

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

Resolution: G.R. 14 (F) 3

Sponsored By: Rep. Male (Physics)
Rep. Puente (American Studies)
Rep. Mills (English)
Rep. Wehrle (English)
Rep. Fanning (Neuroscience)
Rep. Vena (Pharmacy)
Rep. Itam (Art History)
Rep. Schroeder (Petroleum Engineering)
Rep. Ezekwem (History)
Rep. Sigafos (Special Education)
Rep. Costigan (Educational Psychology)
Rep. Lee (Communication)
Director Cozzolino (Sociology)
Director Davis (HDFS)
Director Jendrzey (Public Affairs)

Authors: Virginia Luehrsen
Karen Duke
Taral Patel

Action Taken: Passed

Certified:



President, Graduate Student Assembly

A Resolution in Support of Relationship Violence Prevention Month

Summary: A resolution supporting the efforts of the University of Texas Counseling and Mental Health Center, and Voices Against Violence, in raising awareness about relationship violence

Whereas (1): The Graduate Student Assembly serves as the official voice of graduate students at the University of Texas at Austin;

Whereas (2): Relationship violence can involve any violence or abuse situation in the context of a relationship, including intimate partner violence (IPV), stalking, child abuse, and elder abuse, including acts of psychological, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse, as well as physical violence;

Whereas (3): More than 4 in 10 students will experience relationship violence during their college career,¹;

Whereas (4): Relationship violence impacts people of all genders; for example, the Centers for Disease Control estimates that while roughly 30% of women in the United States have suffered a form of intimate partner violence, approximately 10% of men have also experienced violent behavior in the context of a relationship²;

Whereas (5): Relationship violence is a concern for any individual regardless of creed, race, ethnicity, country of origin, politics, or sexual orientation;

Whereas (6): Consequences of relationship violence can include depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, self-harm, sexually transmitted infections, hospitalization, disability, and death,²

Whereas (7): Relationship violence affects not only those directly victimized, but their friends, family, and co-workers, and can have lasting consequences in terms of work completion, time to degree, and quality of life³;

Whereas (8): Relationship violence is often an invisible issue, and learning to see the red flags could help someone in need;

Whereas (9): The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey report of 2011 states that "Prevention efforts should start early by promoting healthy, respectful relationships in families by fostering healthy parent-child relationships and developing positive family dynamics and emotionally supportive environments....survivors...need coordinated services to ensure healing and prevent recurrence of victimization";⁴

Whereas (10): Voices against Violence (VAV), a program of the Counseling and Mental Health Center, organizes Relationship Violence Prevention Month and supporting activities around campus that spread knowledge in order to empower those in need;

Whereas (11): Voices Against Violence seeks to create a culture of prevention of relationship violence by encouraging students to commit to the 7 C's of healthy relationships: consent, communication, care, consideration, compassion, conflict resolution, and collaboration.

Therefore

Let It Be

Resolved (1): The Graduate Student Assembly, acting as the official voice of all graduate and professional students at the University of Texas, understands the importance of educating students about relationship violence, and making available resources known to those in need;

Be It

¹ American Medical Association, Relationship Violence Among Female and Male College Undergraduate Students, 2008.

² http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/data/Journals/PEDS/9213/poa80007_634_641.pdf

³ http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf

⁴ <http://www.apa.org/about/awards/partner-violence.pdf>

⁴ http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf Page 14

Further

Resolved (2): that the Graduate Student Assembly commends the efforts of Voices Against Violence, a program of the Counseling and Mental Health Center, to bring about awareness of relationship violence and its significance among the students on campus, and encourages graduate students to take part in events during the month of October;

Be It

Further

Resolved (3): That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Nancy A Brazzil, Deputy to the President, the Office of University President Powers, Dr. Gage Paine of the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Soncia-Lily of the Dean of Students Office, Dr. Langlois of the Dean of Graduate Student Office, Counseling and Mental Health Center, Office of the Vice President for University Operations, Office of the Provost, University Residence Hall Association, Gender and Sexuality Center, School of Social Work, Center for Women's and Gender Studies, Multicultural Engagement Center, Services for Students with Disabilities, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, The Senate of College Councils, University of Texas Police Department, The UT Student Government, The Daily Texan, and The Horn.