Services