

Mission Statement – Women's Services Unit

The Department of Public Safety, Campus Safety at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is dedicated to the support, education, safety and security of all women. Our purpose is to assist women in facing the new challenges, opportunities, and demands that are encountered in today's ever changing society. We welcome students, faculty, and staff who are interested in issues relevant to the safety and security of women on campus.

As a way to help a new women's services unit, we have affiliated with HAWC (Healing Abuse Working for Change) to seek a society or campus in which violence and oppression are unconditionally unacceptable, and in which all women and children or all victims are respected and have freedom, opportunity, and equality.

Domestic abuse is a system of coercive behaviors used by adults or adolescents to establish and maintain power and control over a partner or family member.

Call HAWC for 24 Hour Hotline
(978) 744-6841

or Asian Task Force
(617) 338-2355

GCTS Campus Safety
(978) 836-6798 ext. 4180

All services are free and confidential.



GCTS Women's Services Unit

What is abuse?

Abuse is the use of physical, sexual, or verbal behavior to force or coerce a partner to do something or to gain and maintain control in a relationship by inducing fear. Abuse takes many forms.

Physical Abuse:

Looming over you, getting “in your face,” blocking a doorway, grabbing you if you try to leave, kicking, punching, biting, choking/strangling, threatening to harm you, using weapons, throwing or breaking things, punching walls, driving recklessly, burning, pulling hair, stabbing, trying to confine you, preventing you from seeking medical care, murder.

Indirect physical abuse:

Harm to someone or something important to you.

Mental/ Emotional Abuse:

Giving intimidating looks and gestures, playing mind games, twisting the facts around, making you feel like you’re losing your mind, not accepting blame, wrongful accusations, lying, manipulation, insults, humiliation and/or making you feel badly about yourself, not listening to your point of view, being jealous or possessive, excessive paging or calling, intercepting your phone message or emails, not allowing you to have or limiting contact with friends or family, controlling where you go and when, stalking, accusations of cheating, using male privilege.

Verbal Abuse:

Yelling, shouting, swearing, continuously arguing, interrupting, talking over you, put downs, name calling, talking down to you or patronizing you, using loud and threatening tone and language, intimidating you, mocking you, abusive language, threatening to take the children away or report you to the authorities.

Sexual Abuse:

Unwanted sexual touching, vulgar comments, pressure for sex, treating you like an object, forcing you to use or not use birth control, forcing you to get pregnant or to have an abortion, forcing you to have sex with other people, forcing you to participate in pornography, date or marital rape.

Economic Abuse:

Withholding money, making you ask for money, not allowing access to financial accounts, giving you an allowance, not allowing you to work or get an education, putting all bills/credit cards in your name, preventing use of a vehicle.



(a) Violence Wheel

Violence Wheel (a)

This wheel helps link the different behaviors that together form a pattern of violence. It shows the relationship as a whole-and how each seemingly unrelated behavior is an important part in an overall effort to control someone.

Non-Violence Wheel (b)

The non-violence wheel offers a view of a relationship that is based on equality and non-violence. Use this chart to compare the characteristics of a non-violent relationship to those of an abusive relationship. The Non-Violence Wheel is also helpful in setting goals and boundaries in personal relationships.



(b) Non-Violence Wheel