



Sexual & Relationship Violence and Marginalized Communities

Marginalized Communities

Marginalized populations are **groups** or **communities** that experience **discrimination** and **exclusion** because of **unequal power relationships** across economic, political, social and cultural dimensions. Examples include, but are not limited to women, racial/cultural minorities, LGBTQIA+, the poor or homeless, immigrants, those addicted to substances, those with cognitive and/or physical disabilities or those with mental health issues.

People rarely occupy one zone of marginalization; inequalities tend to intersect. An example of a group that reflect multiple inequalities at work are runaway LGBTQIA+ youth. The intersections of sexual and gender discrimination, youth, poverty and homelessness make these individuals more vulnerable to becoming victims of sexual exploitation.

People from marginalized communities may be at increased risk of becoming targets of sexual violence. Predators often seek their victims while counting on societal blind spots to protect and perpetrate their crimes. The full scope of the problem is difficult to completely quantify. Sexual violence against disenfranchised communities is often greatly underreported.

Experienced Barriers

Victims/survivors from marginalized communities often encounter additional barriers to seeking safety, receiving effective assistance, and reporting. Types of barriers that may be experienced include:

- Education – lack of knowledge or understanding of what sexual and relationship violence is
- Stereotypes
- Isolation
- Intimidation
- Threats
- Shame/ Victim Blaming
- Fear of Being Outed
- Poverty/Homelessness
- Language
- Immigration status
- Stigma
- Historical oppression
- Lack of cultural appropriate services
- Lack of prevention and resource services
- Lack of collaboration within the community
- Lack or inconsistent access to smartphones or computers
- Lack of technological skills
- Distrust of law enforcement and the legal system
- Lack of prosecution or conviction

Know Your Rights

Victims/survivors of sexual and relationship violence among marginalized communities are often impacted by oppression or discrimination they may encounter. Their concerns may be related to the assault itself, but also may relate to their treatment in systems following the assault, from healthcare to legal to criminal justice. Basic rights include:

- Right to receive support from an advocate who can provide help and inform of victim's rights, options and resources. A victim advocate often acts as a liaison between the victim/survivor and others (i.e., campus departments, law enforcement, criminal justice system, etc.)
- Right to be treated with dignity and respect
- Right to receive affirming and supportive help without bias, prejudice, and discrimination
- Right to ask questions of advocate throughout the process
- Right to be called by your name and pronouns you use
- Right to receive legal advocacy. SRVC hosts a legal advocacy program in collaboration with Legal Aid of Arkansas.

The SRVC provides a trauma-informed and confidential environment for **all** students.

Campus Resources

SRVC	479-575-4000
Advocacy email	survivor@uark.edu
Education programs email	respect@uark.edu
CAPS 24 HR Crisis Line (Counseling & Psychological Services)	479-575-5276
Pat Walker Health Center (University Health Services)	479-575-4451
U of A Cares	479-575-5004
University Police	479-575-2222
Title IX	479-575-7111 titleIX@uark.edu
Student Accountability	479-575-5170 judicial@uark.edu
Reports for Any Concern	report.uark.edu

In the event of an emergency, call 911

CONFIDENTIAL

Campus Resource Options

If you want to speak on campus with someone **confidentially** about sexual or relationship violence, you may do so with a victim advocate at the SRVC or a mental health counselor. Faculty and staff are required by university policy to report incidents of sexual or relationship violence to the Title IX coordinator for the University to investigate. An advocate is available through the SRVC and may be reached by emailing survivor@uark.edu or calling 479-575-4000.

For more information, visit srvc.uark.edu

Forensic Evidence Collection ("a Rape Kit") is available by appointment at the NWA Center for Sexual Assault, 1670 W. Sunset, Suite B, Springdale, AR 72762. Call 1-800-794-4175 to arrange for an appointment or contact the campus SRVC for assistance with this.