



Moving Forward Together: Building Capacity to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Violence on Campus

Kwantlen Polytechnic University – Richmond Campus
June 4-5, 2019

Empowering newcomers to fully
participate in Canadian society

Perminder Flora,
Manager of Violence Prevention Programs



Engaging International Students

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MOSAIC



M.O.S.A.I.C.

Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities

- Services are delivered from 26 client-accessible sites
 - Family and Settlement
 - Counselling services for women and victim support
 - Community outreach for families and individuals, including children, youth and seniors
 - English language training
 - Employment programs
- MOSAIC also offers services for the LGBTQ and migrant worker communities
- Social Enterprise: Interpretation & translation



Violence Prevention Programs

Stopping the Violence Counselling and multicultural Outreach services for women

- Experienced or are at risk of abuse; threats; or violence in an intimate relationship; sexual assault or childhood abuses

Multicultural Victims Services Program

- Serves the specific needs of multicultural and immigrant victims of all types of crimes and all genders



Some Facts

Canada is a preferred destination for international students

BC hosts the second largest international student population next to Ontario

China is a predominant source country to send students, followed by India, United States, South Korea and Saudi Arabia .

Students from China, Saudi Arabia and India are bringing different experiences from white international students (Bonistall Postel, 2017). Emily J. Bonistall Postel....



Sexual Assault and International Students

- International students are more likely than domestic students to be sexually assaulted and may be seen as “attractive targets” considered “unlikely to fight back” (Forbes-Mewett & McCulloch, 2016)
- Female international students have a higher risk of entering a power imbalanced relationship (Forbes-Mewett & McCulloch, 2016)
- In 2016 a study in Quebec found that sexual assault occurred at higher frequencies for international student than their domestic counterpart, but less likely to be reported (Hutcheson & Lewington, 2017)
- Their victimization is further compounded by other barriers and lack of support (Tummala-Narra, 2008).



The issue

- Research and client service delivery reflects the reality of under-represented and under-reported lived experiences of international students victims of sexual violence.
- Smaller private academic institutions don't have guidelines for teachers, administrative staff to support disclosure of sexual assault



Increase awareness

Training to Facilitate Effective Responses to International Students' Disclosure of Sexual Assault

Funding : BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC Civil Forfeiture Office
Consultation: Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC)



Training objectives

- Information and Insight into the complexities and barriers impacting International students in accessing services
- Information on Supporting and Responding to Disclosure of Sexual Assault
- Criminal Justice System and Emergency Health Services response protocols
- Information on community resources



