


THE COMPLICITY PROJECT

ALL ABOUT WHAT IT IS AND WHY WE'RE DOING IT


OUR (WORKING) DEFINITION OF "COMPLICITY"



TO US, COMPLICITY MEANS REINFORCING A CULTURE THAT PERPETUATES SEXUAL VIOLENCE, WHETHER THROUGH OUR ACTIONS, OUR INACTION, OR IN OUR ASSOCIATIONS.



WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT



THIS PROJECT WAS CREATED BY THE SGA SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP RESPECT (SRR) COMMITTEE. IT CONTINUES OUR WORK FROM #MIDDTOO LAST YEAR, AIMING TO FURTHER CONVERSATIONS AROUND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT MIDDLEBURY. LAST YEAR, WE CREATED #MIDDTOO WITH THE GOAL OF CHANGING OUR CAMPUS CULTURE FROM ONE THAT PERPETUATES SEXUAL VIOLENCE TO ONE THAT FOSTERS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND SUPPORTS SURVIVORS. THE COMPLICITY PROJECT IS THE CONTINUATION OF THAT GOAL. **WE WANT TO MOVE PAST A FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL PERPETRATORS TO THE WAYS IN WHICH WE ARE ALL COMPLICIT IN A CULTURE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

OUR GOAL FOR THE COMPLICITY PROJECT IS TO ADDRESS OUR LARGER CAMPUS AND SOCIETAL CULTURE THAT ALLOWS SEXUAL VIOLENCE TO CONTINUE. WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING AND UPHOLDING THIS CULTURE, SO WE MUST ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER AND OURSELVES TO THINK CRITICALLY AND TO TAKE ACTIONS.

AS LONG AS PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT SEXUAL VIOLENCE ISN'T THEIR PROBLEM, VIOLENCE WILL CONTINUE UNCHECKED. PUTTING THE BURDEN OF MAKING CULTURAL CHANGE ON THE SHOULDERS OF SURVIVORS ALONE IS UNJUST. **WE MUST ALL CONSIDER THE WAYS IN WHICH WE PARTICIPATE IN AND UPHOLD A CULTURE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND ACTIVELY WORK TO CHANGE THAT CULTURE, WHETHER WE IDENTIFY AS SURVIVORS OR NOT.**

OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED POSTERS AROUND THE SCHOOL WITH QUESTIONS, QUOTES, AND STATISTICS, ENCOURAGING EVERYONE TO CONSIDER THEIR OWN COMPLICITY IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE. YOU MAY EVEN HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR PHOTO PROJECT (THANK YOU, IF YOU DID! SEE IF YOU CAN FIND YOUR PHOTO ON THE BACK OF THIS DISPLAY!), OR TAKEN TEAL RIBBONS AND NAIL POLISH IN SOLIDARITY WITH SURVIVORS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AT OUR TABLING EVENTS. WE INVITE YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH THIS PROJECT BY READING THE REFLECTIONS FROM FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS THAT WE HAVE PRINTED, ADDING YOUR OWN REFLECTIONS TO THE BULLETIN BOARD, AND SUBMITTING YOUR RESPONSES AT [GO/COMPLICITY](#).

WE ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS DEEPLY TIED TO OTHER FORMS AND STRUCTURES OF OPPRESSION. WHILE THIS PROJECT DID NOT DIVE DEEPLY INTO THESE CONNECTIONS, WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEM. **OUR COMPLICITY IN OTHER SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION LIKE MISOGYNY, RACISM, CLASSISM, ABLEISM, TRANSPHOBIA, HOMOPHOBIA, AND MORE ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE WAYS IN WHICH SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS PERPETRATED, REACTED TO, AND UNDERSTOOD.**


HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD: A WORKSHOP

WE WANT TO CREATE A CAMPUS WITHOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE. WE ALSO KNOW THAT WE'RE ALL COMPLICIT IN A CULTURE THAT PERMITS SEXUAL VIOLENCE. **SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?** COME TO OUR COMPLICITY PROJECT WORKSHOP ON **APRIL 18TH AT 4:30 PM IN HILL**

CREST 103. BARBARA MCCALL, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS EDUCATION, AND RENEE WELLS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION, WILL FACILITATE THE WORKSHOP TO GIVE STUDENTS TOOLS FOR COMBATTING COMPLICITY IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT MIDDLEBURY.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE. THERE WILL BE SUSHI.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



THANK YOU TO RENEE WELLS, BARBARA MCCALL, DR. SUJATA MOORTI, DR. B. DR. CARLY THOMSEN, AND DR. CHONG-SUK HAN FOR THEIR HELP AND INPUT IN THIS PROJECT, AND TO ALL THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT.

RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. PART OF HEALING FROM A CULTURE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS BUILDING AFFIRMING COMMUNITIES OF CARE. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE, THERE ARE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE CARE.

