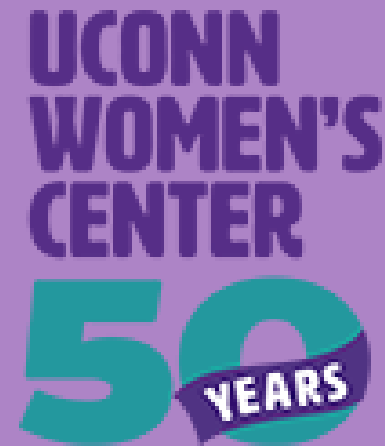


# Women's Center Resources and Support

Friday, April 1, 2022

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# Our Herstory

- φ Established in 1972
- φ Grew out of the activism of students, staff, and faculty
- φ Provided education and resources and served as a gathering place



# The Women's Center

The major activities of the Women's Center are concentrated in three core, yet interconnected, areas:

- ϕ **education** (programs focused on raising awareness on issues related to gender)
- ϕ **advocacy** (individual and institutional)
- ϕ **support services** (information, referral, and crisis intervention)

# Institutional/ Individual Advocacy

Individual advocacy - assisting staff, faculty, and students with specific incidents of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination

Institutional advocacy - changing the climate

- ✓ Grants to Combat Crimes of Violence Against Women on Campus
- ✓ 2008 Report from the Task Force on Campus Climate / Violence Against Women
- ✓ 2013 Report of the President's Task Force on Civility and Campus Culture

# Support Services

Support services at the Women's Center consist of:

- Crisis intervention related to sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, or discrimination.
- Discussion/support groups which function as opportunities to come together around exploring salient identities and building a network of social justice scholars/practitioners.



# Exempt Employees

Exempt employees include staff within the University's:

African American Cultural Center

Asian American Cultural Center

Puerto Rican Latin American Cultural Center

Rainbow Center

Women's Center

Ombuds Office

Exempt employees:

Will offer information about resources, support, and how to report incidents to the University and law enforcement.

Will not make a report unless the Student or Employee requests they do so (or if someone is in imminent risk of serious harm or a minor).

As Campus Security Authorities, we do have an obligation to report general and non-identifying information to the UConn Police for the Annual Campus Security Report.

## What to expect from the Women's Center

Our advocacy work is based on the principles of **reinforcing the survivor's autonomy and self-determination as a way to increase their safety and sense of empowerment.**

While recognizing the trauma typically involved in the advocacy work we do, our role is not to provide comprehensive mental health treatment. Individuals, who present concerns that, in the opinion of the advocate, are beyond the scope of our role, will be referred to the appropriate on or off-campus provider.

## What do we provide?

The Women's Center provides assistance to victims/survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and all forms of gender-based violence. Our focus is to provide a safe setting, as well as information and support that will help empower victims/survivors to make informed choices about next steps and what feels most healing for them. **We assist victims/survivors regardless of their gender identity and/or expression.**



## What do we provide?

Some specific examples of the type of assistance we may provide include:

- short-term crisis intervention, which includes safety planning;
- information regarding steps that can be taken following a sexual assault or incident of relationship violence, including through the University, with the police, and/or medical assistance;
- serving as support people for victims/survivors in sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and/or stalking investigations and/or hearings; and
- making referrals to other resources, both on and off campus, as needed.

# What are we thinking about?

## Barriers:

- Misinformation
- Too much information
- Compliance culture
- Institutional betrayal
- Thresholds for accountability

## Opportunities:

- Restorative justice/practices
- Creating spaces for informed decision making/Role of off campus advocates
- Institutional courage
- Community accountability