

TAKING ACTION

LEARN YOUR FACTS



One of the most valuable assets that we have when raising awareness of rape culture in universities are the **facts facts facts**.

Ever been in that position when you're telling someone about the high rates of sexual violence on campus and they ask you for a stat? Yeah. We've all been there.

So, here are three stats vetted and BV approved for you to learn - stick them on sticky notes, make them your screensaver. Do whatever you need to and before long these stats will be tripping off your tongue when required...

62% of students experience sexual violence during their time at university

(Revolt Sexual Assault and The Student Room)

1

Just 4% of women students who have been seriously sexually assaulted have reported it to their university

(NUS)

2

54% of female students and 15% of male students aged 18-24 years old have experienced sexual harassment on a night

(Drinkaware)

3

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SUPPORT A SURVIVOR

Knowing that we might be in a position to support a survivor of sexual violence is not always super comfortable. There is often a worry that we might not say the right thing, or worse, that we might say the wrong thing.

But there are a few things that if we remember can make all the difference to someone who has experienced sexual violence.

LISTEN

Listen. Listen patiently. Let them talk. Let them share whatever they feel comfortable sharing.

Ask open-ended questions that allow your friend to elaborate if they want to but that don't force them to talk about something that they don't want to.

REASSURE

Thank them for sharing with you. Reassure them that they are safe and that they aren't alone in this.

Tell them they are believed - this might seem obvious but when we exist in a culture rife with victim blaming and the silencing of these experiences - this kind of support is vital.

Remember that it can take a lot to tell someone about an experience they've had - respect that trust that they have in your relationship.

DON'T ASSUME

Ask them what you can do to support them - don't assume how they will respond and what action (or no action) that they will want to take.

You might know from experience or have an idea about what you would do in their situation, don't assume that they will feel the same way.

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TIPS ON CALLING PEOPLE OUT

When it comes to calling out rape culture there are no end of scenarios that we might find ourselves in.

Our #1 consideration should always be am I safe?

Identify the specific element of rape culture that is being perpetuated (the Attitudes & Actions page of our [What is Rape Culture Guide](#) is useful for this).

By specifically naming the attitude or belief that is being advocated you are much more likely to spark a constructive conversation about the issue and ultimately change someone's point of view...

Often we forget that feeling safe to call out rape culture is a **privilege**. If you're someone who holds that privilege - you should use it as much as possible.

If you do feel safe give some of these a go...

"Have you considered how a survivor of sexual violence might feel about what you just said?"

This one is always good when we also remind the person that often we don't know who around us, or in our lives, have experienced sexual violence. Survivors often don't come forward or tell lots of people about what has happened to them.

Encouraging someone to think about the effect of their statement on a survivor helps develop empathy and reminds them that sexual violence is a very real experience for many.

And our Bold Voices absolute favourite...

"Explain why that's funny"

Any explanation they attempt will inevitably rely on sexist views - and when they are invited to explain that away they tend to see their joke as the not-so-funny misogynistic comment that it was...

For more feminist clapbacks read our blog post [here](#).