MIDDSAFE HOTLINE **802-377-0239**

WOMENS SAFE HOTLINE **800-388-4205**

RAINN SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE **800-656-HOPE (4673)**

SUPPORT GROUP FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE (RUN BY WOMENS SAFE ADVOCATES @ 12:15-1:15 FRIDAYS, CALL **802-388-4205** FOR MORE INFORMATION)

PARTON COUNSELING AT [GO/COUNSELING](#)

REACH OUT TO CECE ALTER (cALTER@MIDDLEBURY.EDU) OR VEE DUONG (vDUONG@MIDDLEBURY.EDU) WITH ANY IDEAS, QUESTIONS, OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PROJECT.



CONTENT NOTES

WE ON THE SRR COMMITTEE RECOGNIZE AND ARE COMMITTED TO HONORING THE TRAUMAS THAT SURVIVORS MAY CARRY WITH THEM. AS THE NATURE OF THIS ENTIRE PROJECT CENTERS UPON CREATING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CULTURES WHICH PERPETUATE SEXUAL VIOLENCE, WE HAVE EMPLOYED A GENERAL CONTENT NOTE AND TRIGGER WARNING FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT.

FURTHER CONTENT NOTES (CN'S) SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE PROFESSOR RESPONSE PANEL, WHICH FEATURES CONTENT ABOUT RACIAL STEREOTYPES, SEXUALIZATION, AND INCARCERATION.

ADDITIONALLY, WITHIN THE STUDENT RESPONSE PANELS WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE SPECIFICALLY THE PRESENCE OF GASLIGHTING, ATHLETIC-CULTURE BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE, MENTIONS OF RAPE, AND INTOXICATION.

WHILE WE HAVE STRIVEN TO INCLUDE AS MANY CN'S AS POSSIBLE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WRITE IN ANY WE MAY HAVE MISSED BELOW.

RECOGNIZING THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS PROJECT

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS PROJECT IS MERELY A STEP IN THE LONG PROCESS OF BECOMING LESS COMPLICIT AS A COMMUNITY; IT IS NOT A SOLUTION TO COMPLICITY ON OUR CAMPUS. IN ORDER TO BUILD THE WORLD IN WHICH WE WANT LIVE, WE FIRST HAVE TO RECOGNIZE WHAT IT IS THAT WE NEED TO CHANGE, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS PROJECT WILL BE A MEANINGFUL STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. AS THE SGA SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP AND RESPECT (SRR) COMMITTEE, WE HOPE TO ADD NUANCE AND COMPLEXITY TO OUR UNDERSTANDINGS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, HOW IT IS PERPETRATED, WHO IS AFFECTED, AND HOW WE AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A COMMUNITY CAN, SHOULD, OR MIGHT MOVE FORWARD WITH COMPASSION AND INTENTION.

ADDITIONALLY, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ENGAGING WITH THIS PROJECT CAN BE EMOTIONALLY ARDUOUS FOR SOME PEOPLE, AND WE ENCOURAGE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO INVOLVE (OR NOT INVOLVE) THEMSELVES TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY FEEL ABLE. WE WANT TO PRIORITIZE THE STORIES OF SURVIVORS, MANY OF WHICH ARE SHARED HERE, WHILE ALSO RECOGNIZING THAT IN SOME INSTANCES THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE ON A CAMPUS AS A SURVIVOR MAY LOOK LIKE COMPLICITY. REST ASSURED, BEHAVIORS CALLED OUT BY OTHERS AS COMPLICIT COULD VERY WELL BE EFFECTIVE SURVIVAL STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVORS WHO ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO MANAGE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND WE RECOGNIZE THESE EXPERIENCES AS VALID AND IMPORTANT.

THE POINT OF THIS INSTALLATION IS NOT TO CALL-OUT. RATHER, IT IS MEANT TO SERVE AS A CALLING-IN OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE, STUDY, AND SLEEP, TO COME TOGETHER AND START DIALOGUES ABOUT HOW TO MOVE BEYOND COMPLICITY AND TOWARDS A MORE JUST AND RADICALLY COMPASSIONATE CULTURE. TO BUILD A PLACE WE CAN ALL CALL HOME, WE MUST START BY DREAMING IT. THIS IS OUR START.

IN SOLIDARITY,
THE SGA SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP RESPECT COMMITTEE

OUR DECISION NOT TO INCLUDE NAMES

WE'VE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE, AND HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PUBLICLY DISPLAY INDIVIDUAL NAMES OR IDENTIFYING FEATURES ON THE LIBRARY DISPLAY OR WEBSITE. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE IN HOLDING INDIVIDUALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR COMPLICITY, WE FEEL THAT DISPLAYING INDIVIDUAL NAMES WOULD DETRACT FROM THE LARGER GOALS OF THIS PROJECT. ADDITIONALLY, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS COULD GET IN THE WAY OF ONGOING TITLE IX INVESTIGATIONS AND MAKE OBTAINING JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS UNDERGOING THOSE PROCESSES EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT ALREADY IS. WE ASK THAT YOU RESPECT THIS CHOICE AND REFRAIN FROM USING ANY INDIVIDUAL NAMES IN YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THIS DISPLAY AS WELL. PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS DECISION. THANK YOU.

