A Resource for Faculty & Staff:
Best Practice Tips for Compassionate Conversations about Sexual Misconduct

SELF-AWARENESS

- The more self-awareness we have, the more we can navigate difficult conversations and express empathy for others
- Recognizing and having insight about our biases and reactions is key to having open, compassionate and productive dialogues with others
- If you feel emotional, take a moment to breathe before responding to others, or making specific decisions

LISTEN

- Make eye contact and take the time to truly listen, without judgement. This allows the student space to process their feelings
- Let the student know you do not subscribe to any of the common myths about sexual assault
- This is not the time to share your own experiences; it is about being present for the student
- Understand that the student may have several feelings, and some of them may be in conflict with other feelings. Let the student know this is normal

CONFIDENTIALITY

- If a student approaches you to have a confidential conversation, gently remind the student about your role in reporting sexual misconduct on campus before they divulge anything personal
- If the student wants the conversation to remain confidential, offer to accompany them to the RSVP office, or to Student Counseling Services
- Don't pressure the student. Give them the information, and trust that s/he/they are capable of making their own decisions
Private vs. Confidential Campus Resources

PRIVATE:
Information will generally be shared only with those University employees who need to know the information in order to review, investigate, or resolve the report.

Office of Equity and Diversity/Title IX Office
USC Credit Union Building
3720 S Flower St., 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0704
213-740-5086
titleix@usc.edu

CONFIDENTIAL:
Information shared will not be disclosed without the individual's permission or as required by law.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)
213-740-4900
usc.edu/rsvp

Student Counseling Services
213-740-7711
usc.edu/counseling

Center for Work and Family Life
UPC – Figueroa Building
3535 S Figueroa St, Suite E202
Los Angeles, CA
HSC – Soto Street Building
2001 N Soto St #112
Los Angeles, CA 90032
USC Center Downtown
1150 S Olive St
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