What to do if you have been sexually assaulted?

1. GET TO A SAFE PLACE
After experiencing a traumatizing event such as a sexual assault, it can be important to find a place where you feel comfortable and safe from harm.
This location could be:
- home
- local hospital
- friend’s home
- police station

2. CALL FOR ASSISTANCE
Call 911 or Public Safety for immediate police protection and assistance; OR
Call an Advocate from the Sexual Violence Response and Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center, 212-854-HELP (4357).

3. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION
- To check for injuries; to prevent sexually transmitted infections; to prevent pregnancy
- To collect evidence (evidence collection in NYC does not require you to file a police report)
- Mt. Sinai/St. Luke’s Hospital Crime Victims Treatment Center at 212-523-4728
- 24hr specialized sexual assault forensic examiners (SAFE)

4. PRESERVE EVIDENCE
For the purposes of evidence collection we suggest that you avoid:
- drinking
- eating
- showering
- combing your hair
- brushing your teeth
- changing your clothes
If you have done any of these things, evidence can still be collected and remains important to seek medical attention.

If you have changed your clothes, take the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault to the hospital in a paper bag (not a plastic bag).
If you have not changed your clothes, it may be a good idea to bring a change of clothes to the hospital.

5. CONSIDER TALKING WITH A COUNSELOR
Counseling is often helpful for survivors because it provides a safe place to talk about your experience and your feelings.
Counseling services/resources on campus:
- Advocates (Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center)

6. CONSIDER
- Reporting the crime to NYPD or filing a complaint
- Filing a complaint with the college
- Remembering it’s not your fault
8/2016

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**Immediate Steps to Consider if a Sexual Assault has Occurred**

**Medical Resources**
Mt. Sinai/St. Luke’s Hospital Crime Victims Treatment Center is located on W. 113th St. and Amsterdam, contact number 212-523-4728. Students can go to the ER on their own or call an Advocate from the CU Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center [212-854-HELP (4357)] for more information or accompaniment.

- Mt. Sinai/St Luke’s offers a comprehensive medical/GYN exam, treatment (including STI and HIV prophylaxes) and forensic evidence collection by a physician who is certified to handle cases involving sexual assault (SAFE examiner).
- If a student identifies themselves as a survivor of sexual assault upon arrival at the ER, they will be taken to a separate, private room in the ER.
- The Crime Victims Board (CVB) covers all medical costs and students will not be charged as long as they complete the appropriate paperwork. If the student identifies themselves as a survivor of sexual assault at the ER, this paperwork should be provided automatically at the ER. No NYPD report is required for compensation.

**Campus Resources**
A note about confidentiality. Most Columbia, Teachers College, and Barnard staff and faculty are obligated reporters who will respect the privacy of information, but cannot generally promise complete confidentiality, as they are required to report to the Title IX Coordinator.

**Confidential Resources:**
Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center 212-854-HELP (4357)
Columbia Medical Services
(Morningside: 212-854-7426) (CUMC: 212-305-3400)
Columbia Counseling and Psychological Services
(Morningside: 212-854-7426) (CUMC: 212-305-3400)
Office of the University Chaplain - Pastoral Counseling 212-854-1493
TC Ombuds Office 212-678-4169
TC Ombuds for Gender-Based Misconduct 212-678-4016

Any member of the Teachers College community with questions or concerns or who would like to better understand the complaint process, these procedures, or related policies before pursuing the formal complaint process, may consult with the TC Title IX Coordinator: Janice S. Robinson, at robinson@tc.columbia.edu 212-678-3391 (128 Zankel) or Dr. Katie Embree, Vice Provost at embree@tc.columbia.edu 212-678-3991 (113 Zankel).

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**TEACHERS COLLEGE**

**PROTECTING AGAINST AND RESPONDING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**RESOURCES**

Janice S. Robinson
Vice President for Diversity and Community Affairs
Title IX Coordinator
Associate Professor in Higher Education
212-678-3391

GENDER-BASED MISCONDUCT OFFICE - CU
212-854-1717

Teachers College Preventing Sexual and Gender Discrimination Harassment and Sexual Assault - Title IX is on the web at tc.columbia.edu/titleix
Definitions of Gender-Based or Sexual Misconduct

**Sexual Assault**

Any form of vaginal, anal, or oral penetration, however slight, by a penis, object, finger, or any intentional sexual touching, for the purpose of sexual gratification of either party without a person's affirmative consent. Intentional sexual touching includes contact, under or over clothing, with breasts, buttocks, or groin; touching another with any of these body parts; making another person touch any of these body parts; under or over clothing; and the emission of ejaculate on the clothing or body of another person without that person's consent.