TO FILL OUT OUR SURVEY, GO TO

GO/COMPLICITY



THOUGHTS FROM FACULTY + STAFF

WE BELIEVE THAT FACULTY AND STAFF ARE INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF OUR MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY, AS MOST WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER WE HAVE GRADUATED. WE ASKED A FEW FOR THEIR THOUGHTS ON COMPLICITY, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND WHAT WE CAN DO AS A CAMPUS.

WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

COMPLICATING OUR RESPONSES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

"FEMINIST AND QUEER STUDIES SCHOLARS OFFER USEFUL TOOLS FOR THINKING ABOUT ALL KINDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISM, INCLUDING THAT OF FEMINIST ACTIVISTS WORKING AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE. ONE SCHOLAR NOTES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT **CONTEMPORARY ANTI-SEXUAL VIOLENCE ACTIVISM OFTEN INADVERTENTLY WORKS IN THE SERVICE OF EXPANDING THE CARCERAL STATE. CAN WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PRISON SYSTEM BE CONSIDERED FEMINIST?** IS INCARCERATION THE KIND OF OUTCOME OF FEMINIST ACTIVISM WE WANT? OTHER ACTIVISTS, WHO GENERALLY THINK OF THEMSELVES AS MORE LIBERAL OR LEFTIST, PROPOSE WHAT THEY TERM 'RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.' BUT THERE ARE REAL PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPROACH TOO. IT TAKES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENERGY, AND REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL FROM VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS. WHAT KIND OF APPROACHES CAN WE IMAGINE THAT DO NOT RELY ON THE PRISON SYSTEM NOR EXPECT ADDITIONAL WORK FROM THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY DOING THE WORK OF DEALING WITH HAVING BEEN VIOLATED?" (DR. CARLY THOMSEN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND FEMINIST STUDIES)

"IF WE BECOME IMPLICATED IN MULTIPLE SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION AS WE ARE STRUGGLING AGAINST THIS ONE, **HOW CAN WE DO THIS WHOLE RECONFIGURING OF POWER IMBALANCES AND THE RACIAL HIERARCHY WHILE TRYING TO FREE OUR CULTURE AT LARGE FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE?**" (SUJATA MOORTI, DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND FEMINIST STUDIES)

How can we as a campus challenge our complicity and move forward?

1) PROACTIVITY + PREVENTION:

"INSTITUTIONALLY, WE SHOULD NOT BE REACTIVE, AND RATHER PROACTIVE [TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE]" (RENEE WELLS, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION)

2) MOVING BEYOND AWARENESS:

"SCHOLARS HAVE LONG NOTED THAT **ARTICULATING WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN STATING WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST.** IS THE ANSWER A WORLD IN WHICH SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS UNIMAGINABLE? IF SO, WE NEED TO DO MUCH MORE WORK BEYOND THAT WHICH IS REQUIRED TO 'RAISE AWARENESS.' LET'S BE REAL. PEOPLE ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT SEXUAL VIOLENCE EXISTS. **RAISING AWARENESS ON ITS OWN CANNOT BE THE POLITICAL GOAL.** THE REAL ISSUE IS: HOW DO YOU GET PEOPLE TO CARE ABOUT SOCIAL INJUSTICES?...WE COULD ASK, 'WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU CARE ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT? WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO TO CHANGE YOUR BEHAVIORS TO NOT BE COMPLICIT IN THE PERPETUATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE?' ARE REAL PROBLEMS TO THIS APPROACH; **IT TAKES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENERGY, AND REQUIRES A LOT OF VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS**" (DR. CARLY THOMSEN)

3) COALITIONAL EFFORTS & INDIVIDUAL WORK:

"FIRST, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE INTENTIONAL AND CREATIVE EFFORTS FOR COALITIONS AROUND ERADICATING SEXUAL VIOLENCE. SECOND, I THINK TANGIBLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND INCREMENTAL WORK AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL CAN BE A POWERFUL RESOURCE. ASKING FOLKS TO PICK ONE THING TO PRACTICE (FOR A WEEK, A SEMESTER, OR ANOTHER [SPECIFIC] INCREMENT OF TIME) THAT IS RECOGNIZED AS A COUNTER TO RAPE CULTURE...HAVING AN ARRAY OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ILLUSTRATE THE POSSIBILITIES, AND RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN THEM CAN BE VERY HELPFUL. FOLLOWING UP/CHECKING IN ON HOW THE PRACTICE IS GOING WILL HELP NOURISH THIS WORK, AND HELP US BUILD TOWARDS A COMMUNITY WHERE SEXUAL VIOLENCE ISN'T TOLERATED." (ANONYMOUS)

4) COMMITTING TO TRANSFORMING OUR CULTURE:

"OUR AWARENESS WILL WORK ONLY IF WE DECIDE THAT WE WILL CHANGE OUR CULTURE AT LARGE - WHICH IS THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESS - TRANSFORMING OUR CULTURE (SUJATA MOORTI)

