

# CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*A Survivor Centered  
Approach*

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# INTRODUCTION

*Spend some time  
thinking about what  
breaks your heart*

# ABOUT MOCSA

*Our mission is to improve the lives of those impacted by sexual abuse and assault and prevent sexual violence in our community.*

- 24 hour Crisis Line
- Advocacy Services
- Counseling Services
- Education & Prevention
- Legal Services





# OUR SERVICE AREA



# BEFORE WE BEGIN

- Content Warning
- Pronouns
- What is your role/interaction with survivors?
- What questions do you hope will be addressed today?







# CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*The problem*



## THE PROBLEM

Every 98 seconds,  
an American is sexually assaulted.

**RAINN**

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | [online.rainn.org](https://online.rainn.org)

Please visit [rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence](https://rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence) for full citation.<sup>1</sup>



# THE PROBLEM

“What frustrates me at my school is that we’ve had people expelled for cheating, but nobody has ever been expelled for rape.”



© Moving Beyond Blue Lights and Buddy Systems:  
A National Study of Student Anti-Rape Activists  
Students Active for Ending Rape, 2013







# THE COST OF CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*What does sexual  
violence on our campuses  
cost us? What does it  
cost survivors?*



# THE COST OF CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*"I'm busy learning the consequences of womanhood when I should be learning science and math instead."*  
—Rupi Kaur

- Removed from learning environment
- Grades suffer
- Forced to quit extracurricular activities
- Isolation from peers
- Bullying
- Self esteem
- Shame
- School/Legal consequences





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# A SURVIVOR CENTERED APPROACH

*What does it look like?*



# WHAT IS A SURVIVOR CENTERED APPROACH?

*A survivor-centered approach to violence against women seeks to empower the survivor by prioritizing her rights, needs and wishes. It means ensuring that survivors have access to appropriate, accessible and good quality services.*

- *Health care*
- *Psychological and social support*
- *Security*
- *Legal services*

(United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)





# IMPACT ON THE SURVIVOR

SURVIVOR'S RIGHTS	VS	NEGATIVE IMPACT
To be treated with dignity and respect		Victim-blaming attitudes
To choose a course of action in dealing with the violence		Feeling powerless
To privacy and confidentiality		Shame and stigma
To non-discrimination		Discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, etc
To comprehensive information to help make her own decision		Being told what to do Increased risk of revictimization/abuse



# THE PURPOSE

- Return power & control to the survivor
- Minimize secondary victimization





# POWER & CONTROL



# SECONDARY VICTIMIZATION

*Many survivors who disclose their assault to others experience secondary victimization. Secondary trauma occurs when survivors seek assistance from medical, legal or healthcare professionals, but these professionals often exhibit and use victim-blaming behaviors. Contact with many services especially those which do not specialize in sexual assault traumatization, can increase survivors' psychological and physical distress.*

(Sexual assault and posttraumatic stress disorder: A review of the biological, psychological and sociological factors and treatments, Kaitlin A. Chivers-Wilson)



