

PRESS RELEASE

# safe campus coalition



The organizing team of the September 17th Anti-Gender Based Sexual Violence Walk Out at Western University are excited to present a new initiative: Safe Campus Coalition.

The Safe Campus Coalition (SCC) will take a trauma-informed approach to educating, supporting, and building community across Canadian post-secondary campuses to work against the perpetuation of gender-based sexual violence within educational spaces and student populations. Each member of the Safe Campus Coalition team brings their own unique identity, lived experience and personal philosophy rooted in an inclusive ethics of care to carry out this work.

The Safe Campus Coalition's team represents a variety of backgrounds, beliefs, sexual orientations, and gender identities. The members of the team include undergraduate and graduate students: Ana Paula Gomez Ocampo, Emily Poirier, Hayden Van Neck, Urvi Maheshwari, Ana Moyer, Danica Facca, and Effie Sapuridis.

"We hope to carry forward the momentum that was achieved when 10,000 people came out on September 17th," said SCC team member Effie Sapuridis, "and finally instill some long-term changes regarding gender-based violence, of all kinds, via continued activism on the ground and across provincial and federal legislation."

Hayden Van Neck, SCC team member, added, "Our Coalition will not only work to encourage community members across the nation to take tangible action against gender-based violence on their own campuses but will also provide them with the tools to do so."

The Safe Campus Coalition will take on two projects during the remainder of the 2021 year. First, the Coalition will work with Ontario MPs to introduce legislation which will mandate anti-gender-based violence training for all members of post-secondary communities across Ontario. Second, the Coalition will create an evidence-based activist toolkit to share with other post-secondary communities to help support their advocacy goals within their respective institutions.

The Safe Campus Coalition will help coordinate a nation-wide campus walk out on December 6th 2021 so as to honour the 32nd anniversary of the Ecole Polytechnique Massacre during which fourteen women lost their lives due to a misogynistic and senseless act of violence.

"Gender-based violence on post-secondary campuses has not gone away; in fact, it has barely diminished. We need actionable change across the country and the Safe Campus Coalition intends to be a collaborative partner with other activist organizations to take on this work," said SCC team member Danica Facca.

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