COMPLICITY, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND OUR SOCIETY

"WHEN I THINK OF COMPLICITY, I THINK OF **PARTICIPATION IN THE SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES THAT PERPETUATE SEXUAL VIOLENCE.** THAT PARTICIPATION IS A SHAPE-SHIFTER: IT CAN TAKE MANY FORMS, EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT, IN POLICIES AND ATTITUDES AND BEYOND" (ANONYMOUS)

"FOR ME, **SEXUAL VIOLENCE CANNOT BE DECOUPLED FROM RACIAL VIOLENCE...** AND WE CAN BECOME COMPLICIT IN A DIFFERENT KIND OF POLITICS AS WE ACTIVELY RESIST COMPLICITY IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE" (SUJATA MOORTI)

"**RACE IS ALWAYS IMPLICATED** IN ANY TYPE OF ROMANTIC/SEXUAL "RELATIONSHIPS" AND INCIDENTS. **WITHIN RAPE CULTURE, THERE IS THE STEREOTYPE OF WOMEN OF COLOR THAT PERPETUATES SEXUAL VIOLENCE...** OF COURSE, FOR DIFFERENT WOMEN, THIS IS DIFFERENT. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR BLACK WOMEN, THE LONG-STANDING STEREOTYPE OF "JEZEBELS" ALLOWS SOCIETY TO INFLICT ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS, ALLOWS SOCIETY TO NOT BELIEVE THEM WHEN THEY COME FORWARD WITH THEIR STORIES, ETC.... FOR ASIAN WOMEN, THE STEREOTYPES SURROUNDING SUBMISSIVENESS PERPETUATES RAPE CULTURE AS WELL. BUT FOR ASIAN WOMEN, THE CONTINUING PRACTICE OF (PRACTICALLY) "PURCHASING" FOREIGN WIVES ALSO PERPETUATES THIS. OFTEN, THESE WOMEN WHO WE PEJORATIVELY CALL "MAIL ORDER BRIDES" ARE SEPARATED AND ISOLATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES. IF THEY ARE MARRIED TO MEN IN AREAS WITHOUT OTHER ASIANS, THIS PERPETUATES THE PROBLEM." (CHONG-SUK HAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY)

"**RAPE CULTURE AS A PERSISTENT STATE** OF SEXUAL OBJECTIFICATION, SEXUAL COMMODIFICATION, SEXUAL DEMODIFICATION AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND PERSONAL, SOCIETAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL REFUSAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND ADDRESS THOSE THINGS" (RENEE WELLS)



HOW HAVE YOU BEEN COMPLICIT?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY IS 'COMPLICIT' IN PERPETUATING SEXUAL VIOLENCE? THIS IS THE MOST "GREEN DOT" COMMUNITY I HAVE EVER STEPPED FOOT IN AND YET IT STILL RECEIVES SUCH UNABASHED ACCUSATIONS? I UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVE HERE IS ALONG THE LINES OF MAKING MIDDLEBURY A SAFER SPACE FOR VICTIMS, BUT I WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST RECONSIDERING THE TACTIC OF DISSEMINATING BLAME AND GUILT. IT'S JUST NOT TRUE, EVEN BY YOUR DEFINITION. EVERY ONE UNDERSTANDS SEXUAL ABUSE IS WRONG AND WILL TRY TO PREVENT IT TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE. RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS OF COMPLICIT DOES NO ONE GOOD AND SWELLS THE SUBMITTER WITH UNNECESSARY GUILT. THIS IS NOT HEALTHY FOR THEM.

I'VE BECOME NUMB TO ASSAULT STORIES BECAUSE THEY'RE JUST SO COMMON.

SOMETIMES, I GET TIRED OF CALLING PEOPLE OUT FOR SAYING MISOGYNISTIC THINGS. ESPECIALLY MY GIRL FRIENDS, WHO MAY TALK ABOUT OTHER WOMEN NEGATIVELY BY CALLING THEM "HOES" OR "SLUTS" FOR THEIR DECISIONS TO SLEEP WITH A CERTAIN PERSON. ADDITIONALLY, LISTENING TO SONGS SUCH AS "COME ON EILEEN" WHICH IS BASICALLY ABOUT CONVINCING (COERCING) A GIRL (EILEEN) TO HAVE SEX.

I RECENTLY LEARNED THAT A FRIEND OF MINE MADE ANOTHER STUDENT FEEL VIOLATED DURING A HOOKUP. I DON'T THINK THAT MY FRIEND KNOWS THIS, AND I FEEL LIKE IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL HIM OUT ON IT BUT I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS TO DO IT. I'M COMPLICIT BECAUSE I'M A COWARD.

I ONLY HOOK UP WITH OTHERS WHEN I HAVE ALCOHOL IN MY SYSTEM.

DOUBTING SURVIVORS.

BEING A PART OF SOCIETY THAT ALLOWS THIS PROBLEM TO PERSIST - AN EXAMPLE OF THIS FOR ME SPECIFICALLY IS WATCHING TV SHOWS WITH THOSE WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THEM.

I'VE NEVER TOLD THE PEOPLE WHO ASSAULTED ME THAT WHAT THEY DID WAS WRONG. I THINK THEY STILL HAVE NO IDEA THE IMPACT THEIR ACTIONS HAD ON ME, AND MAY NEVER KNOW.

