



Title IX – Use Your Voice

Use Your Voice is the name of MCW’s Title IX branding focused on prevention and awareness. As a member of the MCW community, the branding encourages you to “Use Your Voice” to address issues of discrimination and violence.

MCW is committed to creating and sustaining a safe learning and working environment that recognizes and values the dignity of all members of the MCW community.

If you have any comments, questions, or further information you would like to share, feel free to contact Katie Kassulke at TitleIXCoordinator@mcw.edu.

What is Prevention?

When we talk about prevention, we are talking about what you can do to stop sexual misconduct. You can prevent sexual misconduct by intervening when you are a witness to someone else potentially engaged in nonconsensual sexual behavior, or harassment. This is called being an active bystander.

What is a Bystander?

A Bystander, or witness, is someone who sees a situation but may or may not know what to do, may think others will act or may be afraid to do something. A bystander refers to anyone who plays some role in the act of harassment, abuse, or violence, but is neither the perpetrator nor the victim. They are someone who is present and thus potentially in a position to discourage, prevent or interrupt an incident.

How can you be an active Bystander?

You can be an active bystander by showing you CARE!

Create a distraction

Ask the Person directly if they are in need of assistance

Refer to an authority (Call Public Safety or local law enforcement)

Enlist others

What is risk reduction?

Risk reduction is actively taking steps to reduce the likelihood a behavior will happen. Risk reduction is making decisions that will keep you safe, like avoiding isolated areas, walking with a purpose, go out with groups, and watching out for your friends. Please note that there is no intent to victim blame. We know that only perpetrators are responsible for sexual violence.

The following are some strategies to reduce one's risk of sexual assault or harassment (taken from Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network).

- Be aware of your surroundings. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way to get out of a bad situation.
- Try to avoid isolated areas. It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
- Walk with purpose. Even if you don't know where you are going, act like you do.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation or location feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be. If you see something suspicious, contact law enforcement immediately (local authorities can be reached by calling 911 in most areas of the U.S.).
- Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't trust or someone you don't know.
- Avoid putting music headphones in both ears so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.
- When you go to a social gathering, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, check in with each other throughout the evening, and leave together. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way out of a bad situation.
- Don't leave your drink unattended while talking, dancing, using the restroom, or making a phone call. If you've left your drink alone, just get a new one.
- Don't accept drinks from people you don't know or trust. If you choose to accept a drink, go with the person to the bar to order it, watch it being poured, and carry it yourself. At parties, don't drink from the punch bowls or other large, common open containers.
- Watch out for your friends, and vice versa. If a friend seems out of it, is way too intoxicated for the amount of alcohol they've had, or is acting out of character, get him or her to a safe place immediately.
- Make sure your cell phone is with you and charged and that you have cab money.
- If you and/or the other person have been drinking, you can say that you would rather wait until you both have your full judgment before doing anything you may regret later.