Training Agenda

Information on sexual violence

Disclosure and Reporting Options

Subject Matter Experts

Emergency Health Services Response

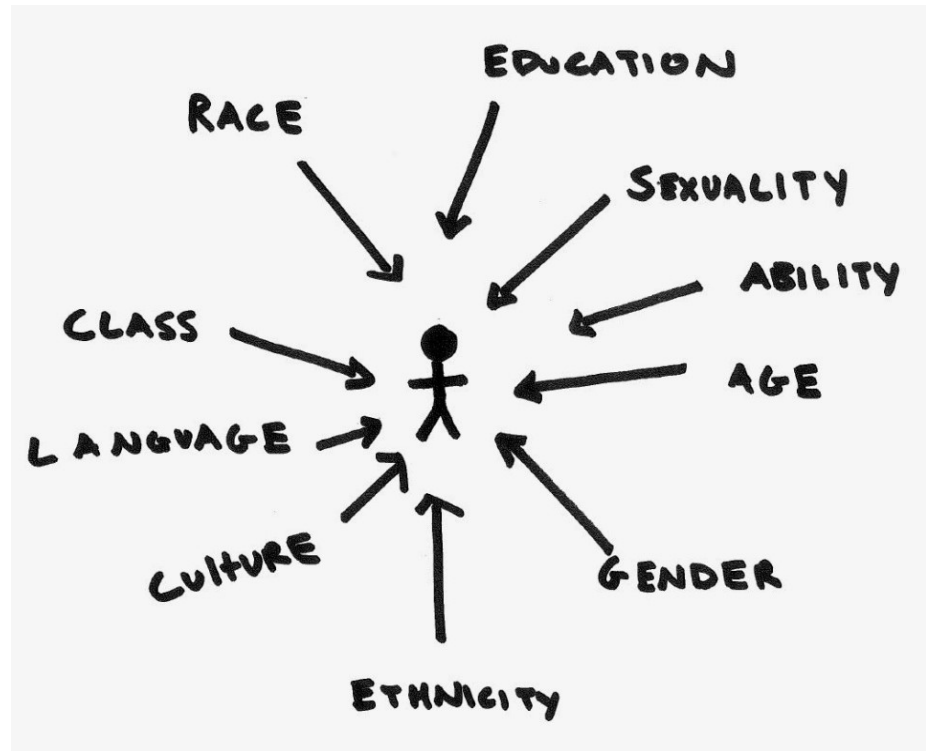
Criminal Justice System Response

Community Resources

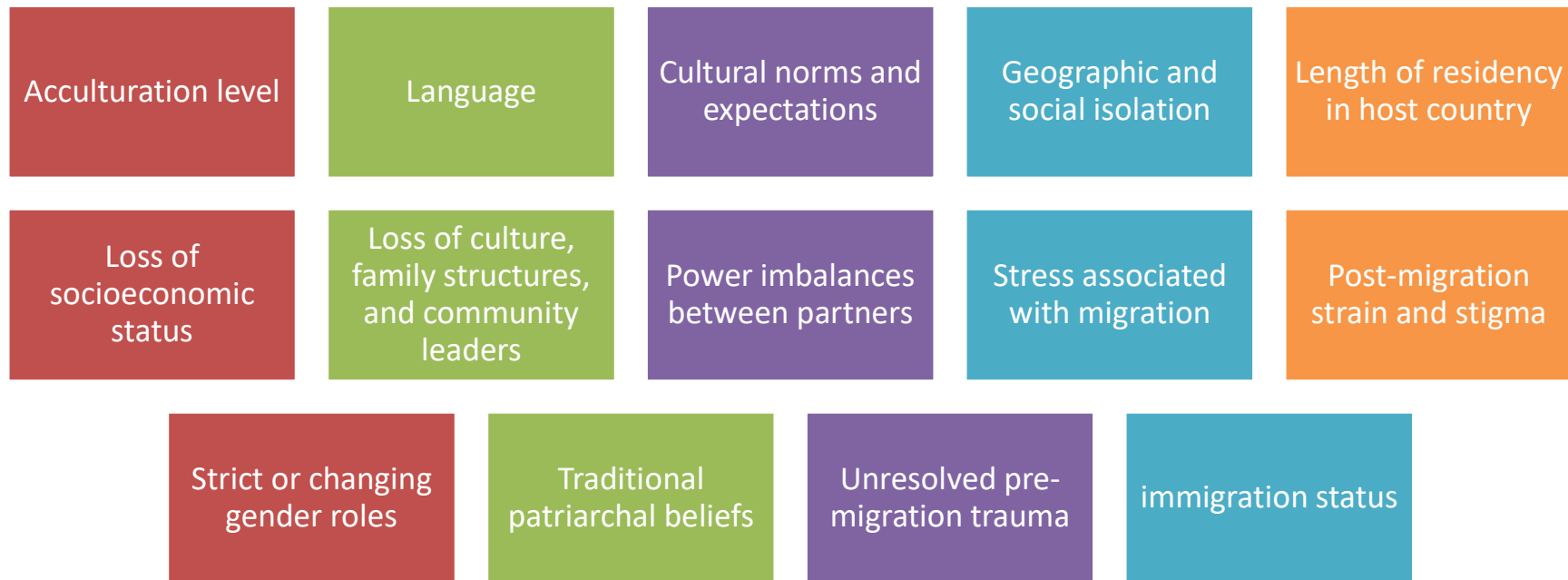


Intersectionality

The multicultural reality of the International Student population demands the recognition of the diverse cultures, values, beliefs and the influence of the intersecting marginalized Social identities in the host country



International Students' Vulnerability towards Victimization



Barriers and Challenges Faced by International Students

Visa/student permit restrictions and administrative obstacles

Fear of deportation

Unfamiliar with legal rights, justice systems, and policies in host country

Unfamiliar with host country's education system

Lack of Cultural capital and being 'othered'

Perception of Consent and Sexual Violence

(Hutcheson & Lewington, 2017)



What might an international student who experienced sexual assault need?

- Medical Assistance
- Safety Plan
- Academic accommodations
- Victim services
- Information on rights in Canada
- Legal information
- Protection orders / Peace Bond
- Housing/Shelters
- Cultural community support
- Immigration information
- Financial support
- Counselling support



Outcome

Participants will have skills and tools to engage International Students to increase their understanding of sexual assault/violence and provide opportunities for the safe exchange of information



Pre-Training Survey

- 65% of participants answered incorrectly when they were asked to define sexual assault.
- 89% felt that they were 'somewhat skilled' or 'unskilled' in responding to disclosures of sexual assault made by international students
- 79% reported 'somewhat aware' or 'unaware' the resources available to support international students who disclose of sexual assault



Post-Training Survey

- 97% indicated that they become 'very knowledgeable' or 'knowledgeable' about sexual assault after the training.
- 79% rated 'very skilled' or 'skilled' in responding to international students who disclose of sexual assault after the training
- 100% felt 'very aware' or 'aware' of the resources available to support international students who disclose of sexual assault as well as the barriers and challenges faced by international students who experienced sexual assault after the training.



Next Steps

“PEER CAFES - “PEER Creating Awareness to Facilitate Education and Support”

Funding : BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
BC Civil Forfeiture Office



Objective

To increase awareness about sexual assault and to create opportunities for international students to engage in and, create dialogue about these issues in their process of acculturation and transition



Prevention

- Engage in dialogue and define gender-based violence, sexual assault and rape culture
- Discuss cultural expectations/taboo and the paradox observed in the host culture
- Reflect on their process of acculturation and safely share its impact
- Receive information on how to recognize, intervene and stop sexual violence



Support

Safety Guide:

- information on immigration policies for international students
- sexual assault and consent
- victims' legal rights
- best practices to support their peers' victims of sexual assault
- police and hospital protocol on supporting sexual assault victims



Report

- Information about the law and how and when to report to Police



How can we support international students?

Provide opportunity to engage in a facilitated dialogue about:

- what is sexual violence
- discuss cultural taboos and reflect on their biases
- safely discuss and explore the cultural expectations and their values and beliefs, and the paradox of what is observed in their process of acculturation.

Provide information on:

- their rights and the law
- immigration regulations
- academic institution policies



Integrated Support



Support Us

- Assist us in connecting with international students
- Support us in delivering the PEER CAFES workshops
- Share with us your experiences and/or concerns in supporting international students victims of sexual violence



Q & A

Perminder Flora, Manager
Violence Prevention Programs
604-254-9626

Thank you.