I HAD ASSUMED THAT WE ARE A "SAFE CAMPUS" BECAUSE I HAD NOT PERSONALLY WITNESSED ANY ACT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, NOR DID I KNOW ANYONE PERSONALLY WHO HAD EXPERIENCED THESE ACTS ON CAMPUS. I ALSO MADE EXCUSES FOR LEWD COMMENTS FROM DORMMATES WHO TENDED TO ASSUME THAT BECAUSE THEY WERE ATTRACTED TO MEN, THEY WERE EXCUSED FROM CASUALLY MAKING INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS ABOUT WOMEN'S BODIES.

NOT SPEAKING UP WHEN OTHERS WERE JOKING ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT.

I BELIEVE I HAVE BEEN COMPLICIT BY MAKING JOKES ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT/VIOLENCE IN MALE-DOMINATED SETTINGS SO THAT I CAN GAIN SOCIAL CAPITAL.

I SUPPORT ARTISTS AND SPORTS PLAYER THAT I KNOW HAVE [BEEN] ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

HAVING HEARD SOMEONE'S STORY AND NOT DELVED INTO THE REAL PROBLEM THEY ARE FACING AND JUST SAID, SORT OF, "THAT REALLY SUCKS".

I NEVER TOLD THE CURRENT GIRLFRIEND OF MY PERPETRATOR WHAT HE DID ME. WE WORKED AT THE SAME JOB AND I SAW HER IN THE DINING HALL SOMETIMES. I NEVER GAVE HER MY LETTER BEFORE SHE GRADUATED [...] I WONDER IF HE TOLD HER ABOUT ME OR IF HE WARNED HER TO STAY AWAY FROM ME. I WONDER IF MY LETTER COULD BROUGHT HER RELIEF OR IF SHE WOULD HAVE JUST CRUMPLED IT UP AND THREW IT IN THE TRASH. I WILL ALWAYS BE LEFT WONDERING. (I HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER BELOW AS AN ATTEMPT TO DO THE RIGHT THING, IF THIS IS THE RIGHT THING)

WHEN I'VE SEEN SOMEONE IN A CROWD BEING HARASSED, I'VE ASSUMED THEY CAN HANDLE IT THEMSELVES OR THAT IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS.

I ONCE BELIEVED A GUY WHO SAID HE'D BEEN FALSELY ACCUSED OF ASSAULT.

I HAVE BEEN COMPLICIT BY ALLOWING MY OWN ASSAULTER TO FACE NO SOCIAL REPERCUSSIONS IN FEAR THAT PEOPLE WILL TAKE HIS SIDE AND DEVALUE MY STORY.

I HAVE BEEN COMPLICIT BY MAKING SEXUAL JOKES THAT CAN BE SEEN AS OFFENSIVE TO VICTIMS (INSENSITIVE JOKES); POSSIBLY JUDGING PEOPLE BY HOW THEY LOOK; MIXING UP PEOPLE BEING NICE VS CREEPY.

BEING AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS OR INTERVENE.

A KNOWN PREDATOR CAME TO A PARTY I HOSTED AND I DID NOT ASK HIM TO LEAVE.

I'VE LET PEOPLE I KNOW GO TO PARTIES BY THEMSELVES WHILE HEAVILY INTOXICATED.

I HAVE MADE OUT WITH SOMEONE WHILE BLACKOUT DRUNK AND NOT REMEMBERED THE NEXT DAY, ONLY TO BE TOLD BY MY FRIEND WHO WAS THERE AT THE TIME. I IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED THE PERSON TO APOLOGIZE, BUT I FEEL DISCUSING ABOUT IT EVEN TO THIS DAY. THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

I HAVE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT A PARTICULAR PERSON BEING SEXUALLY INAPPROPRIATE TOWARDS WOMEN AND HAVE STILL HUMORED THIS INDIVIDUAL WHEN THEY STRIKE UP SMALL/IN-PASSING CONVERSATIONS WITH ME. AND HAVE NOT YET BROUGHT UP DIRECTLY TO THIS PERSON THE RUMORS I'VE HEARD.





HOW HAVE PEOPLE AROUND YOU BEEN COMPLICIT IN CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT MY RAPIST "SEEMS LIKE A GOOD GUY." PEOPLE WHO FORGIVE RAPISTS BEFORE LISTENING TO SURVIVORS NEED TO SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER HOW SEXUAL VIOLENCE SHIFTS GUILT AND BLAME ON THE VICTIM, WHILE REMOVING ANY CULPABILITY FROM THE AGGRESSOR. PERPETRATORS NEED TO BE NAMED. BEING SILENT ON THIS ISSUE IS BEING COMPLICIT.

I KNOW COUNTLESS PEOPLE WHO REMAIN FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.

JOKES ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT.

COMPLICITLY IS KNOWING THAT SEXUAL ASSAULT HAPPENS EVERY DAY ON THIS CAMPUS AND DOING NOTHING TO STOP IT.