**Sexual Harassment**

Unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual contact; and/or other verbal, physical, or visual conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's academic, co-curricular, or campus life activities.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or student life decisions affecting that individual.
3. Such conduct is intentional, serves no legitimate purpose, and involves contact with parts of another individual's body which may cause that person to feel degraded or abused; or when the behavior is for the purpose of gratifying the actor's sexual desire;
4. Such conduct is intentional, serves no legitimate purpose, and involves contact with parts of another individual's body that may cause that person to feel degraded or abused.

Gender-based misconduct can occur regardless of the relationship, position, or respective sex of the parties. Same sex assault or harassment because of one's sexual orientation or gender identity also constitutes a violation of policy.

**Affirmative Consent**

Is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as they clearly willingness to engage in the sexual contact or activity. Silence or the lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. Gender-based misconduct between faculty, staff, and students also violates this policy.

Examples of Gender-Based or Sexual Misconduct include:

- Coercion for a date or a romantic or intimate relationship
- Unwelcome touching, kissing, hugging, or massaging
- Use of unwanted force in connection with sexual activity or attempted sexual activity
- Sexual contact with a person who has not clearly consented
- Unwelcome remarks about a person's gender or sexual orientation based on gender stereotypes
- Videotaping and photographing of activity of a sexual or private nature without the consent of the person(s) being videotaped or photographed
- Grafitti concerning the sexual activity of another person
- Use of email, the Internet, or other forms of digital media to facilitate any of the conduct listed above

For more information about the policy and grievance process, as well as relevant contact information, review the Gender-Based Misconduct Policy for Students at: sexualrespect.columbia.edu

Reports on campus offices will make every effort to keep information private to the extent possible, and provide guidance regarding what privacy limitations may be. Absolute confidentiality CANNOT be promised. The College offers multiple options for reporting.

**TC Public Safety (212-678-3333)**

Reports of alleged violation of the College's Protection from Harassment Policy and the Gender Based Misconduct Policy for Students may be filed with the TC Public Safety Department, 120 Whittier Hall. Randy Glazer, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, may be reached at 212-678-3391 or via email at glazer@tc.columbia.edu.

**TC Title IX Coordinator (212-678-3391)**

Reports of alleged gender based misconduct by a student can be filed with the Columbia University Gender-Based Misconduct Office. Reports may be made by telephone at 212-854-1717 or via email at sexualrespect.columbia.edu.

**TC Office of the Provost (212-678-3991)**

Dr. Katie Embree, Vice Provost, embree@tc.columbia.edu

**Institutional Response**

TC takes all reports of harassment and gender-based misconduct very seriously. We strive to prevent, educate, and respond regarding these matters. The offices listed above can discuss both interim measures and longer term options.

**TC Office of the Provost**

Reports of sexual assault can be filed with the City of New York Police Department. The College system and police work independently of one another. Students can file reports with the College, with NYPD, or with both.

The College does not limit the time frame for filing a report of gender-based misconduct. Reports can be submitted at any time following an incident, although the College's ability to investigate and take any action may be limited by the length of time between the alleged incident and the report.

**Reporting and Community Support**

**Criminal Justice (Off-campus)**

Students may file a report with the Sex Crimes Unit of the NYPD 212-267-RAPE (7273). The unit can open a case and initiate an investigation. The case materials are sent to the District Attorney, who decides whether to prosecute. The complainant should be notified if the DA decides to proceed with the case.

The complainant can contact the DA directly by phone or visit to inquire about the likelihood that the case will be pursued without contacting the police first. NYC District Attorney's Crime/Special Victims Bureaus:
- Manhattan (sex crimes hotline): 212-335-9373
- Manhattan Family Justice Center: 212-335-4300

We strongly recommend that complainants bring someone for support when filing a police report and/or talking to the DA. They can contact a CA Advocate at 212-854-HELP (4357) or TC Public Safety at 212-678-3333 for more information.

**Hotlines**

- **Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center for TC, Columbia, and Barnard** (La'Shawn Rivera, Executive Director):
  - 212-854-HELP (4357) with 24/7 on-call Advocates available.
  - Lerner Hall, Suite 700 (Morningside), Bard Hall, Suite 206 (CUMC) Hewitt Hall, Suite 105 (Barnard)
- **NYC Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project** 212-714-1141, 24 hours
- **Safe Horizon**
  - Rape and Sexual Assault Hotline 212-227-3000
  - Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)
- **SAKHi for South Asian Women**
  - 212-868-6741, weekdays between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm EST
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**
  - 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 24 hrs
- **National Center for Victims of Crime Stalking Resource Center**
  - 1-800- FYI (394)-CALL (1155), M-F, 8:30am- 8:30 pm EST
- **Rape Abuse and Incest National Network**
  - 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) confidential 24 hrs or their online hotline at phi.rain.org/online

Students are encouraged to file a report with the New York City Police Department. The College system and police work independently from one another. Students can file reports with the College, with NYPD, or with both.

The College does not limit the time frame for filing a report of gender-based misconduct. Reports can be submitted at any time following an incident, although the College’s ability to investigate and take any action may be limited by the length of time between the alleged incident and the report.