



# 10 ESSENTIALS FOR ADDRESSING CAMPUS VIOLENCE

Violence against women on and around university campuses has a devastating impact on the health and lives of survivors and can disrupt their education indefinitely. Beyond the impact on survivors, violence against women affects the entire campus community. To create safe living and learning environments on and around campuses, universities have an obligation to prevent and respond to violence against women, ensuring both that survivors receive adequate services and perpetrators are held accountable.

## PRINCIPLES



**1 Comprehensive approach:** A comprehensive approach requires change across multiple levels, including institutional reforms, provision of adequate services, and mobilizing individuals and communities to change social norms and behaviours.



**2 Survivor-centred approach:** Responses to violence must aim to empower survivors by prioritizing their rights and needs, respecting their choices and confidentiality, treating them with dignity and ensuring their safety.



**3 Human rights-based approach:** Interventions must be embedded in the principle of non-discrimination and ensure that the needs of all survivors are taken into account, including those facing multiple forms of discrimination.



**4 Accountability:** Perpetrators must be held accountable through due process. It is also critical to respect a survivor's right to choose not to report.

[For more information, see UN Women's Guidance note on Campus Violence Prevention and Response](#)



## INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- 1 **Assess the situation:** Universities must understand the extent and nature of violence against women on and around their campuses. This can be done through either a rigorous study or less formal assessments using, for instance, focus group discussions and community conversations. It is recommended to use assessments in designing interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women.
- 2 **A policy of zero tolerance** for any form of violence towards women.
- 3 **A dedicated university coordinator**, with clear terms of reference, responsible for the coordination of policy implementation and the provision of strategic guidance.
- 4 **Protocols outlining detailed steps and procedures for policy implementation**, including a code of conduct for university staff and faculty, for reporting and confidentiality, for interim and supportive measures, and for investigating and adjudicating cases of violence against women in a prompt, fair and reliable manner.
- 5 **Interim supportive measures** for survivors, adhering to standards of safety and confidentiality.
- 6 **Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms** to track the implementation and impact of university policies and protocols, to collect good practices, and to identify lessons learned. These mechanisms should also include analysis and collection of data to continuously assess the situation of VAW (including prevalence and incidence, drivers, and consequences).
- 7 **A dedicated budget** based on a costing exercise, to cover the prevention interventions and responses to VAW, as well as monitoring and evaluation of campus policies and programmes.



## SERVICES

- 8 **Provision of support and services for survivors**, in the immediate-, short- and long-term, through coordination with service providers on and off campus—including health clinics, shelters, non-governmental organizations, police, legal and social services.



## PREVENTION

- 9 **Awareness-raising campaigns and programmes on ending violence against women and bystander programmes** to strengthen individual skills and knowledge to take positive action in recognizing, intervening, and preventing violent behaviour in the moment but also by promoting change in social norms, behaviours and attitudes.
- 10 **Interventions that promote respectful relationships** and challenge harmful masculinities by addressing gender stereotypes and roles.