MEN SAYING "WELL HE'S ALWAYS BEEN NICE TO ME" ABOUT MY FRIENDS' RAPISTS. THAT ONE GUY WHO PURPOSELY WORE ALL-WHITE THE DAY WE ALL WORE BLACK AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

RAPE APOLOGISTS ARE EVERYWHERE ON THIS CAMPUS. PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THAT MY RAPIST "SEEMS LIKE A GOOD GUY," OR BECAUSE HE'S DATING SOMEONE "GOOD" HE'S SOMEHOW ABSOLVED OF HIS CRIME. PEOPLE WILL GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO DEFEND AND JUSTIFY RAPISTS & SIMULTANEOUSLY NOT BLINK AN EYE WHEN SURVIVORS ARE VISIBLY SUFFERING.

PEOPLE WHO STAY FRIENDS WITH AND DATE RAPISTS NEED TO SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER HOW THEIR CHOICES SEND A MESSAGE TO SURVIVORS OF ASSAULT THAT THEIR EXPERIENCES DON'T MATTER. THOSE PEOPLE ENABLE RAPISTS TO KEEP ON LIVING PERFECTLY PLEASURABLE AND NORMAL LIVES WHILE SURVIVORS HAVE TO CONSTANTLY CARRY THE EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND PHYSICAL DAMAGE BAGGAGE THAT COMES WITH BEING RAPED.

"IS IT REEEEEALLY THAT BIG A PROBLEM ON CAMPUS?" "GREEN DOT IS A LITTLE MUCH, DON'T YOU THINK?" "FRATWATER IS ALRIGHT IF YOU MAKE SMART DECISIONS."

MY FRIEND'S OTHER FRIENDS WEREN'T BOTHERED WHEN SHE FELT PHYSICALLY VIOLATED BY A BOY WHILE DANCING AT A PARTY BECAUSE "THAT STUFF HAPPENS," "IT'S JUST DANCING" AND HE'S THEIR FRIEND. THEY DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT AS SOMETHING TO BE UPSET ABOUT WHEN IT CLEARLY REALLY BOTHERED MY FRIEND.

WHEN PEOPLE "DON'T BELIEVE" A VICTIM'S STORIES BECAUSE THEY'RE JUST USING IT TO GET ATTENTION OR MIXING UP FLIRTING WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT.

"LOCKER ROOM TALK" EVERYWHERE, DEFENDING OFFENDERS.

NOT INTERVENING WHEN THEY SEE A POTENTIALLY THREATENING SITUATION.

MALE SPORTS TEAMS OFTEN TELL FIRST-YEAR GIRLS TO ATTEND THEIR PARTIES, SO I SUPPOSE THAT'S A LARGE GROUP OF MEN BEING COMPLICIT IN PREDATORY ACTIVITY.

DOUBTING SURVIVORS, CODDLING PERPETRATORS, SUPPORTING

STAYING FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, SUPPORTING ARTISTS/ACTORS/MUSICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT, MAKING A RAPE JOKE.

I'M TIRED OF PEOPLE BEING MORE CONCERNED ABOUT RAPISTS' ANONYMITY THAN THEY ARE ABOUT SURVIVORS' WELL-BEING.

"THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR GOING TO ATWATER" "IT'S MY FAULT I NEED TO STOP GETTING SO DRUNK" "IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THEN MAYBE NOTHING HAPPENED"

MANY IGNORE JOKES OR LAUGH ALONG WITH JOKES ABOUT RAPE.

I HAVE HEARD PEOPLE DENYING THE STORIES OF GIRLS OR GETTING ANGRY WITH ACCUSATIONS TO WHICH THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

GUYS WILL "LAUGH OFF" STORIES OF THEIR FRIENDS BEING SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE OR HARASSING GIRLS.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY KIND OF SEXUAL ASSAULT THAT'S OCCURRED WITHOUT AN ACTION BEING TAKEN AROUND IT, BUT I HAVE HEARD PEOPLE MAKE JOKES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PROGRESS OF THE COMPLICIT PROJECT MANY A TIME.

I'LL SEE PEOPLE NOT ACT AT A PARTY WHEN THEIR FRIEND IS DEMONSTRATING RED DOT BEHAVIOR.

WHAT IS A DIRECT ACTION THAT YOU CAN TAKE TO BE LESS COMPLICIT?

I CAN BE AWARE THAT THIS IS A PROBLEM EVEN AT MIDD, AND TAKE STEPS TO RECOGNIZE AND CALL OUT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. I MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT, THOUGH SOCIETY, AND MY PARENTS, HAVE TAUGHT ME TO ALWAYS ASSUME THE VICTIM IS "DOING IT FOR ATTENTION," THAT IS ALMOST NEVER THE CASE AND I NEED TO TAKE THEIR WORDS SERIOUSLY, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIAL STATUS, HISTORY, AND WHAT THEY WERE WEARING WHEN THE EVENT HAPPENED.

I WILL MAKE SURE I ALWAYS ASK FOR CONSENT AND THAT MY FRIENDS DO AS WELL.