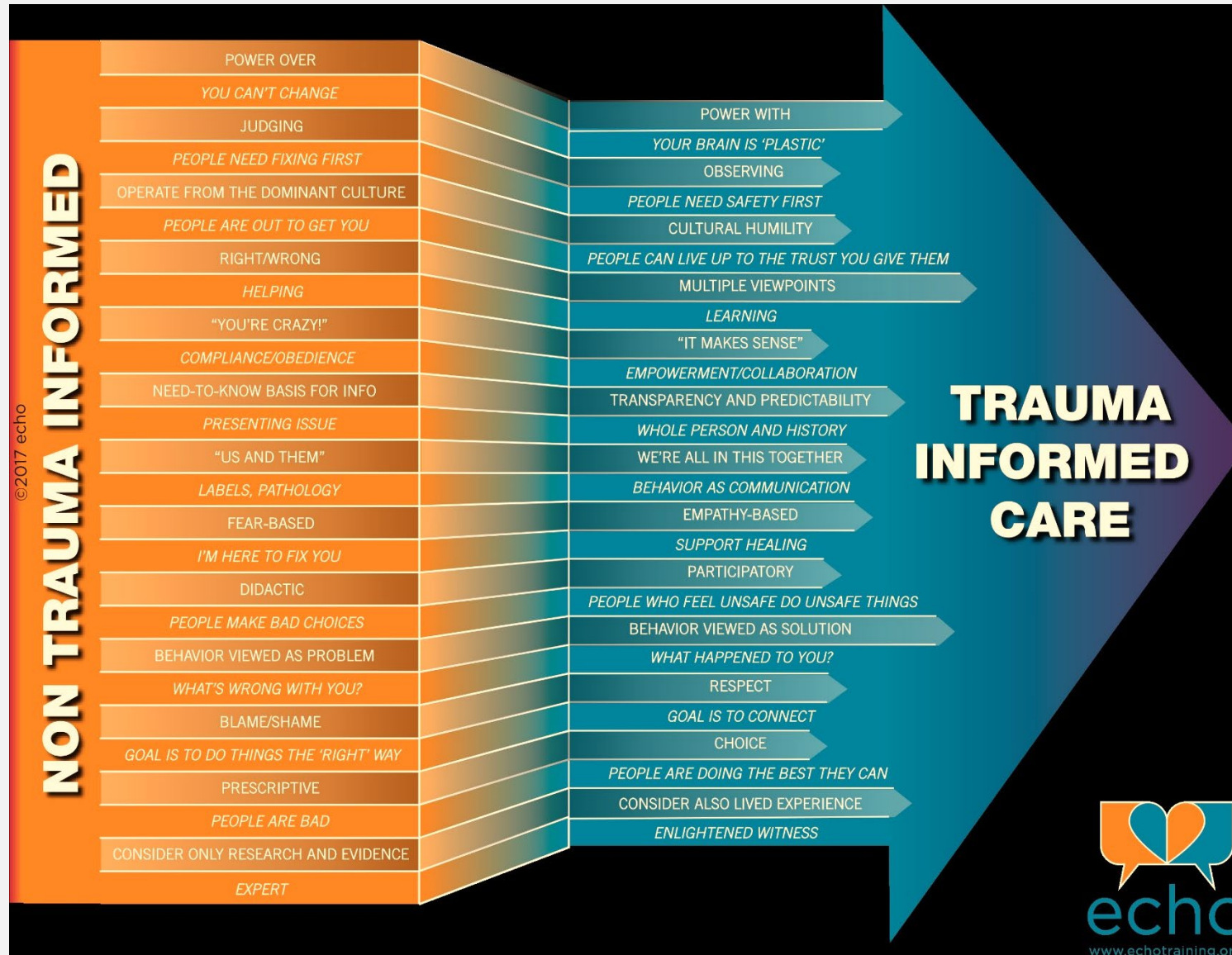


# CHALLENGES OF THIS APPROACH

- Patience
- Reserving judgment
- Acknowledging our own biases and trauma



# REDIRECTION WHEN WE ARE STRUGGLING





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# GROUP ACTIVITY

*Circle of Support*

*16 volunteers*



# DEBRIEF

- Survivor: What did that experience feel like for you?
- Observers: What did it look like to you? How did it feel to observe that?
- Other Participants: What biases/perspectives were your characters bringing with them? Why do you think they said what they did?
- How did it feel to say that to the survivor?
- How could your character have responded instead?

*We have the opportunity to either cause further harm, or to facilitate healing.*





# RESPONDING WHEN A SURVIVOR DISCLOSES

*Thank you for telling me.*

*I'm sorry this happened to you.*

*You are not alone.*

*It's not your fault.*

*You're safe now.*

*My biggest concern is your safety.*

*How can I help?*

*Would you like to hear about  
some of the options you have?*

*I support whatever choices you make.*



# WHAT DO SURVIVORS DESERVE FROM US?

- Respect their bravery for showing up
- Be a human being with them





# THANK YOU

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🌐 [mocsa.org](http://mocsa.org)

<http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1499-survivor-centred-approach.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2323517/>

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/1-understanding-human-trafficking/13-victim-centered-approach/>

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>



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How can I help?  
Would you like to hear about some of the options you have?  
I support whatever choices you make.*

mocsa.org  
rainn.org  
endvawnow.org  
nwlc.org Let Her Learn  
ovcttac.org

# CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT: A SURVIVOR CENTERED APPROACH

