

Preventing Gender-Based Violence

Abstract

One-quarter to one-third of people in Seattle (or any community) will experience gender-based violence yet solutions and responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking are significantly underfunded. At the same time, criminal and civil legal responses are woefully inadequate and problematic for most survivors for a variety of reasons, including structural racism.

The City needs to increase the funding streams for prevention, awareness, and response to gender-based violence and increase accessibility of information in schools and other public spaces, so that communities are armed with the information they need to not only respond to but prevent gender-based violence. Envision a world where healthy, loving, and equitable relationships are not only possible but the norm, a community that is free of violence.

Additional issues the City should examine are gender pay gap and increasing services and prevention efforts for homelessness.

Data

- Get the Facts & Figures, The National Domestic Violence Hotline: www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/
- Who Will Help Me? Domestic Violence Survivors Speak Out About Law Enforcement Responses: www.thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/09/NDVH-2015-Law-Enforcement-Survey-Report.pdf
 - 1 in 4 reported that they would not call the police in future
 - More than half said calling the police would make things worse
 - Two-thirds or more said they were afraid the police would not believe them or do nothing

City Role

The City of Seattle is involved in responding to and preventing gender-based violence involved by:

- Funding services—primarily for survivors of domestic violence (DV), sexual assault, and commercial sexual exploitation. There is some limited funding for treatment for indigent DV perpetrators.
- Police, prosecution and municipal court response (including probation)
- Planning and convening efforts to coordinate between City departments and the community, both around responding to and preventing gender-based violence

- Educating about and enforcing ordinances and statutes related to providing protections for survivors related to housing and employment, including use of sick and safe time leave, housing discrimination, etc.

Recommended Pre-reading

- **StoryTelling and Organizing Project (STOP)** is a project of Creative Intervention, a national leader in transformative justice organizing. This website has audio and written examples of transformative justice and community accountability: www.stopviolenceeveryday.org.
- **It Takes a Village Toolkit**, NW Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse, is a resource for friends and family of survivors of domestic violence to best support the survivor: bit.ly/2m5T1bV
- **Futures without Violence** is an organization working to end violence against women and children around the world: www.futureswithoutviolence.org
- The **Changing Minds Campaign** focuses on teaching society how to reverse the negative impacts of childhood trauma: www.changingmindsnow.org/science

Presenter



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