GO TO PARTIES WITH FRIENDS WHO ARE DRINKING A LOT AND KEEP TO EYE ON THEM

BEING MORE OBSERVANT AND MINDFUL AT PARTIES. I THINK WE SHOULD DO A BETTER JOB AT CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND STEPPING IN GENTLY IF WE THINK SOMEONE IS BEING HARASSED OR COERCED OR IS TOO DRUNK TO MAKE GO HOME WITH SOMEONE.

I WILL FIGHT FOR MORE SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAININGS AT THIS SCHOOL.

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT NOT BEING A BYSTANDER. OUTWARDLY TELL PEOPLE WHEN THEY ARE PERPETUATING RAPE CULTURE.

CREATE MORE SAFE SPACES AT OPEN PARTIES I HELP HOST

HAVE BETTER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RAPE CULTURE

CALL PEOPLE OUT WHEN THEY'RE BEING OFFENSIVE/PROVIDING A FOUNDATION FOR RAPE CULTURE TO EXIST.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE CAN DO AS A

STUDENT BODY TO BE LESS COMPLICIT?

WE CAN BE MORE AWARE OF THOSE AROUND US, WE CAN LISTEN TO VICTIMS AND STOP SLUT SHAMING WOMEN FOR WEARING WHAT THEY WANT. WE CAN ALSO ASK MALE IDENTIFYING PERSONS ON CAMPUS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND STOP EXCUSING INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR WITH FLIPPANT "BOYS WILL BE BOYS" REASONING.

STOP ALLOWING BOYS TO GRAB GIRLS AT PARTIES AND GET AWAY WITH IT

TELL WHITE MEN NOT TO BE PRIVILEGED, ARROGANT

HONESTLY I DON'T KNOW. I FEEL LIKE THIS SCHOOL DOES A GENUINELY GOOD JOB OF MAKING STUDENTS HAVE A GREEN DOT ASSEMBLY, GOOD SAMARITAN POLICY, AND AWARENESS AROUND CAMPUS. I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO CUT DOWN ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

NOT LISTENING TO SURVIVORS ALLOWS RAPISTS TO BE ABSOLVED IN THE PUBLIC EYE. WE NEED TO LISTEN TO SURVIVORS AND PRIORITIZE THEIR SAFETY OVER THE COMFORT OF RAPISTS. LISTEN TO SURVIVORS. BELIEVE THEIR STORIES RATHER THAN AUTOMATICALLY SYMPATHIZING WITH A RAPIST.

EMPHASIZE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSAULTERS. STRESS THAT THE ONUS IS ON PEOPLE NOT TO ASSAULT, RATHER THAN BYSTANDERS TO INTERVENE (NOT SAYING THAT BYSTANDERS SHOULDN'T INTERVENE, BUT STRESSING BYSTANDER INTERVENTION SHIFTS THE BLAME AWAY FROM THE ASSAULTERS). GREEN DOT IS A GOOD PROGRAM BUT IT DOES NOTHING TO TELL PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ASSAULT.

SOMEHOW MAKE EVERYONE FEEL RESPONSIBLE.

PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF WHAT CONSTITUTES ASSAULT.

I DON'T THINK IT'S ALWAYS BAD TO STAY FRIENDS AFTER. YES HE ASSAULTED ME BUT IF HE ACKNOWLEDGES IT AND FEELS SORRY/REGRETS IT AT SOME POINT I THINK IT'S ENOUGH

I'M SORRY I NEVER HAD THE GUTS TO TELL YOU IN PERSON WHAT YOUR CURRENT BOYFRIEND DID TO ME DURING MY SOPHOMORE YEAR OF COLLEGE. I HOPE HE IS TREATING YOU BETTER THAN HE TREATED ME. I HOPE HE'S CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. I HOPE HE RESPECTS YOU THE WAY YOU DESERVE. HE CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER. I'VE GROWN SO MUCH BUT I STILL STRUGGLE - A LOT. FROM THIS ANONYMOUS SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ASSAULT + EMOTIONAL ABUSE TO YOU, I WISH YOU NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS AND I APOLOGIZE IF THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU WANTED TO HEAR. PLEASE BE SAFE AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

BEST,
A WOMAN TRYING NOT TO BE COMPLICIT

AFTER THE LIST OF MEN TO AVOID CAME OUT, VERY LITTLE CHANGED. MANY OF THOSE MEN STILL GO TO THIS SCHOOL. I HOPE THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE FRIENDS WITH THOSE MEN BELIEVE THE SURVIVORS WHO PUT THE MEN ON THAT LIST, INSIST THOSE MEN ENGAGE IN SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS AND SELF REFLECTION ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY CANNOT GET AWAY WITH SIMILAR BEHAVIORS IN THE FUTURE.

WE CAN STAND UP TO THE SCHOOL AND MAKE ACTUAL STRIDES TOWARDS A BETTER SYSTEM OF DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.

KEEP THE COMPLICITY POSTERS/FLYERS UP ALL YEAR ROUND. THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE SOMETHING THAT IS JUST DISCUSSED FOR A MONTH.

