Sexual Violence & Travel Abroad
A Pervasive Global Public Health Issue

Every summer, students are impacted by these issues either personally or through someone on their teams.

What are we talking about?

- Gender-based violence – IPV, LGBTQIA
- Sexual assault – rape, non-consensual sexual violence
- Sexual harassment – street harassment, public groping, unwelcome advances, coercion

This is a pervasive issue:

- Worldwide: 1 in 3 women.
- Worldwide: 1 in 21 men
- Trans* and gender non-conforming individuals are particularly targeted
This is all about raising awareness

- We ALL take healthy, calculated risks, especially when we are entering into new environments
  - Socialization
  - Drugs and alcohol
  - Sexual relationships
  - Entering an environment with different cultural beliefs on gender, race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation

- We are all in this together. Be aware and observant of your friends’ and coworkers’ safety as well as your own.

- There are some things of which we can be mindful, but that does not mean that we are responsible if we experience sexual violence.

- Sexual violence is never the survivor’s fault.
Risk Reduction Tactics

- Trust your instincts
- Be prepared
  - Emergency contact info (In English and local language)
  - Emergency funds
  - Location of health, public safety facilities
  - When going out, inform any housemates of your plans and avoid traveling alone, especially at night
- Know that you are at increased risk for any security incident when under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Remember that perpetrators are most often acquaintances (73%)
- LGBTQ individuals may be targets because different cultural norms or legal prohibitions
- Take precautions based on this knowledge whether or not you choose to disclose your sexual identity

Important: Never sacrifice your personal safety for the sake of cultural sensitivity.
There are situations without a “right” answer. Remember to trust your instincts. Sexual violence is never the survivor’s fault.
**Pre-Departure**

- Research local cultural norms and laws in relation to gender identity, sexual orientation, and sexuality. Be aware of laws and cultural norms related to drug and alcohol use.

- Include on your Emory contacts list on-campus resources.

- Download and familiarize yourself with the Respect Program’s response/resource guides. [http://studenthealth.emory.edu/hp/respect_program/get_help/index.html](http://studenthealth.emory.edu/hp/respect_program/get_help/index.html)

- Be aware of risk reduction tactics, discussed earlier.

- Consider what safety looks like in your new environment.
No answers, only questions…

- What if you are being taken somewhere you don't want to go?
- What if you find yourself alone with someone that is suddenly a threat?
- What if you are feeling the impact of drugs or alcohol?
- What if you feel sexually threatened by a person of authority?
- What if a person you are casually dating doesn’t take no for an answer?
- How do you trust your gut in new and potentially exciting contexts?
After an Incident – Possible Reactions

- Shock and numbness
- Disruption of daily life
- Loss of control
- Fear
- Guilt and self-blame
- Difficulty concentrating
- Increased use of alcohol/drugs
- Anger
- Isolation
- Vulnerability and mistrust
- Sexual intimacy concerns

All responses are normal and every person reacts differently.
After an Incident (you experienced a sexual assault)

- Seek medical assistance as soon as possible, especially if you are concerned about pregnancy or STIs.
  - HIV – “PrEP and PEP” – pre and post-exposure prophylaxis
  - Emergency contraceptives
  - Seek pre-designated provider, if possible (e.g., Uganda MSM). Find a safe space and support from someone you can trust.

- Contact site supervisor and faculty advisor immediately. Feel free to seek their input on resources in your local context.

- Look for local resources to provide guidance on dealing with the situation according to local laws, customs, and cultural norms. If you are unsure where to find these resources, consult your Emory contacts and site supervisor for assistance in identifying them.
After an Incident (you experienced a sexual assault)

- Consider filing a local police report.
- If you knew the perpetrator, consider how you want to respond.
- In conjunction with your faculty advisor and/or Emory staff support, contact Emory Title IX office.
  - Title IX Coordinator: Lynell A. Cadray, lynell.cadray@emory.edu, 404.727.2611
  - Title IX Coordinator for Students: Judith Pannell, jpanne2@emory.edu, 404.727.4079.
  - RSPH Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Emily Lakemaker, emily.lakemaker@emory.edu, 404.727.9670
After an Incident (a peer experienced a sexual assault)

- Work with your site supervisor and faculty advisor to provide safety and support for the student who experienced an assault.

- Consult with your site supervisor and faculty advisor to assess your own concerns and reactions following the event. Access support services yourself if needed.

- Respect the privacy of the student who experienced the assault by limiting discussion of the event.

- If you knew the perpetrator, consider how you want to respond and keep in mind the wishes of the student who experienced the assault in this regard.
When you return

Seek supportive services wherever you are
  • Counselor, confidant, or ally

If at Emory
  • Respect Program
  • Title IX Coordinator
  • Student Counseling Services
  • RSPH Student Support Services (other schools have similar offices)

You are part of the Emory family and during your time of need, there are multiple individuals in various capacities who are safe spaces for care.
If Someone Discloses to You

- Believe that person as <2% are false reports
- Establish safety and security
- Private, safe and quiet setting
- Establish rapport
- Identify the problem
- Explore alternatives and options
- Develop a plan of action
- Don’t investigate or retaliate
- Let the survivor make their own decisions
Resources

- Your Faculty Mentor, Site Supervisor, ADAP, and/or Staff Program Coordinator
- Student Counseling Center: 1462 Clifton Road, Suite 235 (Second Floor) (404) 727-7450
- International SOS (ISOS) 215.942.8478
- The Respect Program
  - 404-727-1514
  - respect@emory.edu
  - http://studenthealth.emory.edu/hp/respect_program/index.html
- Atlanta – Planned Parenthood, Feminist Women’s Center FWHC (LGBTQIA friendly)
- Rape & Incest National Network (RAI NN)
  - 1.800.656.HOPE(4673)
  - http://rainn.org