CHALLENGE THE IDEA THAT DRUNK HOOK-UPS ARE OK. CHALLENGE THE IDEA THAT GOING HOME WITH SOMEONE MEANS PERFORMING ANY SORT OF SEXUAL ACT.

I THINK A MAJOR ISSUE IN DEALING WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT/VIOLENCE IS THAT PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIED OF FEELING GUILTY. NO ONE WANTS TO FEEL GUILTY SO NO ONE ADMITS THEY DID ANYTHING WRONG. AND IF PEOPLE DO NOT ADMIT ANYTHING WRONG, THEY CANNOT LEARN FROM WHAT THEY DID AND MAKE THEMSELVES BETTER.

AS I SAID ABOVE, IT'S REALLY SO HARD TO SEE HOW WE CAN PREVENT RAPE CULTURE. OBVIOUSLY WE CAN DO MORE, BUT AT MIDDLEBURY SO FAR IT SEEMS LIKE WE ACTUALLY HAVE A PRETTY GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND YET IT STILL HAPPENS EVERY WEEKEND.

WE NEED TO NAME OUR ABUSERS IN ORDER TO BRING THEM TO JUSTICE. STOP PROTECTING RAPISTS' ANONYMITY.

I GENUINELY BELIEVE WE DON'T HAVE THE TOOLS OR STRATEGIES OR FRAMEWORKS FOR APPROACHING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON THIS CAMPUS. AS A GSFS MAJOR, I'M CONSTANTLY CHALLENGED IN MY CLASSES TO ANALYZE DIFFERENT APPROACHES, FRAMEWORKS, RESPONSES TO A VARIETY OF ISSUES. BUT THE ISSUE I FEEL HAS BEEN WIDELY NEGLECTED IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE. NOT ONE CLASS OF MINE HAS ADDRESSED IT SUBSTANTIALLY, AND THEREFORE I FEEL AT A LOSS. ON THIS CAMPUS WE ARE TAUGHT ABOUT CONSENT, OFFERED RESOURCES TO HELP IF WE ARE A VICTIM TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND WE SHOW SUPPORT TO VICTIMS AT VARIOUS EVENTS. BUT WE ARE NOT TAUGHT HOW TO INTERACT WITH PERPETRATORS, HOW TO REACT AS A COMMUNITY, OR HOW TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS. WHAT MY EXPERIENCE HERE HAS SHOWN ME, IS THAT MOST PEOPLE THINK CRIMINALIZING PERPETRATORS OR AT THE VERY LEAST OSTRACIZING THEM IS THE ONLY SOLUTION. NOT ONLY DOES A FOCUS ON CRIMINALIZING ONLY SUPPORT THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX (AND ALL ITS FLAWS), BUT IT ALSO DOES NOT ADDRESS OUR EMOTIONAL CONCERNS. I JUST WISH AN EXPERT COULD COME TO OUR CAMPUS OR A CLASS COULD BE OFFERED OR A SYMPOSIUM COULD BE ARRANGED SO THAT THE CAMPUS (ME INCLUDED) COULD FEEL LESS HELPLESS AND DISTRAUGHT EVERY TIME WE TALK ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE. THIS GUILT THAT WE HAVE NOT HELPED SURVIVORS ENOUGH, THIS HELPLESSNESS WE FEEL WHEN WE REALIZE THESE THINGS KEEP HAPPENING ALL THE TIME IN ALL CIRCLES OF OUR LIVES, THAT FEELING NEEDS TO BE TURNED INTO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE. WE JUST NEED TO LEARN HOW.

GET PROFESSORS AND TEAMS MORE INVOLVED.

PEOPLE DESERVE TO BE CRITICALLY FORGIVEN, NOT SIMPLY GIVEN A PASS BECAUSE YOU "KNOW" THEY'RE A GOOD PERSON ON THE INSIDE. I THINK CONTINUING GREEN DOT PROGRAMMING AND ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER TO STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING US AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE HURT THEM ARE BOTH IMPORTANT ACTIONS HERE. I KNOW THESE AREN'T NECESSARILY REVOLUTIONARY, BUT I FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE SUCH AN IMPORTANT IMPACT.

NOT HAVE GREEN DOT TRAINING BE TREATED AS A MUNDANE, GOING-THROUGH-THE-MOTIONS THING AND HAVE IT GO DEEPER FOR MORE PEOPLE.

MEN MUST CHANGE THE WAY THEY ACT AND SOCIETY MUST STOP SPREADING MESSAGES THAT MAKE TEENAGE BOYS THINK THIS IS OKAY. IT'S NOT. AND IT HAPPENS IN EVERY TYPE OF COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU FOR SHEDDING A LIGHT ON THIS. BOTH MY GIRLFRIEND AND SISTER ARE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT; IT WILL ALWAYS BE AN UNDER-COVERED PROBLEM BUT YOU ARE DOING A SMALL PART AND FOR THAT, I THANK YOU.

THERE IS NO FRAMEWORK IN PLACE OR TOOLS FOR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO NAVIGATE THOSE SITUATIONS, SO MANY OF US CHOOSE TO IGNORE AND THEREFORE BE COMPLICIT.

